

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume: 2

Part 2 Suffolk Onshore Scheme

Appendix 2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline

Version A

October 2023

**nationalgrid**

This page is intentionally blank.

# Contents

---

<b>2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline</b>	<b>1</b>
2.2.B.1 Landscape and Seascape Overview	1
2.2.B.2 Landscape Designations Overview	16
2.2.B.3 Visual Amenity Baseline	19
2.2.B.4 References	39

---

## Table of Tables

Table 2.2.B.1: National landscape character	1
Table 2.2.B.2: Regional landscape character	2
Table 2.2.B.3: County landscape character	4
Table 2.2.B.4: Suffolk coastal landscape character	7
Table 2.2.B.5: Seascape character areas	12
Table 2.2.B.6: Regional seascape character	13
Table 2.2.B.7: Coastal character areas	15
Table 2.2.B.8: LCAs and CCAs scoped in and out of the preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character	16
Table 2.2.B.9: Representative viewpoint locations	21
Table 2.2.B.10: Representative viewpoint baseline description	26

---

# Sea Link

## Document control

---

### Document Properties

---

<b>Organisation</b>	AECOM
<b>Author</b>	AECOM
<b>Approved by</b>	AECOM
<b>Title</b>	Preliminary Environmental Information Report, Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline
<b>Data Classification</b>	Public

---

---

### Version History

---

<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description/Changes</b>
24/10/2023	A	FINAL	First Issue

---

## 2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline

### 2.2.B.1 Landscape and Seascape Overview

2.2.B.1.1 Landscape character is a composite of physical, cultural, perceptual and aesthetic elements (Ref 2.2.B.1). Landform, hydrology, vegetation, land cover, land use pattern, cultural and historic features and associations combine to create a common 'sense of place' and identity which can be used to categorise the landscape into definable types and areas. The level of detail and size of the types and areas can be varied to reflect the scale of definition required. It can be applied at a national, regional, and local level.

2.2.B.1.2 Seascape character, alike landscape character, is a composite of physical and cultural elements (Ref 2.2.B.2). Landform, geology, coastal processes, flora and fauna, coastal features, surface features, sunken features, use and past use of coast and sea and associations combine to create an identity definable types and areas. The level of detail and size of the types and areas can be varied to reflect the scale of definition required. It can be applied at a national, regional, and local level.

### National Landscape Character

2.2.B.1.3 Natural England has identified and mapped landscape character at the national level by identifying National Character Areas (NCAs) (Ref 2.2.B.3) in 2013-15. Those NCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.3 Landscape Character - National and Regional** and described in Table 2.2.B.1. The NCAs are not specifically assessed in relation to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme due to its scale but are described to provide context:

Table 2.2.B.1: National landscape character

National character area	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths (NCA 82)	NCA 82 is described as being “ <i>mainly flat or gently rolling, often open but with few commanding viewpoints</i> ”. The study notes the designation of Coast and Heaths AONB in approximately half of the NCA and a great diversity of habitats and species. The study states that the “ <i>remaining coast and lowland heaths, which are known locally as Sandlings, form particularly distinctive features, although traditional heath is now much fragmented owing to farmland conversion, forest use and housing development</i> ”. The study notes the presence of estuaries, including Alde/Ore, including “ <i>extensive wildlife-rich intertidal areas of mudflat and salt marsh</i> ”. Settlement patterns are sparse, including small villages and coastal market towns and notes that the NCA “ <i>remains a lightly populated, undeveloped area that is notable for its tranquillity, high-quality environment and culture, and outstanding wildlife</i> ”.

National character area	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands (NCA 83)	<p>The study also notes that major infrastructure development provides “challenges as they have the potential to impact on the special qualities of the landscape and seascape”.</p> <p>NCA 83 is described as comprising a “high and predominantly flat clay plateau that dominates the character of the NCA”. The study notes that large areas of woodland are not typical and that “views are frequently open, only sometimes confined by hedges, hedgerow trees and scattered smaller woodlands that are still notable elements of the landscape”. The study notes that farming dominates the landscape, predominantly arable, and that it is “mostly an ancient, long settled landscape, and above all this is farming country, with a strong utilitarian and rural character, evoked best in its ancient irregular field patterns that are still discernible over much of the area”.</p> <p>The study notes that the area comprises mixed settlement, including nucleated villages, dispersed hamlets and farmsteads and market towns.</p>

## Regional Landscape Character

2.2.B.1.4

At the regional scale, Landscape East published the East of England Landscape Character Typology (Ref 2.2.B.4) in 2010. The study defines Landscape Character Types (LCTs) which provide a regional level landscape characterisation. Those LCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.3 Landscape Character - National and Regional**, as well as part of the study area that is defined as Urban in the study and described in Table 2.2.B.2. These LCTs are not specifically assessed in relation to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme due to their scale, but are described to provide context.

Table 2.2.B.2: Regional landscape character

Regional LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Forested Estate Sandlands	<p>This LCT is described as “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”.</p> <p>The key objectives for the LCT include protecting and enhancing woodland, protecting heathland vegetation, improving public access, protecting the agricultural landscape, protecting local identity and preserving tranquillity.</p>
Coastal Levels	<p>This LCT is described as “an open, low-lying former marshland landscape, with a strong horizontal emphasis and characterised by wide skies and large fields bounded by a grid like pattern of drains and ditches”.</p>

Regional LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	The key objectives for the LCT include supporting the traditional livestock industry and preserving the sense of tranquillity and open, isolated character.
Valley Settled Farmlands	This LCT is described as <i>“settled, often busy landscapes which occur along the sides of the sinuous valley corridors that cut through the East Anglian clay plateau”</i> . The key objectives for the LCT include reinstating functional floodplains, protecting the agricultural landscape, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and key wildlife corridors and protecting local identity.
Wooded Plateau Claylands	This LCT is described as <i>“an ancient wooded landscape of arable farms, associated with heavy clay soils on gently rolling plateau, which are lightly dissected by minor river valleys”</i> . The key objectives for the LCT include conserving and enhancing characteristic ancient small woodland and sinuous enclosure pattern and plan for changes such as infill development and alteration to traditional parklands.
Valley Meadowlands	This LCT is described as <i>“flat, low lying valley floors traditionally supporting a pastoral land use, associated with notable watercourses/rivers. Generally unsettled, with occasional areas of carr woodland and gravel extraction lakes, or ancient meres.”</i> The key objectives for the LCT include reinstating functional floodplains, supporting the traditional livestock industry, protecting and enhancing green infrastructure and key wildlife corridors, safeguarding wetland habitats and protecting local identity.
Coastal Dunes	This LCT is described as <i>“narrow stretches of open, rolling sand dunes and shingle ridges, adjoining wide, expansive and windswept beaches, in places backed by fringes of pine woods.”</i> The key objectives for the LCT include conserving and enhancing biodiversity, landscape character and cultural heritage of the coastal dune systems.

## County Landscape Character

- 2.2.B.1.5 At the county scale, Suffolk County Council published the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 2.2.B.5) in 2011. The study defines LCTs which provide a county level landscape characterisation. Those LCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.4 Landscape Character – County**, as well as part of the study area that is defined as Urban in the study and described in Table 2.2.B.3. These LCTs are not specifically assessed in relation to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme due to their scale, but are described to provide context.

Table 2.2.B.3: County landscape character

County LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“flat or gently rolling landform of sand or shingle;</i></li> <li>● <i>low fragile vegetation;</i></li> <li>● <i>vast open uncluttered landscape;</i></li> <li>● <i>historic military structures;</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional large buildings in an empty landscape; and</i></li> <li>● <i>only in short stretches is there the paraphernalia of intensive tourist activity, beach huts and piers.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines include reference to conserving the setting of this landscape, managing the impact of large-scale infrastructure projects and protecting the vegetated shingle and other sensitive habitats.</p>
Coastal Levels	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“flat marshland adjacent to the coast or estuaries;</i></li> <li>● <i>marine alluvium soils;</i></li> <li>● <i>sinuous and complex mediaeval dyke networks;</i></li> <li>● <i>cattle- grazed wet grassland;</i></li> <li>● <i>widespread modification for arable production;</i></li> <li>● <i>small plantations and carr woodlands;</i></li> <li>● <i>important wildlife conservation areas; and</i></li> <li>● <i>unsettled landscape with domestic buildings on the fringes.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines include reference to conserving the setting of this landscape, managing the impact of large-scale infrastructure projects, restoring the pattern of drainage and managing and enhancing sites for wildlife benefit.</p>
Rolling Estate Sandlands	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“rolling river terraces and coastal slopes;</i></li> <li>● <i>sandy and free draining soils with areas of heathland;</i></li> <li>● <i>pattern of tree belts and straight hedges;</i></li> <li>● <i>a focus of settlement;</i></li> </ul>

County LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>19th century red brick buildings with black glazed pantiles in the east;</i></li> <li>● <i>tree belts and plantations throughout;</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional and significant semi-natural woodlands and ribbons of wet woodland; and</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional and significant semi-natural woodlands and ribbons of wet woodland.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines include reference to the visual impact of the height, scale and orientation of new buildings and structures in the landscape and restoring and enhancing the pattern of tree belts and small plantations, the historic pattern of boundaries and landscape parklands.</p>
Nearshore Waters	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“sheltered or moderately sheltered coastal waters, adjacent to long curving bays backed by shingle beaches, vegetated dunes and low cliffs;</i></li> <li>● <i>active length of coast with a fluctuating patchwork of erosion and dynamic nature of coastline illustrated by the inundation of coastal settlements and the creation of shingle features;</i></li> <li>● <i>relatively shallow waters up to approximately 20 metres deep with sand bank systems parallel;</i></li> <li>● <i>interaction of terrestrial, coastal and offshore areas important for biodiversity;</i></li> <li>● <i>popular tourist area, notably for walking and nature watching with activity focussed on visitor destinations and tourist towns located along the coast;</i></li> <li>● <i>strong visual relationship with the predominantly rural coastline. Occasional coastal towns and large-scale developments including energy and military infrastructure evident in some views act as orientation points/ navigation; and</i></li> <li>● <i>expansive views offshore encompass largely undeveloped offshore shipping and wind farms visible in adjacent seascape character types, subject to weather conditions.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines are not included.</p>

County LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Valley Meadowlands	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“flat landscapes of alluvium or peat on valley floors;</i></li> <li>● <i>grassland divided by a network of wet ditches;</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional carr woodland and plantations of poplar;</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional small reedbeds;</i></li> <li>● <i>unsettled;</i></li> <li>● <i>cattle grazed fields;and</i></li> <li>● <i>fields converted to arable production.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines include reference to conserving the setting of this landscape, mitigating the impact of horse grazing where possible, restoring the pattern of drainage and encouraging appropriate planting and management of woodlands.</p>
Ancient Estate Claylands	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“dissected Boulder Clay plateau;</i></li> <li>● <i>organic pattern of field enclosures;</i></li> <li>● <i>straight boundaries where influence of privately owned estates is strongest;</i></li> <li>● <i>enclosed former greens and commons;</i></li> <li>● <i>parklands; and</i></li> <li>● <i>villages with dispersed hamlets and farmsteads.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Management guidelines include reference to reinforcing the historic pattern of field boundaries and hedgerow trees, greens, commons and woodland cover, through effective management and managing the impact of land use change on the landscape character.</p>
Rolling Estate Claylands	<p>The relevant key characteristics of this LCT are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“rolling valley-side landscape;</i></li> <li>● <i>medium clay and loamy soils;</i></li> <li>● <i>organic pattern of fields;</i></li> <li>● <i>occasional areas of more rational planned fields;</i></li> <li>● <i>numerous landscape parks;</i></li> <li>● <i>substantial villages;</i></li> <li>● <i>fragmented woodland cover, both ancient and plantation; and</i></li> <li>● <i>winding hedged and occasionally sunken lanes.”</i></li> </ul>

County LCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	Management guidelines include reference to the visual impact of the height, scale and orientation of new buildings and structures in the landscape, reinforcing the historic pattern of field boundaries and hedgerows and maintaining historic parklands, hedgerow trees, moats and ponds in the landscape.

## District Landscape Character

- 2.2.B.1.6 At the district scale, East Suffolk Council published the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (SCLCA) (Ref 2.2.B.6) in 2018. The study defines LCTs and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) which provide a district level landscape characterisation which has been used as the basis of the preliminary landscape character assessment. Those LCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.5 Landscape Character – District** and are described in Table 2.2.B.4. A value judgement is given for those LCAs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment) and the other LCAs within the study area are described to provide context.
- 2.2.B.1.7 Under Options 1 and 3, Friston Substation would be built by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR). Where Friston Substation is visible, the summary below includes a future baseline section to note this. Where Friston Substation would not be located within the LCA, no mention is made. This is not relevant to Options 2 and 4. This is not considered to alter value judgements.

Table 2.2.B.4: Suffolk coastal landscape character

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
B4: Fromus Valley	<p>The LCA is described as a <i>“subtle shallow valley system containing the market town of Saxmundham and a more dispersed pattern of settlement to the north and south. This valley has a settled character and its outer edges have been influenced by road and rail infrastructure”</i>. The LCA contains wet meadows, arable land and parkland, as well as grassland and recreational fishing. The LCA is well vegetated north of Saxmundham and also contains ancient woodland.</p> <p>The study notes that <i>“to the south of the town is former Hurtshall Park but this has now mostly been converted to arable landuse, although the grounds of Hurts Hall continues to scenically enhance the southern approach to the town along with the church which is seen on higher land behind.”</i></p> <p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“a Conservation Area covers the attractive historic core of Saxmundham; and</i></li> </ul>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>remnant parkland landscapes including veteran trees, perimeter planting, and mansion houses”.</i></li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting small-scale areas of pasture and common land, settlement separation, managing poplar plantation, retain and enhancing views to church towers and the restoration of wet meadows or alder carr, conversion from arable to pasture and planting of veteran trees.</p> <p>The value of LCA B4 is considered to be <b>high</b>. The LCA contains locally designated Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest at Carlton Park, Kelsale, remnant parkland landscapes with mature specimen trees and Saxmundham Conservation Area, which increases the cultural heritage value and local distinctiveness. The LCA offers recreational opportunities including recreational fishing and the local PRow network. The vegetation network and ancient woodland contributes to the natural heritage value and also scenic quality including woodland edge. The busy B1121 and rail infrastructure reduces the perceptual qualities in parts of the LCA. The LCA has functional value relating to the approach to the settlement of Saxmundham.</p>
B5: Alde Valley	<p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“this is a particularly quiet and tranquil part of the district;</i></li> <li>• <i>this character area is entirely with the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB;</i></li> <li>• <i>the Alde Estuary is covered by a number of national and European designations and has a number of nature reserves; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Hazelwood Marshes is one of Suffolk’s last undrained grazing marshlands.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting open views across the estuary from inappropriate development, protecting the quiet, rural character of lanes, protecting habitats and species and protecting the estuary landscape from visual intrusion of development beyond the LCA.</p>
D4: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh	<p>The LCA is described as <i>“an expansive, open and windswept landscape. The sense of scale strongly contrasts with the small-scale, sheltered character of the settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh which represent important cultural and historical tourism features”</i>. The LCA has heritage connections, including a port in Aldeburgh, as well as cultural associations, including J.M.W. Turner.</p> <p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“Leiston to Aldeburgh Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covers much of the area, comprising a rich mosaic of acid grassland, heath, scrub, woodland, fen, open water and vegetated shingle, which is rare in the Study Area”;</i></li> <li>● <i>this coastal area is valued for nature conservation, with a vegetated shingle beach at Thorpenes and a Local Nature Reserve north of Aldeburgh; and</i></li> <li>● <i>Aldeburgh and Thorpeness are both designated as Conservation Areas and contain many landmark features.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting the sense of openness and separation between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, protecting the natural character of the foreshore and its vegetated shingle, managing the use of the area for recreation whilst protecting nature conservation value and ensuring the special qualities of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness are maintained.</p> <p>The value of LCA D4 is considered to be <b>Very High</b>. The LCA lies within the Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. The open, expansive landscape has perceptual qualities due to the scenic qualities of the coastline. The LCA has functional value in terms of the healthy functioning of the coastal landscape. Recreational opportunities include the approved England Coast Path and Suffolk Coast Path. The ancient woodland, ecological designations and coastal vegetation increase the natural heritage value. The LCA has associations with the arts. The cultural heritage value is increased with references including the former Aldeburgh port.</p>
J4: Alde Estuary	<p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>“this is a particularly quiet and tranquil part of the district. The broad expanse of the estuary, lack of settlement, limited accessibility across the estuary and expansive views from the valley sides give this landscape a strong sense of remoteness and isolation”;</i> and</li> <li>● <i>the Alde Estuary is covered by several national and European nature designations.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting open views across the estuary from visual intrusion and protecting important habitats and bird populations through careful management of recreation and access.</p>
K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands	<p>The LCA is described as a <i>“flat and gently rolling farmland, regularly interspersed with small woodlands, and strips, and oak studded field boundaries”</i>. The LCA is distinguished by its Sandlings heathland character and relationship with the coast. <i>“Pockets of heathland and woodlands exist alongside large-scale</i></p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
L1: Heveningham and	<p data-bbox="517 248 1449 539"><i>intensive agriculture, with leisure and tourism featuring heavily near the coast</i>". The LCA is important for rare birds and Sizewell exists behind a series of Marshes. The LCA contains the double row of "<i>giant pylons that cross the area</i>" which has a "<i>substantial negative impact in the more open areas</i>". The visual experience varies through the LCA, including some scenic areas within woodland but also less so near to Leiston where the overhead line is prominent.</p> <p data-bbox="517 551 1449 618">The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul data-bbox="533 629 1449 1144" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="533 629 1449 775">• "<i>much of the southern and eastern part of the Area is within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. This area features more of the remaining semi-natural habitats and less arable land but also features much more settlement;</i></li> <li data-bbox="533 797 1449 976">• <i>the settlements of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness are key components of this landscape. They have very different appearance and histories, exerting a significant influence on the overall character of the area and shaping people's experience and recreational focus; and</i></li> <li data-bbox="533 999 1449 1144">• <i>two long distance footpaths pass through the area, The Sandlings Walk follows a route along the south of the and the Suffolk Coast path. The latter follows the route known as the Sailors' Path which connects Snape to Aldeburgh</i>".</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="517 1167 1449 1346">Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting remnant heathlands, managing the AONB landscape to ensure its qualities are not harmed, restore, maintain and enhance tree belts and small plantations and manage areas of existing scrub and woodland.</p> <p data-bbox="517 1357 1449 1693">The value of LCA K3 is considered to be <b>Very High</b>. Part of the LCA is covered by the Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. Recreational opportunities include various recreational routes, including the Suffolk Coast Path and the Sailors Path. The natural heritage value is increased due to ecological designations. Scenic quality varies through the LCA, including some areas of high scenic quality including woodland edges, as well as detracting features, notably the overhead line extending from Sizewell.</p> <p data-bbox="517 1749 740 1780"><u>Future baseline</u></p> <p data-bbox="517 1792 1449 1937">Friston Substation would be located on the northern edge of the LCA, which would introduce large-scale, uncharacteristic energy infrastructure into the arable landscape albeit within the immediate context of the existing OHL line and towers.</p> <p data-bbox="517 1948 1449 2056">The LCA is described as "<i>a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character</i>". The LCA comprises scattered farms and hamlets with predominantly arable farmland.</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Knodishall Estate Claylands	<p>There is a lack of distinctive features but attractive features. <i>“Large industrial buildings have a negative impact, especially where there is inadequate screening”</i>. Vegetation includes woodland, roadside trees and hedges and field boundary vegetation. The LCA also contains various ecological designations. Near to Saxmundham, the LCA contains juvenile commercial plantation.</p> <p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“its special qualities are its particularly unified character - a peaceful, deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming; and</i></li> <li>• <i>there is little intrusion from modern development”</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting the unspoilt, quiet and essentially undeveloped rural character, careful management of oak trees, manage semi-natural woodland, manage hedgerows and plan for enhancements to biodiversity.</p> <p>The value of LCA L1 is considered to be <b>medium</b>. The LCA has recreational opportunities along the local PRoW network and scenic quality, tranquillity and remoteness qualities across the large-scale arable farmland and woodland blocks. However, the green infrastructure network appears fragmented due to the isolated blocks of woodland and remnant trees where hedgerows are likely to have been removed. The LCA has natural heritage value, including ecological designations and ancient woodland across the LCA, however due to the large-scale arable farmland, habitats are likely to be relatively limited. The LCA comprises functional value into settlements on its edges, including Saxmundham.</p> <p>Despite the predominantly rural nature, there are sections of the LCA that have other land uses which lower the landscape value, including juvenile commercial plantation near to Saxmundham. The LCA has limited distinctiveness and predominantly comprises typical farmland which lowers value. The presence of the existing OHL has direct and indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCA, as well as large-scale agricultural buildings, which also lowers value.</p>
O1: Benhall Estate Sandlands	<p>The relevant special qualities and features for the LCA are set out as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“attractive estate farmland and parkland landscapes, each with strong and distinctive character, unified by the well</i></li> </ul>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<p><i>wooded nature of the landscape and the mix of native and semi-ornamental tree species;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Benhall Park is recognised as a ‘Park or Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest’ by the District Council and offers a scenic combination of pasture and scattered trees, for the most part unappreciable to traffic passing on the A12; and</i></li> <li>• <i>away from the busy A12 corridor the area provides a quiet peaceful area of very productive countryside, overlooked by crowds heading past to Aldeburgh, Dunwich and Southwold.”</i></li> </ul> <p>Relevant management guidelines include reference to protecting the quiet, rural and largely unsettled area from future development, protecting the woodland belts and hedges and managing and enhancing existing tree cover and biodiversity in the agricultural and parkland landscapes.</p>

## Historic Landscape Character

- 2.2.B.1.8 The historic landscape character context within the landscape and visual study area includes various designated assets. These include listed buildings, both within the surrounding settlements and more rural settings outside of the main settlement areas. A review of non-designated assets revealed evidence of human activity in the area from the early prehistoric period through to the modern period, including both materials and cropmarks.
- 2.2.B.1.9 Regarding the agricultural heritage of the area, more intensive arable agriculture since the mid-20th century onwards has resulted in areas of woodland and field boundaries being removed to create large fields (for example the Converter Station Site near Saxmundham). Further details should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage**.

## National Seascape Character

- 2.2.B.1.10 At the national scale, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) published the Seascape Character Assessment of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Ref 2.2.B.7) in 2012. The study defines Seascape Character Areas (SCAs). The SCA that the study area falls within is shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District** and described in Table 2.2.B.5. These SCAs are not specifically assessed in relation to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme due to their scale, but are described to provide context.

Table 2.2.B.5: Seascape character areas

National SCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
10: Suffolk Coastal Waters	The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:

National SCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“a rich mixture of unique coastal lowland landscapes some of which submerged;</i></li> <li>• <i>estuaries characterised by wildlife-rich salt-marsh and mudflat, with significant reclaimed freshwater marshes protected by earth-bank river walls;</i></li> <li>• <i>low-lying coastline dominated by coastal processes and estuarine influences;</i></li> <li>• <i>characterised by a nationally significant concentration of vegetated shingle structures, soft cliffs and coastal lagoon habitats with open sloping beaches; and</i></li> <li>• <i>long distance coastal footpath (Suffolk Coast Path).”</i></li> </ul>

## Regional Seascape Character

2.2.B.1.11 At a regional scale, Suffolk County Council published the Seascape Character Assessment of Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (SCASNE) (Ref 2.2.B.8) in 2018. The study defines Seascape Character Types (SCTs). The SCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District** and described in Table 2.2.B.6. A value judgement is given for those SCTs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment) and the other SCTs within the study area are described to provide context.

Table 2.2.B.6: Regional seascape character

Regional SCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
1: Inland Navigable Waters	<p>The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“sheltered estuarine waters and gently meandering tidal rivers fringed by bays and small inlets or creeks where tributaries enter. Tidal muds and occasional sandy or shingle beaches revealed at low tide;</i></li> <li>• <i>low lying and generally flat intertidal muds, salt marshes and coastal levels;</i></li> <li>• <i>wetlands are of importance for breeding birds in the Summer and overwintering water birds;</i></li> <li>• <i>the remains of past wharfs along the foreshore and historic ship hulks in the mudflats contribute to time depth; and</i></li> <li>• <i>long distance and relatively expansive views inland possible, especially across adjacent low-lying marshes”.</i></li> </ul>

Regional SCT	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
3. Nearshore Waters	<p>The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“sheltered or moderately sheltered coastal waters;</i></li> <li>• <i>interaction of terrestrial, coastal and offshore areas important for biodiversity;</i></li> <li>• <i>strategically important coastline with numerous historic military sites;</i></li> <li>• <i>popular tourist area, notably for walking and nature watching with activity focussed on visitor destinations and tourist towns located along the coast;</i></li> <li>• <i>strong cultural associations, notably in art;</i></li> <li>• <i>strong visual relationship with the predominantly rural coastline. Occasional coastal towns and large-scale developments including energy and military infrastructure evident in some views act as orientation points/navigation aids; and</i></li> <li>• <i>expansive views offshore encompass largely undeveloped seascape. Offshore shipping and wind farms visible in adjacent seascape character types, subject to weather conditions”.</i></li> </ul> <p>The value of SCT 03 is considered to be <b>Very High</b>. The SCT is located adjacent to the Coast and Heaths AONB and lies within the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The SCT has associations with art. The SCT has scenic quality associated with the rural coastline, noting some detracting features including energy infrastructure. There is cultural heritage value linking to historic military sites and natural heritage value as the SCT is important for biodiversity. Recreational opportunities include walking and nature watching.</p>

## District Seascape Character and AONB Landscape Character

- 2.2.B.1.12 At the district scale, the Touching the Tide Partnership published the Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment (TTLCA) (Ref 2.2.B.9) in 2012. The study defines Coastal Character Areas (CCAs) which cover the coastline and extend inland. The CCAs have been used as the basis of the preliminary AONB assessment. Those CCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District** and are described in Table 2.2.B.7.
- 2.2.B.1.13 A value judgement is given for those CCAs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme and the other CCAs within the study area are described

to provide context. The CCAs cross over spatially with the SCLCA, which was published subsequently and notes that care has been taken to ensure compatibility.

Table 2.2.B.7: Coastal character areas

District CCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast	<p>The CCA is described as <i>“an expansive, open, windswept landscape and this sense of scale is strongly contrasted with the small-scale, sheltered character of the settlements”</i>. The study makes reference to the valley floor of Hundred River comprising of <i>“mainly reclaimed drained marshes used for grazing, is divided by regular, reed filled ditches and wetland areas, and dissected by a disused railway embankment which used to connect Aldeburgh with Saxmundham”</i> and scrub vegetation. The study notes the road between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness <i>“offering views inland and out to sea”</i> and associations with artists such as J.M.W. Turner.</p> <p>Management guidelines include reference to protecting the sense of separation and openness between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, protecting the natural character of the foreshore and vegetated shingle and managing existing scrub and woodland.</p> <p>The value of Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast CCA is considered to be <b>Very High</b> due to the context of the Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. The CCA has associations with art. The SCT has scenic quality associated with the rural coastline. There is natural heritage value as the SCT is important for biodiversity. Recreational opportunities include walking.</p>
Alde Estuary	<p>The CCA is described as <i>“defined by the Alde estuary, comprising meandering watercourses flanked by areas of intertidal mudflat, backed by coastal grazing marsh and gentle valley sides of rolling arable farmland with areas of remnant heath and plantation woodland beyond”</i>. The study notes the outstanding nature conservation value of the CCA, including numerous ecological designations, and layers of historical activity across the estuary.</p> <p>Management guidelines include reference to protecting open views across the estuary.</p>

## Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment

- 2.2.B.1.14 The published district level landscape character assessment and district level seascape character assessment information form the basis of the landscape baseline for assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Table 2.2.B.8 sets out which LCAs and CCAs are scoped in and out of the assessment of effects on landscape character at both construction, maintenance and decommissioning and operation. An explanation is provided in the text that follows below.

Table 2.2.B.8: LCAs and CCAs scoped in and out of the preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character

Project Phase	Scoped in	Scoped out
Construction, maintenance, and decommissioning	SCLCA: LCAs B4, D4, K3, and L1 SCASNE: SCT 03	SCLCA: LCAs B5, J4 and O1 SCASNE: SCT 01
Operation	SCLCA: LCAs B4, D4, K3, and L1 SCASNE: SCT 03	SCLCA: LCAs B5, J4 and O1 SCASNE: SCT 01

2.2.B.1.15 SCLCA LCAs B5 and J4 and SCASNE SCT 01 are scoped out for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning and operation due to a lack of inter-visibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme such that effects on the setting or perceptual qualities of these LCAs and SCT would be limited with no significant residual effect.

2.2.B.1.16 Despite proximity to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, SCLCA LCA O1 has been scoped out for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning and operation based on limited theoretical visibility, field work and the nature of the landscape. There would be no direct effects and limited potential effects on the setting of this LCA as a result of the southern access road. At construction, there would be very localised effects on the setting of the LCA as a result of the haul road, however these are not considered to result in a significant residual effect.

2.2.B.1.17 As noted above the TTLCA will be used as part of the baseline for the preliminary assessment of the Coast and Heaths AONB. This will scope in Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast but scope out the Alde Estuary due to a lack of inter-visibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme such that effects on the setting or perceptual qualities of these LCAs would be limited with no significant residual effect.

## 2.2.B.2 Landscape Designations Overview

2.2.B.2.1 Landscapes can be designated for their special landscape or scenic qualities. These areas may be identified in development plans at the national, regional or local scale.

2.2.B.2.2 The following landscape designations have been identified within the study area; their locations are shown in **Figure 2.2.2 Landscape Context and Designations:**

- Coast and Heaths AONB;
- Suffolk Heritage Coast;
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs);
- ancient woodland; and
- Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest.

## Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 2.2.B.2.3 The Coast and Heaths AONB is a nationally important designation and baseline information about this designation is referred to within 2.2.B.1 of this chapter. The value of the Coast and Heaths AONB is considered to be **Very High** due to its national designation.

## Suffolk Heritage Coast

- 2.2.B.2.4 Heritage Coasts are “an area of coastline protected and promoted by Natural England in association with local authorities for the enjoyment of the undeveloped coast whilst protecting its natural beauty, nationally important wildlife and landscape features and improving the quality of inshore waters and beaches” (Ref 2.2.B.10). A large proportion of the Coast and Heaths AONB is also designated as Suffolk Heritage Coast.
- 2.2.B.2.5 The NPPF (Ref 2.2.B.11) states that:

*“Within areas defined as Heritage Coast (and that do not already fall within one of the designated areas mentioned in paragraph 176), planning policies and decisions should be consistent with the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation. Major development within a Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with its special character”.*

## Tree Preservation Orders

- 2.2.B.2.6 A TPO is an “order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity” (Ref 2.2.B.12). Within the study area, there are pockets of TPOs including to the northwest of Aldeburgh and on the southern edge of Leiston.
- 2.2.B.2.7 Within the landscape assessment, consideration of specific arboricultural assets has been restricted to the contribution TPOs make to present-day landscape character and visual amenity. Further consideration of arboricultural assets will be referred to within an arboricultural impact assessment in the development consent application.

## Ancient Woodland

- 2.2.B.2.8 Ancient Woodland is “an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD” and is “defined as an irreplaceable habitat” (Ref 2.2.B.13). Within the study area, there are numerous areas of Ancient Woodland, including at Grove Wood to the northeast of Friston and Great Wood to the southeast of Knodishall Common.
- 2.2.B.2.9 Within the landscape assessment, consideration of specific arboricultural assets has been restricted to the contribution ancient woodland makes to present-day landscape character and visual amenity. Further consideration of arboricultural assets will be referred to within an arboricultural impact assessment in the development consent application.

## Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest

- 2.2.B.2.10 Local designations include two Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest (designated within Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.B.10), Benhall Lodge Park, Benhall and Carlton Park, Kelsale, which are located within the study area. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan notes that *“a major attribute of a parkland ‘of note’ is its extensive coverage within the landscape”* and that *“East Suffolk Council will encourage the preservation and enhancement of these parks and gardens of historic interest and their surroundings”*.

## Landscape designations baseline for assessment

- 2.2.B.2.11 The Coast and Heaths AONB will be specifically referred to within the preliminary assessment. As the Suffolk Heritage Coast is within the Coast and Heaths AONB within the landscape and visual study area, the Suffolk Heritage Coast is considered within the assessment of the AONB. The preliminary assessment considers the Coast and Heaths AONB Indicators and how the Proposed Project would affect the delivery of the AONB’s statutory purpose, as referred to in **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 2, Landscape and Visual**. This will be expanded upon within the Environmental Statement (ES).

## Relevant Designations

- 2.2.B.2.12 In addition to the above, the study area also contains the following designations:

- Listed buildings;
- Registered Common Land – Aldringham Green;
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act Access Land;
- RSPB Reserve – North Warren;
- Special Protection Area (SPA) – Sandlings;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Leiston – Aldeburgh;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – The Haven, Aldeburgh;
- Registered Common Land – Knodishall Common;
- SPA – Alde-Ore Estuary;
- Ramsar Site – Alde-Ore Estuary; and
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – Alde-Ore & Butley Estuaries.

- 2.2.B.2.13 Whilst effects on these designated areas will not be assessed in the LVIA as they will be considered in other discipline specific chapters, they will inform judgements of landscape value and in the case of registered common land, CRoW Act Access Land and Registered Common Land, is also an important recreational resource, views from which will be considered as part of the visual assessment.

- 2.2.B.2.14 Within the landscape and visual impact assessment, consideration of specific heritage, access or ecological assets has been restricted to the contribution the designations make to present-day landscape character and visual amenity. Further consideration of specific heritage, access or ecological assets is contained in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Ecology and Nature conservation**, and **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage**.

## Historic Landscape Designations

- 2.2.B.2.15 To understand the landscape baseline, it is also important to consider historic landscape designations. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, Incorporating the First Alteration (2001) (Ref 2.2.B.14) and the Second Alteration (2006) (Ref 2.2.B.15), has been superseded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.B.10). The former Suffolk Coastal Local Plan included locally designated Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). This was referred to within Policy AP13 which set out reasons for designation, limited to characteristics linking to river valley and historic parks and gardens. Policy AP13 stated:

*"The valleys and tributaries of the Rivers Alde, Blyth, Deben, Fynn, Hundred, Mill, Minsmere, Ore and Yox, and the Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest are designated as Special Landscape Areas and shown on the Proposals Map. The District Council will ensure that no development will take place which would be to the material detriment of, or materially detract from, the special landscape quality"*.

- 2.2.B.2.16 Two previously designated SLAs are relevant to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, located on the edge of the settlement of Knodishall Common associated with the Hundred River corridor and to the north of Benhall Green associated with the River Fromus corridor. The Suffolk Onshore Scheme does not cross either of the SLAs.

- 2.2.B.2.17 This policy has now been superseded but the adopted Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.B.10) refers to the previously designated SLAs, stating:

*"Previous Local Plan documents included a county wide approach in the form of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) which originated from the Suffolk Structure Plan. The SLA designations primarily identified the river valleys and tributaries as areas with special landscape attributes that are particularly vulnerable to change."*

## 2.2.B.3 Visual Amenity Baseline

- 2.2.B.3.1 Visual amenity is defined in the GLVIA3 (Ref 2.2.B.16, p.158) as:

*"the overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area"*.

## Summary of visibility

- 2.2.B.3.2 The screened ZTVs (shown on **Figure 2.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project converter station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1)** to **2.2.11 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location converter stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4)**) indicate theoretical visibility within the landscape and visual study area. This shows the majority of theoretical visibility with the central part of the study area characterised with dispersed woodland blocks and larger scale field enclosures. Visibility is considerably limited towards to the coast and Alde Estuary to the south due to intervening built form and blocks of woodland. Pockets of visibility extend into the northern and western parts of the study area, again screened where built form and blocks of woodland are intervening. The theoretical visibility has been tested during fieldwork to inform the baseline and the assessment of potential effects.

## Representative Viewpoint Locations

2.2.B.3.3 The below Table 2.2.B.9 outlines the 18 representative viewpoints chosen to represent the receptors described above within the landscape and visual study area and their value. These are illustrated on **Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations**.

Table 2.2.B.9: Representative viewpoint locations

<b>Viewpoint description</b>	<b>Approximate Northing</b>	<b>Approximate Easting</b>	<b>Reason for selection</b>
Viewpoint 1: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 23), east of Saxmundham	263027	639230	Representative of users of the local road network, including the B1119, on the approach to the settlement of Saxmundham, the local PRoW network to the east of Saxmundham and residential receptors on the eastern edge of Saxmundham.  Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.
Viewpoint 2: B1121, south of Saxmundham	262419	638551	Representative of users of the local road network and local PRoW network between the settlements of Saxmundham and Benhall Green. Representative of users of the East Suffolk railway line between Saxmundham and Wickham Market.  Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.
Viewpoint 3: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 29), east of Saxmundham	262750	640728	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network to the east of the settlement of Saxmundham and a nearby residential property of the B1119.  Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.
Viewpoint 4: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10) south of the B1119, southeast of Saxmundham	262435	640522	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between Saxmundham and Friston, road users along the B1119 and nearby residential receptors.  Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.

<b>Viewpoint description</b>	<b>Approximate Northing</b>	<b>Approximate Easting</b>	<b>Reason for selection</b>
Viewpoint 5: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10), east of Sternfield	261620	640036	<p>Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network to the north of the settlement of Friston and residential property in close proximity.</p> <p>Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley, near to the boundary of SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.</p>
Viewpoint 6: Public footpath (Friston 260, route 17), east of Sternfield	261654	640886	<p>Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network within the landscape to the north of Friston. Also representing views from nearby residential and commercial receptors.</p> <p>Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.</p>
Viewpoint 7: Grove Road, north of Friston	261601	641775	<p>Representative of users of the local road network, including Grove Road, on the approach to the settlement of Friston and nearby residential receptors off Grove Road.</p> <p>Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.</p>
Viewpoint 8: Public bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston	260514	641649	<p>Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network and residential receptors on the northeastern edge of the settlement of Friston.</p> <p>Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.</p>
Viewpoint 9: Knodishall Common and public footpath (Knodishall 354, route 18), west of Knodishall	261003	642938	<p>Representative of recreational users within Knodishall Common, CRoW Access Land and the local PRoW network.</p> <p>Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.</p>
Viewpoint 10: Aldeburgh	258968	643015	<p>Representative of users of the local road network between the</p>

<b>Viewpoint description</b>	<b>Approximate Northing</b>	<b>Approximate Easting</b>	<b>Reason for selection</b>
Road (A1094), and public bridleway (Aldeburgh 103, route 12a)			settlements of Aldeburgh along the coastline and Friston, the local PRoW network to the south of Knodishall and nearby properties limited to upper storey views. Representative of receptors on the boundary of the Coast and Heaths AONB. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.
Viewpoint 11: Public footpath (Aldeburgh 103, route 16), north of Aldeburgh Golf Club	258639	644525	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Knodishall Common and users of the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.
Viewpoint 12: Leiston Road, north of Aldeburgh	258346	645587	Representative of local road users and residential properties in close proximity. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands.
Viewpoint 13: Approved England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness	258650	646901	Representative of recreational users of the approved England Coast Path between the settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh and residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Located within SCLCA LCA D4: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh.
Viewpoint 14: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 37),	264221	638149	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Carlton and Saxmundham and residential receptors on the edge of Carlton. Representative of

<b>Viewpoint description</b>	<b>Approximate Northing</b>	<b>Approximate Easting</b>	<b>Reason for selection</b>
north of Saxmundham			users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest. Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.
Viewpoint 15: Clayhills Road and public footpath (Kelsale-cum-Carlton, route 34), east of Carlton	264165	639647	Representative of users of the local road network and recreational users of the local PRoW network to the east of the settlement of Carlton. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands, near to the boundary of SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.
Viewpoint 16: Abbey Lane to north of Knodishall Green	264048	641512	Representative of users of the local road network between Saxmundham and Leiston and nearby residential receptors. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.
Viewpoint 17: Saxmundham Road (B1119) and public footpath (Leiston-cum-Sizewell, route 3), on the edge of Leiston	262756	643122	Representative of users of the local road network and PRoW network on the edge of the settlement of Leiston. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.
Viewpoint 18: Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, east of Snape	258258	640801	Representative of recreational users of the Suffolk Coast Path recreational route to the east of the settlement of Snape. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB and the edge of the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.

2.2.B.3.4 Winter baseline photography has been captured from all of the above representative viewpoints and is contained in **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint**

**Photography and Photomontages A-R.** Summer baseline photography will be included within the DCO application.

## Representative Viewpoint Baseline

- 2.2.B.3.5 Table 2.2.B.10 outlines the value and the winter baseline description for each of the representative viewpoints. The summer baseline description will be updated post Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) once site work and photography has been captured.
- 2.2.B.3.6 Under Options 1 and 3, Friston Substation would be built by SPR. Where Friston Substation is visible the representative viewpoint baseline descriptions includes a future baseline section to explain the location. Where Friston Substation would not be visible, no mention is made. This is not relevant to Options 2 and 4. This is not considered to effect value judgements.

Table 2.2.B.10: Representative viewpoint baseline description

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 1: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 23), east of Saxmundham	The view contains typical large-scale arable land. The influence of existing OHL and energy infrastructure at Sizewell in the middle to long-distance reduces the scenic quality of the view, such that the value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b> .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network, including the B1119, on the approach to the settlement of Saxmundham, the local PRoW network to the east of Saxmundham and residential properties on the eastern edge of Saxmundham.</p> <p>A large-scale arable field extends from the foreground into the middle-ground, with a farm track denoting the western boundary. The farm track comprises the right-side of the view in the foreground and middle ground, with agricultural buildings and Wood Farm (Grade II listed building) located at the end of the track in the middle distance. The B1119 denotes the boundary of the agricultural field to the north of the viewpoint, which is a busy road with regular vehicles passing along. The landform falls away from viewpoint location allowing long distance views to the east.</p> <p>Small blocks of woodland and linear tree belts are scattered within arable land in the middle to long-distance with occasional individual trees within field enclosures. Isolated agricultural and residential buildings are scattered in the middle to long-distance below the tree line, as such they do not break the skyline. The layered vegetation creates filtered views towards dense woodland on the skyline.</p> <p>The energy infrastructure at Sizewell is visible above the skyline to the east in the distance, as well as the existing OHL which breaks the skyline in the middle and long-distance to the southeast.</p>
Viewpoint 2: B1121, south of Saxmundham	The content of the view has a high scenic quality, with the presence of an estate parkland associated with Hurts Hall. The view is also recognised within the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an 'Important Local View' and part	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network and local PRoW network between the settlements of Saxmundham and Benhall Green. It is also representative of users of the East Suffolk railway line between Saxmundham and Wickham Market.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a grass verge and vegetation whips that are located on the eastern boundary of the B1121. The B1121 is a busy road with regular traffic passing along into Saxmundham. A large-scale agricultural field extends from the foreground to the middle distance, which is enclosed by post and wire fencing on the eastern extent. The landform is undulating, which limits long distance views to the east.</p> <p>The middle distance comprises estate parkland, containing grassland with scattered mature trees and mature vegetation blocks, which creates a well vegetated view. Hurts Hall and associated outbuildings are located within the estate parkland, located on rising</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>of a 'Green Gateway' on the approach to Saxmundham. The view also includes Saxmundham Church. As such the view is appraised as being high.</p>	<p>land, such that it is a prominent feature of the view. Tree whips are planted to the west of Hurts Hall.</p> <p>The landform rises to the east towards a wooded skyline in the distance. There is a slight break in this vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 3: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 29), east of Saxmundham</p>	<p>The content of the view has elements of scenic quality, due to the rural agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation. However, the presence of the existing OHL to the north of the viewpoint detracts from the scenic quality of the view. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRow network to the east of the settlement of Saxmundham and a nearby residential property of the B1119.</p> <p>The foreground comprises wooden fencing that denotes the route of the public bridleway. Large-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance, with small blocks of mature vegetation and isolated trees scattered within field enclosures. The mature vegetation screens long distance views to the northwest and southwest. Several isolated residential buildings are located within mature vegetation blocks in the middle distance. Wood pole lines break the skyline in the middle to long distance, to the west of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The landform gently rises away from the viewpoint to the west towards a wooded skyline. Wood Farm is visible in the distance to the west of the viewpoint, which lies below the height of the trees on the skyline. The existing OHL breaks the skyline to the south of the viewpoint in the distance.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 4: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10) south of the B1119, southeast of Saxmundham	The content of the view comprises rural agricultural land, with blocks of mature vegetation, which exhibits scenic quality. However, the B1119 and the commercial plantation in the foreground, as well as the existing OHL in the distance, have a negative influence on the composition of the view, such that the scenic quality is reduced. The view is also recognised within the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an 'Important Local View' and part of a 'Green Gateway' on the approach to Saxmundham. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b> .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between Saxmundham and Friston, road users along the B1119 and nearby residential properties.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a medium-scale juvenile commercial plantation, bound by a ditch with associated scrub vegetation on the northeastern boundary. The B1119 lies adjacent the field to the northeast, extending from the foreground into the middle distance on the right side of the view.</p> <p>In the middle ground, linear tree belts and blocks of mature vegetation are scattered within large-scale arable agricultural fields, creating a well vegetated and layered view. Scattered, isolated properties are visible in the middle distance, which are situated below the tree line. The landform gently rises from the viewpoint to the west, which along with mature vegetation blocks and vegetation along the B1119 in the middle distance, screens long distance views to the west and northwest.</p> <p>In the distance, there is a framed view towards the tree belt on the eastern settlement edge of Saxmundham through vegetation in the middle distance. The existing OHL are visible in the distance to the south of the viewpoint, which break the wooded skyline.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 5: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10), east of Sternfield	The content of the view comprises typical agricultural land with blocks of mature vegetation, which exhibits some scenic quality. However, the composition of the view is reduced due to large-scale, agricultural buildings and wood pole lines which reduce the scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b> .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRow network to the north of the settlement of Friston and residential property in close proximity.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a tarmac track which denotes the route of the PRow, extending northeast and southwest of the viewpoint location. The track is used by vehicles accessing the nearby farm. A ditch is located on the northwestern boundary of the tarmac track. Wood pole lines, which follow the route of the tarmac track are also visible in the foreground. A large-scale agricultural field extends from the foreground into the middle ground as the landform rises. The field is enclosed by mature vegetation blocks and hedgerow on the northwestern boundary in the middle ground.</p> <p>Large metal and brick agricultural buildings are visible above and through the tree line on the skyline in the middle distance, with the northern building breaking the skyline.</p> <p>The landform rises away from the viewpoint, which along with mature vegetation acts to heavily screen long distance views. Framed views towards a wooded skyline in the long distance is visible through layers of mature vegetation, including to the northwest of the viewpoint.</p>
Viewpoint 6: Public footpath (Friston 260, route 17), east of Sternfield	The content of the view contains elements of scenic quality, comprising a rural landscape with blocks of mature woodland and long-distance glimpsed views to buildings within Friston, notably St Mary the Virgin church. However, the scenic quality and	<p>This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views both northwest towards the Saxmundham Converter Station and southeast towards Friston Substation.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRow network within the landscape to the north of Friston, as well as receptors within nearby residential and commercial buildings.</p> <p>The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, that extends into the middle distance. A wooden fence, with hedgerow and hedgerow trees denotes the boundary of a private garden associated with a large, isolated residential property to the north of the viewpoint location. The route of the PRow extends from the foreground into the middle ground to the southwest of the viewpoint location.</p> <p>Large-scale arable land extends into the middle and long distance, with tree lined field boundaries and blocks of mature vegetation creating a layered view of vegetation. Large-scale agricultural buildings are visible through a gap in vegetation to the west of the</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>composition of the view is detracted by the existing OHL and agricultural buildings in the middle distance. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>viewpoint. Wood pole lines break the skyline in the middle distance to the south and north of the viewpoint, as well as views of the existing OHL to the south.</p> <p>The layers of mature vegetation, along with an undulating local landform, creates filtered views to the arable land in the long distance. Glimpsed views of buildings within Friston, including St Mary the Virgin church, are available in the distance to the south of the viewpoint. A small turbine breaks the wooded skyline to the southeast of the viewpoint, which is seen in the context of Friston settlement edge. Framed views to a wooded skyline are available in the distance through layers of mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Future baseline</u></p> <p>For Options 1 and 3, there would be direct views of Friston Substation middle distance, to the southeast of the viewpoint.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 7: Grove Road, north of Friston</p>	<p>The content of the view has elements of scenic quality, due to the agricultural landscape and layers of vegetation. However, the existing OHL is a prominent feature, which detracts from the scenic quality of the view. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network, including Grove Road, on the approach to the settlement of Friston and nearby residential receptors off Grove Road.</p> <p>The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, enclosed by scrub vegetation and mature individual trees on the northern boundary, on the right side of the view. This vegetation boundary denotes the southern extent of a local campsite. The existing OHL extends from the foreground, into the middle and long distance in a south-easterly direction dominating the view. The towers and OHL line form a prominent feature in the view. The local landform is gently undulating.</p> <p>Arable land extends into the middle to long distance, with blocks of mature vegetation, hedgerows and individual hedgerow trees that create a well-vegetated, layered view. Wood pole lines transect the view in the middle distance, in a north to south direction.</p> <p>In the distance, there are glimpsed views of individual properties, which sit below the tree line and are seen in the context of mature vegetation. There are occasional views through vegetation to vehicle movement along Saxmundham Road in the distance.</p> <p>Long distance views are limited due to intervening vegetation, however longer views are available in the centre of the view along the route of the existing OHL, where there is limited screening from vegetation. This affords views to a wooded skyline in the long distance.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 8: Public bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston	The content of the view exhibits elements of scenic quality, with large-scale agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation and tree belts. However, the influence of the existing OHL in the distance reduces the scenic quality of the view. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b> .	<p><u>Future baseline</u> For Options 1 and 3, there would be direct views of Friston Substation in the middle distance, to the west of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network and residential receptors on the north-eastern edge of the settlement of Friston. The foreground comprises linear scrub vegetation and hedgerow, denoting the route of the public bridleway. The public bridleway extends into the middle distance in an easterly and westerly direction from the viewpoint, which links into the Sandlings Way recreational route. The vegetation in the foreground sits on a slight embankment, which partially restricts views to the middle and long distance, noting that the viewpoint photography was taken in at a break in this vegetation. The landform rises from the viewpoint to the north. The existing OHL are visible above the wooded skyline to the northwest of the viewpoint in the middle ground.</p> <p>A large-scale agricultural field extends from the foreground into the middle distance, bound by mature tree belts and a block of mature vegetation to the north of the viewpoint. There is a break in this mature vegetation network, where an existing OHL tower is visible. This results in a semi-enclosed landscape, with limited long-distance views.</p> <p>Occasional framed views to a wooded skyline in the long-distance are available through gaps in the layered vegetation network.</p> <p><u>Future baseline</u> For Options 1 and 3, there would be glimpsed views of the Friston Substation, through breaks in mature vegetation in the middle distance.</p>
Viewpoint 9: Knodishall Common and public footpath (Knodishall 354, route 18), west of Knodishall	The content of the view has elements of scenic quality, due to the rural, agricultural landscape and layers of vegetation, as well as Knodishall	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users within Knodishall Common, CRoW Access Land and the local PRoW network.</p> <p>Large-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the west and northwest of the viewpoint. A grass track, that denotes the route of the public footpath, lies on the eastern boundary of the field. The track extends from the foreground on the right side of the view, into the middle ground to the north of the viewpoint. Mature vegetation borders the eastern extent of the public footpath, which denotes the western</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>Common to the west. However, wood polelines, the existing OHL and agricultural buildings in the middle to long distance reduce the composition of the view and the scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>boundary of Knodishall Common and screens long distance views to the northeast. Post and wire fencing and scrub vegetation comprises the western edge of the public footpath. The large-scale agricultural land in the middle distance is enclosed by low hedgerows, with breaks, and hedgerow trees. A block of mature vegetation to the northwest of the viewpoint in the middle distance and tree lined hedgerows to the northwest, restrict long distance views and create a well-vegetated landscape. The local landform is undulating. Agricultural buildings are directly visible in the middle distance, in front of mature vegetation. Wood pole lines and the existing OHL and towers transect the agricultural landscape in the middle to long distance and break the wooded skyline.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 10: Aldeburgh Road (A1094), and public bridleway (Aldeburgh 103, route 12a)</p>	<p>The content of the view exhibits some scenic quality, comprising an agricultural landscape, with mature tree blocks and scattered properties. The location of the view on the edge of the Coast and Heaths AONB increases the value, however the qualities of the AONB are not exhibited within this view. The distance from the existing OHL reduces their influence on the composition of the</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network between the settlements of Aldeburgh along the coastline and Friston, the local PRoW network to the south of Knodishall and nearby properties limited to upper storey views. Representative of receptors on the boundary of the Coast and Heaths AONB.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a track that denotes a public bridleway, which is bound on the western edge by metal gates and linear mature tree and hedgerow vegetation. The track extends from the foreground into the middle ground to the northeast of the viewpoint, on the right side of the view. This mature vegetation restricts middle- and long-distance views to the north. A framed view of large-scale agricultural land in the foreground and middle distance, to the east of the viewpoint, is visible through and above the metal gates.</p> <p>The middle ground to the east of the viewpoint comprises large-scale agricultural land, with hedgerow and tree lined field boundaries. The field boundaries create a layered view of vegetation, which along with an undulating local landform, limits long distant views. Glimpsed views of scattered properties are available within the context of vegetation in the middle distance. Wood pole lines transect the agricultural land but remain below the treeline.</p> <p>In the long distance, to the northeast of the viewpoint, the existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline but is not a prominent feature in the view as it is just visible above the treeline.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 11: Public footpath (Aldeburgh 103, route 16), north of Aldeburgh Golf Club	<p>view, as such the value of the view is appraised as being <b>high</b>.</p> <p>The content of the view exhibits high levels of scenic quality, located within the Coast and Heaths AONB and comprising long distance views towards the Alde Estuary to the south of the viewpoint location. Additionally, the view comprises a well-vegetated, layered landscape, with a lack of detracting features that would influence the composition of the view. The view is appraised as being <b>very high</b>.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRow network between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Knodishall Common, users of the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh and receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB. Users of the golf course and the PRow network have long distance views over the Alde Estuary to the south of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a small-scale agricultural field, which is bound on the eastern edge by wooden fencing and scrub vegetation, with a wooden gate in the centre. A track, denoting the route of a public footpath, extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the north of the viewpoint location, on the right side of the view. A mature woodland block is located on the southern boundary of the agricultural field, which extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the southwest of the viewpoint location. The mature woodland restricts views of the golf course to the south.</p> <p>The middle ground comprises a mature woodland block and plantation, located on the western and northern boundaries of the agricultural field. Mature vegetation in the middle distance restricts views to the long distance.</p> <p>The landform gently rises away from the viewpoint location to the northwest. A gap in the mature vegetation in the middle distance, provides glimpsed views to agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation in the distance, to the northwest. This creates a well-vegetated, layered view that restricts long distance views further. Heavily filtered views are available towards a farmstead to the west of the viewpoint location, through a mature vegetation block.</p>
Viewpoint 12: Leiston Road, north of Aldeburgh	<p>The view is located within the Coast and Heaths AONB, as such exhibiting high levels of scenic quality relating to the content of the view.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of local road users and residential properties in close proximity.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a grass verge, located on the eastern boundary of Leiston Road. A post and wire fence and wooden gate denotes the eastern edge of the grass verge, which continues into native hedgerow further to the north and south. Several mature coniferous trees are located on the western edge of Leiston Road.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>Long distance views to the North Sea and Grade II listed buildings within Thorpeness increases the scenic quality. Nothing that energy Infrastructure at Sizewell somewhat influences the composition of the view but at a distance. The view is appraised as being <b>very high</b>.</p>	<p>A medium-scale agricultural field is visible through and above the fencing and gate, which extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the east. On the right side of the view, metal fencing, low hedgerow and mature trees extend from the foreground into the middle ground, denoting the boundary of a private garden which is located to the southeast of the viewpoint.</p> <p>In the middle ground, to the north of the viewpoint location, a residential property is visible. Shrubs and individual mature trees along Leiston Road are visible in the middle distance, located on the left side of the view, which restrict long distance views to the north.</p> <p>The landform falls to the east of the viewpoint. To the northeast of the viewpoint location, there are long distance views towards the coastline including the North Sea and a wooded skyline. The House in the Clouds (Grade II listed) and Westbar Water Tower in Thorpeness (Grade II listed), are prominent in the view and are visible above the wooded skyline. Energy infrastructure at Sizewell is also visible above wooded skyline in the distance.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 13: Approved England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness</p>	<p>The content of the view exhibits high scenic qualities. It is located within the Coast and Heaths AONB and within the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The content of the view also comprises North Warren Nature Reserve and St Peter and St Paul's church in Aldeburgh, which increase the scenic quality. There are no detracting features that influence the</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the approved England Coast Path between the settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness and of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast.</p> <p>The foreground and middle ground comprise shingle and grassland associated with the coastal location. A shingle track denotes the route of the approved England Coast Path, which extends from the foreground into the long distance towards Aldeburgh. The landform rises to the east of the viewpoint, restricting views to the sea from this section of the approved England Coast Path. Views of the North Sea are available from residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness and at other sections along this route.</p> <p>Linear scrub vegetation, denoting the route of Thorpe Road, extends from the foreground into the distance, to the southwest of the viewpoint location. The scrub vegetation partially screens distant views. To the west of the viewpoint location, pastoral field enclosures are visible in the middle distance, visible above scrub vegetation along Thorpe Road. Further west, a prominent linear belt of pine trees is visible, which restrict views further west. An isolated residential property is visible in front of the mature vegetation block, to the west of the nature reserve.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 14: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 37), north of Saxmundham	composition of the view. The view is appraised as being <b>very high</b> .	In the long distance, through gaps in vegetation along Thorpe Road, buildings within Aldeburgh are visible to the south of the viewpoint, including the tower of St Peter and St Paul's church (Grade II*). The settlement edge of Aldeburgh is seen in the context of a wooded skyline.
Viewpoint 15: Clayhills Road and public footpath (Kelsale-cum-Carlton, route 34), east of Carlton	The content of the view has elements of high scenic quality, comprising a locally designated parkland, St Peter's church and a well-vegetated rural landscape. The water tower in Saxmundham somewhat detracts from the composition of the view, however this is limited due to the distance and that it is visible below the treeline. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>high</b> .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRow network between the settlements of Carlton and Saxmundham, and residential receptors on the edge of Carlton and of users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest.</p> <p>The foreground and middle distance comprise a small-scale parkland landscape within Carlton Park, which is predominantly used for pastoral grazing. Individual trees are located within the parkland. Post and wire fencing is located in the foreground of the view, denoting the western extent of the parkland and the eastern boundary of the public footpath. To the east of the viewpoint location, in the foreground, a residential property off Carlton Park and associated outbuildings are visible.</p> <p>The middle ground comprises agricultural and recreational land, which is divided by mature tree belts. This creates a well-vegetated, layered view, which along with an undulating local landform, limits long distance views to the southeast.</p> <p>Glimpsed views of St Peter's Church, Carlton (Grade II*) to the southeast of the viewpoint are available through mature vegetation in the middle distance. A water tower within Saxmundham is visible through the wooded skyline to the north of the viewpoint. However, it is visible below the treeline.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>line in the middle distance and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the composition of the view and associated scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>is generally flat in the foreground to middle distance and falls beyond the railway line to the south.</p> <p>Glimpsed views to further agricultural land and blocks of woodland in the long distance are available through gaps in vegetation along the railway line. The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the south of the viewpoint location.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 16: Abbey Lane to north of Knodishall Green</p>	<p>The content of the view exhibits some scenic qualities, comprising typical agricultural land, with blocks of mature vegetation and linear vegetation features. However, the railway line in the middle distance and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the composition of the view and associated scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network between Saxmundham and Leiston and nearby residential receptors.</p> <p>The foreground comprises Abbey Lane, which extends northwest and southeast from the viewpoint and is lined by scrub vegetation on the southern boundary. Medium-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the south and southwest of the viewpoint location.</p> <p>In the middle distance, agricultural land extends to a railway line on a slight embankment, lined by a low hedgerow and individual trees. A block of mature vegetation is visible to the southwest of the viewpoint, in the middle distance, which restricts long distance views in this direction. The landform gently falls towards the southeast from the viewpoint.</p> <p>Agricultural land extends into the long distance to the south of the viewpoint, with linear tree belts and hedgerows dividing field enclosures, creating a layered view of vegetation. Glimpsed views of scattered, isolated farmsteads are available through layers of vegetation. Blocks of mature vegetation are scattered across the skyline in the long distance.</p> <p>The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the south and southeast of the viewpoint.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
Viewpoint 17: Saxmundham Road (B1119) and public footpath (Leiston-cum-Sizewell, route 3), on the edge of Leiston	The content of the view has some elements of scenic quality, comprising typical agricultural land, with linear tree belts and hedgerows, as such creating a well-vegetated view. However, the wood pole line in the foreground and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the composition of the view and associated scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>medium</b> .	<p>Representative of users of the local road network and PRoW network on the edge of the settlement of Leiston.</p> <p>The foreground comprises medium-scale agricultural land, with a crop strip extending south of the viewpoint, denoting the route of the public footpath. Wood pole lines transect the field in a north to south direction, generally following the route of the public footpath. The B1119 is visible to the north of the viewpoint. A mature hedgerow, with small individual trees, extends from the foreground into the distance to the west of the viewpoint, denoting the route of the B1119.</p> <p>The middle ground comprises layers of tree lined field boundaries, which largely restrict distant views to the southwest.</p> <p>The landform is gently undulating, which provides glimpsed views of agricultural land in the distance, through mature vegetation. Heavily screened views to blocks of mature vegetation on the skyline in the long distance are available to the west of the viewpoint. The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance, to the southwest.</p>
Viewpoint 18: Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, east of Snape	The content of the view has some scenic qualities, comprising agricultural land, with blocks of mature vegetation and views towards St John the Baptist church, Church Common in the distance. The view is located within	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the Suffolk Coast Path recreational route to the east of the settlement of Snape, within the Coast and Heaths AONB and on the edge of the Suffolk Heritage Coast.</p> <p>The foreground comprises scrub vegetation and bracken, which denotes the northern boundary of the Suffolk Coast Path. The Suffolk Coast Path extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the east and west of the viewpoint. The foreground comprises medium-scale agricultural land, which extends into the middle distance to the north of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The middle ground comprises further agricultural land, divided by low-level scrub vegetation and individual trees as well as post and wire fencing. Agricultural buildings are located within field enclosures in the middle- to long distance to the south of the A1094. Glimpsed views through vegetation are available to vehicles along the A1094. Blocks of</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing View
	<p>the Coast and Heaths AONB which increases the value of the view, however qualities of the AONB are not prominent in the view. The existing OHL and vehicles along the A1094 partially reduce the composition of the view and the associated scenic quality. The value of the view is appraised as being <b>high</b>.</p>	<p>mature vegetation are also scattered within the middle and long distance, creating a well-vegetated view.</p> <p>In the distance, to the northwest, the tower of St John the Baptist church, Church Common (Grade II*) is visible above mature vegetation. Filtered views towards scattered properties to the north of the viewpoint location are also available.</p> <p>There are partially screened views to blocks of mature vegetation on the skyline in the long distance, and the existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the north of the viewpoint.</p>

## 2.2.B.4 References

- Ref 2.2.B.1 Natural England (2014). An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment
- Ref 2.2.B.2 Natural England (2012). An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment
- Ref 2.2.B.3 Natural England (2014). National Character Areas
- Ref 2.2.B.4 Landscape East (2010). East of England Landscape Character Typology
- Ref 2.2.B.5 Suffolk County Council (2011). Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment
- Ref 2.2.B.6 East Suffolk Council (2018). Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment
- Ref 2.2.B.7 Marine Management Organisation (2012). Seascape Character Area Assessment East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas
- Ref 2.2.B.8 Suffolk County Council (2018). Preliminary Seascape Character Assessment Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex
- Ref 2.2.B.9 Touching of the Tide Partnership (2012). Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment
- Ref 2.2.B.10 East Suffolk Council (2020). Suffolk Coastal Local Plan
- Ref 2.2.B.11 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework
- Ref 2.2.B.12 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014). Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas. [online] Available at: Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas> ) [Accessed July 2023].
- Ref 2.2.B.13 Natural England and Forestry Commission (2022). Guidance Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions. [online] Available at: Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions> [Accessed July 2023]
- Ref 2.2.B.14 Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council) (2001). Suffolk Coastal Local Plan First Alteration
- Ref 2.2.B.15 Suffolk Coastal District Council (now East Suffolk Council) (2006). Suffolk Coastal Local Plan Second Alteration
- Ref 2.2.B.16 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition

National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
[nationalgrid.com](http://nationalgrid.com)