



# Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 2

## Appendix 13.2 Landscape Baseline and Effects

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# 1 Landscape baseline and effects

- 1.1.1 This appendix to Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) **Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual**, sets out:
- a. Detailed baseline descriptions of the landscape receptors:
    - i. National Character Area (NCA).
    - ii. Regional Landscape Character Types/Areas (baseline only).
    - iii. Landscape Character Areas (LCA) as published by East Suffolk Council.
    - iv. Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) defined by competent experts on behalf of the Applicant.
  - b. Detailed descriptions of the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Scheme on landscape receptors during construction, at year 1 of operation, and at year 15 of operation, using the methodology set out in PEIR **Appendix 13.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**.
  - c. Assessment of potential impacts on the Special Qualities of the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape from the Proposed Scheme.
- 1.1.2 The geographical extent of landscape receptors is shown in **Figure 13.3 National Character Area and Marine Plan Areas, Figure 13.4 County Landscape Character Areas, Figure 13.5 District Landscape Character Areas and Figure 13.6 Local Landscape Character Areas**.
- 1.1.3 For the landscape receptors where scenarios or options would have different effects the assessment table has been repeated for each receptor to reflect these differences.
- 1.1.4 Where 'sections' of the Proposed Scheme are referred to in the following tables, please refer to **Figure 2.1 Zoning Plan** of the PEIR for orientation.



# Annex A: Landscape baseline and effects

Table 1.1: LCA F2: Southwold Coast - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA F2: Southwold Coast				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Coastal dunes and shingle ridges, Coastal levels, Open coastal fens		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Waveney District Landscape Character Assessment			Section D Close to proposed Landfall			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA F2 is a small area that lies between the coastal settlements of Southwold to the north and Walberswick to the south. It is characterised by sand and shingle beaches and dunes with small areas of salt marsh, separated by Southwold Harbour and the mouth of the River Blythe. Little landform variation is evident apart from the dunes and Crag cliffs. There are expansive views from the beaches across the North Sea and along the coast, giving rise to huge skies. The skyline is largely uncluttered but Sizewell Nuclear Power Station is a prominent landmark on the skyline to the south.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The area falls mostly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) County Wildlife Sites (CWS): Walberswick Saltmarsh, Southwold Dunes and Havenbeach Marshes; Conservation areas include a small area of Southwold town and the areas of the harbour on the Southwold and Walberswick side of the River Blyth. Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path.	The coastal and marshland landscape south of Southwold, and the saltmarsh of Walberswick is of importance ecologically for various bird species.	Historic features of the character area include southern area of the clifftop town of Southwold which includes the dunes. The town was popular in Victorian times as a beach resort and remains an attraction. Southwold harbour recalls the areas maritime past and has working boatyards. On the Walberswick side of the harbour, there is a collection of distinctive black timber huts, designated as a conservation area.  Remnant sea defences line the estuary mouth.	A landscape of largely intact coastal area, salt marsh and tidal estuary. Some elements, such as a model boating lake and car parks are in poorer condition.	The Rivers Blyth and Dunwich whose estuaries are in this character area were previously important trade waterways supporting the thriving ports of Walberswick and Southwold. Contemporary recreational use of the estuaries, boatyards and in-river moorings indicate links to this past maritime heritage.  The Walberswick-Southwold ferry across the river Blyth has run since 1236 and is currently rowed by the 6 <sup>th</sup> generation of the same family. Remains of old sea and river defences have a sculptural presence towards the harbour mouth and serve as a reminder of the great flood that broke through them in 1953. The black timber huts on the Walberswick side of the harbour have been frequently portrayed in artwork since the start of the tourist popularity in the 1800's, including by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Philip Wilson Steer.

Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This part of the coast has a sand bedrock geology overlain with sand and gravel beach deposits, in addition to tidal flats and silt/clay deposits. The bedrock is apparent in the low, erosion prone Crag coastal cliffs at Southwold. Topography reaches 10m AOD to the clifftops. Acid, sandy soils overlay glaciofluvial drift deposits, creating a landscape of grassy dunes and sandy beaches.</p> <p>Principal landcover is that of duneland to the south of Southwold, with localised areas of scrubby woodland beyond, in addition to areas of coastal marsh including Havenbeach Marshes. South of the River Blyth the area covers the Dunwich River estuary and an area of saltmarsh. Saline plant species such as tree lupins are a distinctive element of the shingle beaches in Southwold. Panoramic views are available across the coastal marsh to the south as far as Aldeburgh, with Sizewell A and B Power Stations forming a prominent element of these views.</p> <p>The coast has a wild and windswept, exposed quality and a strongly ephemeral visual character due to tidal movement, reflected light and the influence of the weather.</p> <p>The estuary of the River Blyth and its tributary the Dunwich River in Walberswick are covered by a Special Protection Area and SBIS CWS designation.</p>	<p>Saline plant species such as tree lupins are a distinctive element of the shingle beaches.</p> <p>The southern part of this landscape is windswept dominated by the elements and wide views.</p> <p>The collection of buildings at the harbour mouth, often clad in black timber, strongly influence the sense of place and local vernacular. Distinctive historic sea defences at the estuary. Unique salt marsh and dynamic landscape that is often flooded at the southern, Walberswick part of the character area.</p>	<p>The beach which extends south from the coastal resort of Southwold is popular for informal recreation and as the setting for offshore activities, such as windsurfing and sailing. Crab fishing is popular at the harbour and Walberswick. The Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk cross the area, following the back of the Havenbeach Marshes and Walberswick beach.</p>	<p>LCA F2 is a key focus for tourism regionally. Tourist attractions include the beaches at Southwold and Walberswick. A ferry remains between Walberswick and Southwold in this character area linking Walberswick to the restaurants and fishmongers on the Southwold side of the harbour. Three carparks serve the beach and harbour and this area has a draw for beach, the harbour and the walks along the inland marshes and waterways. The Southwold harbour is supported by a large carpark and toilet facilities.</p>	<p>This character area aligns closely to the Special Qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape with high scenic quality. The town of Southwold on higher ground to the north forms the backdrop to views from the Blyth Estuary and harbour. To the south Sizewell Nuclear Power Station is a prominent landmark on the skyline. The picturesque black timber huts of Walberswick's harbour are a recognisable coastal scene. Textural variation is created by the dunes and marram grasses to the south of Southwold and on the Walberswick side, dunes and saltmarsh. The sun rises over the sea and sets over the marshes to the west, creating attractive sunsets.</p>	<p>LCA F2 has a wild, exposed and remote character despite being close to Southwold. The seasonal influx of tourists means that the area can be very busy, and this can detract from its tranquillity.</p> <p>The dune systems create a wild quality and strong sense of place.</p> <p>The River Blyth and its tidal flows offer a dynamic sense of place, at times tranquil and at times wild, dependant on season and weather.</p>	<p>High ecological functional value with the Dunes in Southwold and Walberswick, the Walberswick Saltmarsh, the River Blyth and the Dunwich River and their tidal estuaries. There is functional value for the local community and tourists at the resort of Southwold, along the beaches and the working harbour.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a) [Ref 1].</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>LCA F2 lies entirely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape. Its combination of natural and cultural factors support its strong value for recreation and tourism, related to its relationship with the sea.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>This is not a host landscape. However, the landscape has various characteristics and features which would be susceptible to change. These include the sensitive shingle ridges and dunes, the areas of ecological value under various designations for wildlife. The distinctiveness, scenic and tranquil qualities of the landscape and its connections with the sea contribute to the strong sense of place.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	



Table 1.2: LCA F2: Southwold Coast – assessment of effects

LCA F2: Southwold Coast	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
Offshore construction activity would be perceptible on the horizon across the North Sea in the context of Southwold Harbour. This would include the proposed static jack-up barge and the movement of other construction vessels. Ships and smaller vessels are a common sight within the harbour and offshore within LCA F2, but the intensity of activity may be more noticeable. There would be no physical changes within LCA F2 and the key characteristics of the area would not be affected. 7	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no physical changes and no perceptible change to the character or setting of this LCA in operation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no physical changes and no perceptible change to the character or setting of this LCA in operation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.3: LCA B2: Blyth Valley - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B2: Blyth Valley			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths in study area and some NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands to the west		Rolling Valley Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands, Valley Meadows and Fen, and the Coastal Levels		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section C3 Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B2 extends inland from Southwold Harbour, the tidal River Blythe widening out to form a broad estuary edged by marshes. The area lies mostly within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape and is characterised by a network of small tributaries, which drain into the river and have created a gently rolling profile. The upper reaches are fringed by arable farmland, the middle reaches hold small remnants of heaths. Whilst the valley is shallow, a sense of containment is felt from the surrounding higher land. LCA B2 stretches far west of the study area, which only comprises the eastern part of the LCA, from Wenhaston to Blackheath and Thorrington.	The character area falls partly within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Thorrington Road Meadows, Blackheath, Church Farm Marshes, Bulcamp Marshes, Bickers Heath, Wenhaston Church Common, Mill Heath, Hurricane Wood, National Cycle Network Route 42. Ancient woodland: Ubbeston Wood	East of Blyford is a landscape of wet meadow, reed, grazed/rush pasture which experience seasonal flooding of coastal waters. As a result the lower reaches develop a estuarine character with a high ecological value. A particular feature of the middle reaches of the valley are the small remnant heaths such as around Wenhaston - Mill Heath, Bickers Heath Blackheath and Church Common.	Heveningham Park is on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and is also registered by SCDC as a Park or Garden of Historic Interest.  Wenhaston Church is referred to in the Domesday Survey and is of possible Saxon origin. It has a notable Last Judgement painting from around 1480 by a monk from Blythburgh Priory. The western part of LCA B2 contributes to the setting of the Grade I listed Holy Trinity Church in Blythburgh.  Bramfield is a conservation area and includes several listed buildings such as Bramfield Hall (16th century Grade II*, a late eighteenth century serpentine wall and a Medieval ring ditch at Castle Farm (scheduled Monument)  The former Halesworth to Southwold railway line crosses the area and skirts the southern edge of the marshes, with a footbridge now marking the crossing of the river north of Southwold Harbour The line was closed in 1929 and was a branch of the Great Eastern Railway.	The meadows are in good, mixed condition and with evidence of some traditional grazing. However, other areas have been neglected where remnant heathland appears to be overgrown with bracken. In some places urban development impinges on the traditional valley floor character and in the upper reaches loss of hedgerows has resulted in fragmented ecological corridors.	The River Blyth was previously navigable from Halesworth to the sea and settlements on the way including Wenhaston were busy market towns.  There is a long association with artists in the area, including Philip Wilson Steer and Charles Rennie MacKintosh.

Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This is complex mix of four types - Rolling Valley Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands, Valley Meadows and Fen, and the Coastal Levels. Scenic qualities relate to the deeply tranquil and rural river valley character which often feels remote and the attractive compositions of steep slopes, parkland, woodland and historic settlement patterns including farmsteads and churches. In the lower reaches, draining into the river, are small watercourses which bring water off the plateau, and have created a gently rolling profile</p> <p>The upper reaches of the River Blyth have an intimate, inland narrow pastoral valley character on slowly permeable calcareous clayey soil, fringed by arable farmland on the upper slopes.</p> <p>In the upper reaches of the small tributary valleys there is a strong feeling of remoteness, and settlement is sparse comprising a dispersed pattern of hamlets... and ancient farms</p> <p>Juxtaposition of valley floor wetlands and pasture with remnant heath habitats on the valley slopes gives this valley a unique character in context of the Suffolk Coastal river valleys.</p> <p>Heveningham Park takes advantage of the topography of the valley form and is on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and registered by SCDC as a Park or Garden of Historic Interest.</p> <p>A particular feature of the middle reaches of the valley are the small remnant heaths... Here the lanes have a sandlands character with bracken on the banks and small triangular greens connecting the junctions.</p> <p>This part of the valley has also been affected by development associated with Wenhaston. Here the historic linear pattern of settlement has</p>	<p>The isolated heaths of Wenhaston, Bickers Heath and Blackheath give these inland settlements a coastal feel and locate them in the sandlands typology. Near Wenhaston, the lanes have a sandlands character, with bracken on the banks and small triangular greens connecting the junctions.</p> <p>East of Blyford there is a distinct estuarine character with areas of reed and wet meadow.</p> <p>Juxtaposition of valley floor wetlands and pasture with remnant heath habitats on the valley slopes gives this valley a unique character in context of the Suffolk Coastal river valleys.</p> <p>Most of Suffolk's vernacular materials are found in this character area. The older houses are timber framed and rendered and the Victorian cottages are built of 'Suffolk Red' or 'Suffolk White' brick and flint is common. Roofs are slate, tile or thatch. Some of the timber-framed buildings have pargetting applied to the rendering.</p>	<p>There is generally good recreational access from east to west. PRow largely follow the banks of the River Blyth inland and cross the Bulcamp Marshes across the mudflats, meaning that they are only accessible at low tide. The heaths on the edge of estuary includes open access land. National Cycle Network Route 42 also crosses the area.</p>	<p>LCA B2 lies close to Southwold and Walberswick and inland settlements popular with tourists. It provides an important backdrop to the area but the wildness and remoteness of the estuary and marshes makes it less popular with tourists than the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>The perception of the natural beauty of the area contributes to its strong sense of place. The valley is shallow but deep enough to feel a sense of containment from the surrounding higher land. The sides which are more rolling, views are more scenic where there are breaks in hedgerows for longer distance views. Views east towards Southwold and the marshes feel more open on approach to Blythburgh.</p> <p>The tidal river and estuary, marsh and heathland combine to create attractive compositions of steep slopes, parkland, woodland and historic settlement patterns.</p>	<p>A deeply tranquil and rural river valley character which often feels distinctly more remote than the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Settlement is sparse comprising a dispersed pattern of hamlets to the north and south of the river.</p> <p>The A12 trunk road is a disruptive feature in the landscape, reducing tranquillity locally.</p>	<p>The River Blyth and its associated wetland meadows, reed, and grazed pasture are part of a functionally connected ecosystem; Strong linear ecological functionality along the old railway line; Remnants of heathland and fragments of the Suffolk Sandlings seen at Blackheath, Bickers Heath and Wenhaston; extensive and linear woodland between Thorrington and Bramfield are often isolated.</p>

<p>undergone substantial infill with 20th century development altering settlement form and character. East of Byford, boundary vegetation becomes scarcer, the size of the meadows increase and the flood plain widens. Here fields are divided by boundary ditches and sinuous tributary watercourses. It becomes a landscape of wetland meadow, reed and grazed/rush pasture. Bramfield is a conservation area and includes a number of notable listed buildings. Huntingfield constitutes the compact remnants of an early medieval enclave, which has thus far remained relatively free from inappropriate change, infill and suburbanisation and is a small group of church and cottages connects over the stream by a causeway. The cottages have a distinctive black and white colour theme.</p>						
<b>Valued landscape</b>	<b>Value</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>		<b>Sensitivity</b>	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	<p>LCA B2 lies largely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The natural heritage, distinctiveness, tranquillity, perceptual qualities and functional connectivity provide strong evidence of the value attached to the landscape.</p>		<p>This is not a host landscape, and therefore there would be no physical change to any of the landscape features. The landscape has various characteristics and features which would be susceptible to change. These include river and estuary with grazing marsh, remnant areas of heathland and the general tranquil rural character, which cannot be replaced.</p>		<p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.4: LCA B2: Blyth Valley – assessment of effects

LCA B2: Blyth Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Construction activity would take place at least 1km away from this LCA. As the landscape is open and low-lying, it is possible that some construction activity may be perceptible on the skyline, but it is not judged that it would be of sufficient scale or extent to have detrimental impact on the character of the area.	There would be very little perceptible change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme. The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no physical changes and no perceptible change to the character or setting of this LCA in operation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no physical changes and no perceptible change to the character or setting of this LCA in operation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.



Table 1.5: LCA B3: Yox Valley – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B3: Yox Valley			Both		Western Route option of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths in study area and some NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands to the west		Rolling estate claylands, Estate sandlands, Valley Meadows and Fens, and Rolling Valley Claylands to the far west.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section C1 and C2 Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B3 stretches from Peasenhall and Sibton in the east, down river to Yoxford and Theberton. The area from Yoxford to Theberton is in the study area. The area is characterised by an inland valley which then widens into meadows and water meadows, with arable valley sides and parkland also scattered across this landscape. Woodland is present across the valley, in the lower reaches, providing a sense of containment within the otherwise expansive area.	LCA B3 falls partly within the National Landscape and contributes to its setting.	Ramsar: Minsmere-Walberswick (but out of study area), SAC Special Area of Conservation (outside of study area), SPA (outside of study area), SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes (outside of study area), SBIS County Wildlife sites: Darsham Marshes, Minsmere Valley Reckford Bridge to Beveriche Manor, Minsmere Valley Eastbridge to Reckford Bridge, Registered park: Parkland and gardens of Cockfield Hall, Ancient woodland: Pins Wood, two unnamed woodlands, and more far west from study area; National Cycle Network Route 42, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserve, Conservation area	Ancient woodlands further west from the study area include character area include Big Wood, Hencoop Wood and part of The Spring Wood.  Further south, there are belts of poplar plantation and areas of semi-natural carr woodland.  Darsham marshes has a gradient from wetlands to dry sandy heath.  The western edge of the Minsmere National Nature Reserve lies to the east of this character area.	Parkland estates are a particular feature of this river valley. Yoxford is surrounded by parkland on three sides, including Cockfield Hall, Rookery Park and Grove Park. Sibton Park (far west from the study area) surrounds a large Grade II* listed country house built in 1827.  This area is known as the 'Garden of Suffolk' and has numerous working fruit farms.  The built form demonstrates a range of traditional Suffolk architectural forms and styles.	The landscape is generally in good condition and well maintained parklands support this.  Some parts of this landscape retain a rural character as a result of traditional management through grazing. Some smaller fields show signs of neglect and poor management with scrub encroachment, tree planting and conversion to horse paddocks.	There is an active artistic community in the valley, and it has historically been popular with artists. The Yoxford Arts Festival, has run annually since 2012.  Loxford was the setting for a Benjamin Britten opera, Loxford.

Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area comprises four landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Valley Claylands, Estate Sandlands, and Valley Meadows and Fen.</p> <p>The valley is shallow, with rolling sides, and provides a feeling of containment from the surrounding higher land, particularly in the upper reaches. In the lower reaches, the valley is shallow and wider and feels more expansive, although regular woodland provides enclosure. There is high scenic quality as a result of the high concentration of parklands that impart a well managed estate character and pastoral valley characteristics. Woodland is found all the way down the valley. Higher up, in the Claylands, it is found interspersed with farmland in small strips and narrow plantations. Soils are slowly permeable calcareous clays, laid over chalky till in the upper reaches in the claylands. The soils get more mixed and water logged further south, where deep layers of peat form the valley floor creating areas of fen. Valued valley floor habitats including alder carr woodland, wet meadows, ditches and ponds including Darsham Marshes Nature Reserve - a tranquil mosaic of marsh and fen. There is a distinctive pattern of intact historic villages located on the lower valley slopes many of which include Conservation Areas. Yoxford is surrounded by an unusual amount of parkland on three sides. Churches are often large and in imposing locations in the villages whereas modern development is limited. Regular hedges along lanes are well managed in the farmlands,</p>	<p>This is a distinctive landscape including ancient woodland, parklands, marshes, river valleys and heathland</p> <p>The villages have a strong unity of character being linear and generally one plot deep along a main street. Peasenhall, Sibton, Yoxford, Theberton and Darsham all have a dominantly linear layout. The quality of the built environment is high and the attractive street scenes are supplemented with regular green space and trees which are a key part of their character.</p>	<p>There is a strong network of PRoW around Minsmere and the Minsmere New Cut River and National Cycle Network Route 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Yoxford is an attractive town with a characterful high street and shops supporting local tourism.</p> <p>Darsham railway station is a key gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast, including popular tourist destinations of Southwold and Walberswick.</p>	<p>This is a variable and scenic landscape from ancient woodland in the west, to parklands, marshes, river valleys and Minsmere heathland in the east. In areas with flatter topography, even small amounts of woodland have a strong vertical presence and contain views. At the time of survey, scenic value was affected by construction activity related to the Sizewell C Link Road on various arable fields between Yoxford and Middleton along the B1122.</p>	<p>LCA B3 is busy and populated near the A12 and the main roads which link settlements and well maintained farms. Away from the main roads, in the quiet valley bottoms, enclosed in wild scrubby hedges, or overlooking historic marshy meadows, the landscape is more tranquil, and outside parkland there are areas which are lush and semi-natural. The small scale field patterns, traditional land uses and high quality vernacular architecture give the area has a strong historic rural character.</p> <p>The area is bisected by the A12 at Yoxford and the railway line just to the east where it cuts along the side of Rookery Park, which reduce tranquillity locally.</p> <p>At the time of survey, tranquillity was disturbed by construction works relating to the Sizewell C Link Road on various arable fields between Yoxford and Middleton along the B1122.</p>	<p>Habitats in the valley floor include alder carr woodland, wet meadows, ditches and ponds including Darsham Marshes Nature Reserve - a tranquil mosaic of marsh and fen. Further pockets of woodland and parkland contribute to its biodiversity value. The River Yox and Minsmere River are valued for their water resources and feed the internationally important wetlands at Minsmere, which are functionally connected with the National Landscape to the east.</p>

and wilder and taller along the meadowlands. Two types of enclosure pattern can be distinguished in this valley, firstly the ancient, sinuous and organic pattern of small fields... secondly the larger arable fields of the better drained valley sides The River Yox and Minsmere river are valued for their water resources and feed the internationally important wetlands at Minsmere to the east.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
The Minsmere River and Yox Valley still support traditional grazing meadows with associated hedgerows, dykes, and associated flora and fauna. There are strong functional links with the National Landscape to the east. This landscape is considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a).	High		High		High	
	An attractive river valley landscape with extensive parkland, ecological value and villages with historic centres give this a high value.		This character area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.  The features and characteristics of LCA B3 which are susceptible to change include: The River Minsmere, its valley floor wet meadows and grazing marshes including Darsham Marshes, woodlands on the valley sides, areas of parkland with scenic views, the PRow network around Minsmere River and the marshes, the attractive villages with historic centres. Features and characteristics which are less susceptible to change include the areas close to the A12, which are already altered in character by the presence of the main road.		The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.	

Table 1.6: LCA B3: Yox Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B3: Yox Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>There would be physical changes to LCA B3 associated with the laying of the proposed Underground HVDC Cables. Approximately 3km of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would cross this LCA, running broadly north to south in the eastern part. Over half of this section would utilise trenchless construction techniques, avoiding sensitive habitats and the loss of existing vegetation. This would include the Minsmere River and Darsham Marshes which includes wet meadow, fen and woodland. Additional trenchless crossings are proposed under Hawthorn Road, the B1122 and the Yoxford/Westleton Road. A large orchard at Middleton Moor, is not proposed to be a trenchless crossing, and it would be severed. This affects the character of the area as it is historically associated with orchards and few are remaining.</p> <p>Construction activity would reduce tranquility locally through the introduction of temporary plant, construction compounds, the movement of plant and workers and lighting in the rural landscape. This includes a construction compound east of Middleton Moor, near Moor Farm and small compounds associated with trenchless crossings, which would extend these impacts along the route.</p> <p>The above relates to the proposed Underground HVDC Cables not co-locating with the Sizewell Link Road (Western option). With the design information available at the time of writing, the overall magnitude of impact is deemed to be similar for both options given the scale of this character area.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised.</p> <p>The above relates to both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very Low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement. This relates to both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in negligible adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.7: LCA B3: Yox Valley – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B3: Yox Valley			Both		Eastern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths in study area and some NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands to the west		Rolling estate claylands, Estate sandlands, Valley Meadows and Fens, and Rolling Valley Claylands to the far west.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section C1 and C2 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B3 stretches from Peasehall and Sibton in the east, down river to Yoxford and Theberton. The area from Yoxford to Theberton is in the study area. The area is characterised by an inland valley which then widens into meadows and water meadows, with arable valley sides and parkland also scattered across this landscape. Woodland is present across the valley, in the lower reaches, providing a sense of containment within the otherwise expansive area.	LCA B3 falls partly within the National Landscape and contributes to its setting.	Ramsar: Minsmere-Walberswick (but out of study area), SAC Special Area of Conservation (outside of study area), SPA (outside of study area), SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes (outside of study area), SBIS County Wildlife sites: Darsham Marshes, Minsmere Valley Reckford Bridge to Beveriche Manor, Minsmere Valley Eastbridge to Reckford Bridge, Registered park: Parkland and gardens of Cockfield Hall, Ancient woodland: Pins Wood, 2 x unnamed woodlands, and more far west from study area; National Cycle Network Route 42, RSPB reserve, Conservation area	<p>Ancient woodlands further west from the study area include character area include Big Wood, Hencoop Wood and part of The Spring Wood.</p> <p>Further south, there are belts of poplar plantation and areas of semi-natural carr woodland.</p> <p>Darsham marshes has a gradient from wetlands to dry sandy heath.</p> <p>The western edge of the Minsmere National Nature Reserve lies to the east of this character area.</p>	<p>Parkland estates are a particular feature of this river valley. Yoxford is surrounded by parkland on three sides, including Cockfield Hall, Rookery Park and Grove Park. Sibton Park (far west from the study area) surrounds a large Grade II* listed country house built in 1827.</p> <p>This area is known as the 'Garden of Suffolk' and has numerous working fruit farms.</p> <p>The built form demonstrates a range of traditional Suffolk architectural forms and styles.</p>	<p>The landscape is generally in good condition and well maintained parklands support this.</p> <p>Some parts of this landscape retain a rural character as a result of traditional management through grazing. Some smaller fields show signs of neglect and poor management with scrub encroachment, tree planting and conversion to horse paddocks.</p>	<p>There is an active artistic community in the valley, and it has historically been popular with artists. The Yoxford Arts Festival has run annually since 2012.</p> <p>Loxford was the setting for a Benjamin Britten opera, Loxford.</p>



Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area comprises four landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Valley Claylands, Estate Sandlands, and Valley Meadows and Fen.</p> <p>The valley is shallow, with rolling sides, and provides a feeling of containment from the surrounding higher land, particularly in the upper reaches.</p> <p>In the lower reaches, the valley is shallow and wider and feels more expansive, although regular woodland provides enclosure.</p> <p>There is high scenic quality as a result of the high concentration of parklands that impart a well managed estate character and pastoral valley characteristics.</p> <p>Woodland is found all the way down the valley. Higher up, in the Claylands, it is found interspersed with farmland in small strips and narrow plantations.</p> <p>Soils are slowly permeable calcareous clays, laid over chalky till in the upper reaches in the claylands. The soils get more mixed, and water logged further south, where deep layers of peat form the valley floor creating areas of fen.</p> <p>Valued valley floor habitats including alder carr woodland, wet meadows, ditches and ponds including Darsham Marshes Nature Reserve - a tranquil mosaic of marsh and fen.</p> <p>There is a distinctive pattern of intact historic villages located on the lower valley slopes many of which include Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Yoxford is surrounded by an unusual amount of parkland on three sides.</p> <p>Churches are often large and in imposing locations in the villages whereas modern development is limited.</p> <p>Regular hedges along lanes are well managed in the farmlands, and</p>	<p>This is a distinctive landscape including ancient woodland, parklands, marshes, river valleys and heathland</p> <p>The villages have a strong unity of character being linear and generally one plot deep along a main street.</p> <p>Peasenhall, Sibton, Yoxford, Theberton and Darsham all have a dominantly linear layout. The quality of the built environment is high and the attractive street scenes are supplemented with regular green space and trees which are a key part of their character.</p>	<p>There is a strong network of PRoW around Minsmere and the Minsmere New Cut River and National Cycle Network Route 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Yoxford is an attractive town with a characterful high street and shops supporting local tourism.</p> <p>Darsham railway station is a key gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast, including popular tourist destinations of Southwold and Walberswick.</p>	<p>This is a variable and scenic landscape from ancient woodland in the west, to parklands, marshes, river valleys and Minsmere heathland in the east. In areas with flatter topography, even small amounts of woodland have a strong vertical presence and contain views. At the time of survey, scenic value was affected by construction activity related to the Sizewell C Link Road on various arable fields between Yoxford and Middleton along the B1122.</p>	<p>LCA B3 is busy and populated near the A12 and the main roads which link settlements and well maintained farms. Away from the main roads, in the quiet valley bottoms, enclosed in wild scrubby hedges, or overlooking historic marshy meadows, the landscape is more tranquil, and outside parkland there are areas which are lush and semi-natural. The small scale field patterns, traditional land uses and high quality vernacular architecture give the area has a strong historic rural character.</p> <p>The area is bisected by the A12 at Yoxford and the railway line just to the east where it cuts along the side of Rookery Park, which reduce tranquillity locally.</p> <p>At the time of survey, tranquillity was disturbed by construction works relating to the Sizewell C Link Road on various arable fields between Yoxford and Middleton along the B1122.</p>	<p>Habitats in the valley floor include alder carr woodland, wet meadows, ditches and ponds including Darsham Marshes Nature Reserve - a tranquil mosaic of marsh and fen. Further pockets of woodland and parkland contribute to its biodiversity value. The River Yox and Minsmere River are valued for their water resources and feed the internationally important wetlands at Minsmere, which are functionally connected with the National Landscape to the east.</p>

wilder and taller along the meadowlands. Two types of enclosure pattern can be distinguished in this valley, firstly the ancient, sinuous and organic pattern of small fields... secondly the larger arable fields of the better drained valley sides The River Yox and Minsmere river are valued for their water resources and feed the internationally important wetlands at Minsmere to the east.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
The Minsmere River and Yox Valley still support traditional grazing meadows with associated hedgerows, dykes, and associated flora and fauna. There are strong functional links with the National Landscape to the east. This landscape is considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	High		High		High	
	An attractive river valley landscape with extensive parkland, ecological value and villages with historic centres give this a high value.		This character area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.  The features and characteristics of LCA B3 which are susceptible to change include: The River Minsmere, its valley floor wet meadows and grazing marshes including Darsham Marshes, woodlands on the valley sides, areas of parkland with scenic views, the PRow network around Minsmere River and the marshes, the attractive villages with historic centres. Features and characteristics which are less susceptible to change include the areas close to the A12, which are already altered in character by the presence of the main road.		The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.	

Table 1.8: LCA B3: Yox Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B3: Yox Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>There would be physical changes to LCA B3 associated with the laying of the proposed Underground HVDC Cables. Approximately 3km of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would cross this LCA, running broadly north to south in the eastern part. Over half of this section would utilise trenchless construction techniques, avoiding sensitive habitats and the loss of existing vegetation. This would include the Minsmere River and Darsham Marshes which includes wet meadow, fen and woodland. Additional trenchless crossings are proposed under Hawthorn Road, the B1122 and the Yoxford/Westleton Road. A large orchard at Middleton Moor, is not proposed to be a trenchless crossing, and it would be severed. This affects the character of the area as it is historically associated with orchards and few are remaining.</p> <p>Construction activity would reduce tranquility locally through the introduction of temporary plant, construction compounds, the movement of plant and workers and lighting in the rural landscape. This includes a construction compound east of Middleton Moor, near Moor Farm and small compounds associated with trenchless crossings, which would extend these impacts along the route.</p> <p>The above relates to the proposed Underground HVDC cable route (Eastern option) collocating alongside the Sizewell Link Road. With the design information available at the time of writing, the overall magnitude of impact is deemed to be similar for both options given the scale of this LCA.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised.</p> <p>The above relates to both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very Low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement. This relates to both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>The above relates to both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in negligible adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.9: LCA B4: Fromus Valley – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B4: Fromus Valley			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		Northern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A Proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B4 is a short and shallow river valley including the town of Saxmundham. Wet meadows define much of the valley south of Saxmundham, with the valley sides supporting arable use and remnant historic parkland. North of the town, while arable use is prominent, there is more vegetation present, comprising principally hedgerows, tree belts and woodland.	No	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Benhall Green Meadows, Manor Farm Meadows, Ancient Woodland: Ash Ground, Hurtshall Park, unnamed area of woodland around Hurtshall Park, Lodge Plantation, National Cycle Network Route 41, Locally Listed park and garden: Carlton Park	The River Fromus runs through the centre with some wet meadows in the valley floor and the dryer sides, mixture of hedgerows, trees and woodlands, including some ancient in origin. The SBIS wildlife sites Benhall Green Meadows and Manor Farm Meadows are located in the south of the LCA.	Carlton Park, Hurts Hall and Hurtshall Park are located on the valley sides. Saxmundham and Kelsale have historic centres defined by Conservation areas. The Layers is an area of open land connected to agricultural history to the town.	the landscape is generally in good condition, particularly the areas of parkland. Volunteers regularly clear the River Fromus.	This area has been a stopping point and transport hub since its origins as a market town for travellers travelling from Ipswich to Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth. There is evidence of settlement in Saxmundham since the bronze age, though the name originates from Saxon times. Artists known in the area include Maggie Hambling.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This area comprises three landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands. This is a subtle shallow valley system containing the market town of Saxmundham and a more dispersed pattern of settlement to the north and south. South of Saxmundham the valley floor becomes more defined, supporting wet meadows while the well-drained valley sides support arable land use and some parkland. The more fertile Claylands north of Saxmundham, where early enclosure took place have an organic feel although throughout the	The historic built environment and a small river valley and surrounding parkland are distinctive elements, surrounded by otherwise intense arable agriculture.	National Cycle Network Route 41 passes through the area. There are many local recreational facilities in Saxmundham and at the recreation ground at Carlton Park. There are fishing lakes south of Benhall Green. Access to the River Fromus and the parklands is limited.	Saxmundham is a gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast as it hosts one of the closest railway stations to popular tourist destinations such as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The town has an historic centre, which supports local tourism. There is a large caravan site south of Sternfield.	Saxmundham and the transport routes which connect it to the wider landscape dominate this area. Some important views around Saxmundham have been defined in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan. There are attractive views long the River Fromus and across Hurtshall park from local roads, but there is no public access to these areas. The A12 runs through this area and traffic on this busy trunk road is a detractor.	There is higher relative tranquility further from the settlements within the rural landscape. Tranquillity is substantially reduced locally by the A12 and to a lesser extent the B1121 and railway line. There is a low sense of wildness as the landscape is largely intensively farmed arable land and settlement. The parkland character of Hurtshall park further extends the human	LCA B4 contributes setting and approach to Saxmundham. The shallow River Fromus runs over a sandy soil with vegetated sides and serves a function for ecological connectivity. The more managed parkland areas feature mature trees and pockets of woodland. Hedgerows on field and road boundaries are common and form the main connections across the landscape.

<p>area, arable fields have been regularised.</p> <p>The landscape is well vegetated through a mix of hedgerows, tree belts and some woodland.</p> <p>The valley bottom is particularly well-wooded in the centre of the area, around the villages of Sternfeld and Benhall.</p> <p>Settlement peters out further south, and the experience becomes more remote, experienced from narrow lanes, with views into small scale, peaty, wet meadows.</p> <p>Remnant parkland landscapes including veteran trees, perimeter planting, and mansion houses are dotted throughout, including the imposing Hurts Hall and its parkland just south of Saxmundham.</p> <p>A Conservation Area covers the attractive historic core of Saxmundham which has a wealth of traditional, listed buildings.</p> <p>Plantation woodland lines the banks of the River Fromus within the parkland associated with Hurts Hall.</p> <p>The rural river valley character is relatively unspoilt by development, particularly along the gateway into Saxmundham which provides a scenic approach and plays a role in reinforcing Saxmundham's setting in the river valley.</p>					<p>influences over the landscape.</p>	
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>The River Fromus and Hurtshall park are the key features of value in this landscape. The area is bisected by the A12 trunk road and a railway line, which disrupt the landscape patten and tranquility. Away from the river valley, the land us is predominantly arable agriculture. This landscape is not considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Woodland and the river with its vegetated banks are the key natural heritage features. Whilst not registered, the parkland associated with Hurtshall is distinctive and contributes to the setting of Saxmundham, including its conservation area. Recreational opportunities include fishing on the lakes and the local PRow network, but access to the River Fromus is limited. Tranquillity is reduced near the A12. B1121 and railway line.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station. It is also host landscape to a short section of the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link. The majority of the area is settlement or arable farmland, bisected by transport routes. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include the historic parkland featuring open landscape with areas of woodland and individual mature trees; the vegetation and ecological connectivity of the banks of the River Fromus, and the River Fromus; the southern SBIS wildlife sites; various pockets of mature woodland; a robust hedgerow network; the culturally valued Layers and the scenic approach to the settlement of Saxmundham.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.</p>	



Table 1.10: LCA B4: Fromus Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B4: Fromus Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The majority of LCA B4 would not be physically affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme. However, construction of the permanent access road to the proposed Converter Station, would be located in the centre of the area. For the access road, Historic parkland south of Hurts Hall would be displaced and vegetation would be removed in order to construct the road and a bridge. Vegetation would be cleared from the banks of the River Fromus, which would include some mature woodland. Further mature vegetation in the form of a willow plantation would need to be removed. This vegetation currently provides biodiversity benefits, and character setting function for the approach to Saxmundham, where key views across this parkland are identified in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as being important. Removal of this vegetation may also open up views to the wider construction site of the proposed Converter Station for the duration of construction. Construction of the road would introduce plant including excavators and cranes, signage and lighting, disrupting the rural character and quality of the area. Construction traffic using the proposed Access Road during construction of the proposed Converter Station would continue to reduce the relative tranquility locally.</p> <p>In the Kiln Lane Substation Amendment scenario, the access road over the River Fromus would also be the access road for that construction.</p> <p>For the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the Northern Route would not cross through this character area, though the construction works would be less than 200m from the boundary. Further north and to the east in this part of the LCA, construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station would be perceptible from various locations. This would affect the approach to Saxmundham and this character area from both the north and the east, affecting the sense of being a rural, agricultural area with little settlement.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. Gaps where mature vegetation was removed would increase the openness and visual connections between this LCA and the landscape to the east, where the proposed Converter Station would be located on the skyline. This would alter the perception of the area, permanently severing the historic parkland and altering the character through the introduction of the access road and the bridge across the River Fromus.</p> <p>For the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (North option), only a very small part of the LCA to the east of the proposed converter Station would be affected, avoiding the SBIS wildlife sites in the south. The impact is considered to be very low.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to reinstate the majority of vegetation removed to facilitate construction. A gap would remain where the access road crosses the landscape from the B1121 to the proposed Converter Station, including where it crosses the River Fromus. Proposed planting would assist in integrating the proposed Access Road into the landscape, but the severance and visual connections between the historic parkland of Hurts Hall and the proposed Converter Station site would remain.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.11: LCA B4: Fromus Valley – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B4: Fromus Valley				Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	Southern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A Proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B4 is a short and shallow river valley including the town of Saxmundham. Wet meadows define much of the valley south of Saxmundham, with the valley sides supporting arable use and remnant historic parkland. North of the town, while arable use is prominent, there is more vegetation present, comprising principally hedgerows, tree belts and woodland.	No	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Benhall Green Meadows, Manor Farm Meadows, Ancient Woodland: Ash Ground, Hurtshall Park, unnamed area of woodland around Hurtshall Park, Lodge Plantation, National Cycle Network Route 41, Locally Listed park and garden: Carlton Park	The River Fromus runs through the centre with some wet meadows in the valley floor and the dryer sides, mixture of hedgerows, trees and woodlands, including some ancient in origin. The SBIS wildlife sites Benhall Green Meadows and Manor Farm Meadows are located in the south of the LCA.	Carlton Park, Hurts Hall and Hurtshall Park are located on the valley sides. Saxmundham and Kelsale have historic centres defined by Conservation areas. The Layers is an area of open land connected to agricultural history to the town.	the landscape is generally in good condition, particularly the areas of parkland. Volunteers regularly clear the River Fromus.	This area has been a stopping point and transport hub since its origins as a market town for travellers en route from Ipswich to Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth. There is evidence of settlement in Saxmundham since the bronze age, though the name originates from Saxon times. Artists known in the area include Maggie Hambling.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This area comprises three landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands. This is a subtle shallow valley system containing the market town of Saxmundham and a more dispersed pattern of settlement to the north and south. South of Saxmundham the valley floor becomes more defined, supporting wet meadows while the well-drained valley sides support arable land use and some parkland. The more fertile Claylands north of Saxmundham, where early enclosure took place have an organic feel although throughout	The historic built environment and a small river valley and surrounding parkland are distinctive elements, surrounded by otherwise intense arable agriculture.	National Cycle Network Route 41 passes through the area. There are many local recreational facilities in Saxmundham and at the recreation ground at Carlton Park. There are fishing lakes south of Benhall Green. Access to the River Fromus and the parklands is limited.	Saxmundham is a gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast as it hosts one of the closest railway stations to popular tourist destinations such as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The town has an historic centre, which supports local tourism. There is a large caravan site south of Sternfield.	Saxmundham and the transport routes which connect it to the wider landscape dominate this area. Some important views around Saxmundham have been defined in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan. There are attractive views long the River Fromus and across Hurtshall park from local roads, but there is no public access to these areas. The A12 runs through this area and traffic on this busy trunk road is a detractor.	There is higher relative tranquillity further from the settlements within the rural landscape. Tranquillity is substantially reduced locally by the A12 and to a lesser extent the B1121 and railway line. There is a low sense of wildness as the landscape is largely intensively farmed arable land and settlement. The parkland character of Hurtshall park further extends the human	LCA B4 contributes setting and approach to Saxmundham. The shallow River Fromus runs over a sandy soil with vegetated sides and serves a function for ecological connectivity. The more managed parkland areas feature mature trees and pockets of woodland. Hedgerows on field and road boundaries are common and form the main connections across the landscape.

<p>the area, arable fields have been regularised.</p> <p>The landscape is well vegetated through a mix of hedgerows, tree belts and some woodland.</p> <p>The valley bottom is particularly well-wooded in the centre of the area, around the villages of Sternfeld and Benhall.</p> <p>Settlement peters out further south, and the experience becomes more remote, experienced from narrow lanes, with views into small scale, peaty, wet meadows.</p> <p>Remnant parkland landscapes including veteran trees, perimeter planting, and mansion houses are dotted throughout, including the imposing Hurts Hall and its parkland just south of Saxmundham.</p> <p>A Conservation Area covers the attractive historic core of Saxmundham which has a wealth of traditional, listed buildings.</p> <p>Plantation woodland lines the banks of the River Fromus within the parkland associated with Hurts Hall.</p> <p>The rural river valley character is relatively unspoilt by development, particularly along the gateway into Saxmundham which provides a scenic approach and plays a role in reinforcing Saxmundham’s setting in the river valley.</p>					<p>influences over the landscape.</p>	
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>The River Fromus and Hurtshall park are the key features of value in this landscape. The area is bisected by the A12 trunk road and a railway line, which disrupt the landscape patten and tranquillity.</p> <p>Away from the river valley, the land us is predominantly arable agriculture. This landscape is not considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Woodland and the river with its vegetated banks are the key natural heritage features. Whilst not registered, the parkland associated with Hurtshall is distinctive and contributes to the setting of Saxmundham, including its conservation area.</p> <p>Recreational opportunities include fishing on the lakes and the local PRow network, but access to the River Fromus is limited. Tranquillity is reduced near the A12. B1121 and railway line.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station. It is also host landscape to a short section of the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link. The majority of the area is settlement or arable farmland, bisected by transport routes. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include the historic parkland featuring open landscape with areas of woodland and individual mature trees; the vegetation and ecological connectivity of the banks of the River Fromus, and the River Fromus; the southern SBIS wildlife sites; various pockets of mature woodland; a robust hedgerow network; the culturally valued Layers and the scenic approach to the settlement of Saxmundham.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.12: LCA B4: Fromus Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B4: Fromus Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The majority of LCA B4 would not be physically affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme. However, construction of the permanent access road to the proposed Converter Station, and the construction of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, would be located in the centre of the area (approximately 190m x 100). For the access road, Historic parkland south of Hurts Hall would be displaced and vegetation would be removed in order to construct the road and a bridge. Vegetation would be cleared from the banks of the River Fromus, which would include some mature woodland. Further mature vegetation in the form of a willow plantation would need to be removed. This vegetation currently provides biodiversity benefits, and character setting function for the approach to Saxmundham, where key views across this parkland are identified in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as being important. Removal of this vegetation may also open up views to the wider construction site of the proposed Converter Station for the duration of construction. Construction of the road would introduce plant including excavators and cranes, signage and lighting, disrupting the rural character and quality of the area. Construction traffic using the proposed Access Road during construction of the proposed Converter Station would further reduce the relative tranquility locally.</p> <p>Further north and to the east in this part of the LCA, construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station would be perceptible from various locations. This would affect the approach to Saxmundham and this character area from both the north and the east, affecting the sense of being a rural, agricultural area with little settlement.</p> <p>For the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link, it would cross through this area and would have a greater impact, displacing agricultural land and vegetation in an areas approximately 190m x 100m. This would particularly affect trees belonging to the Redhouse Christmas Tree Farm.</p> <p>In the Amendments to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario, this would also be the access road for construction.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed HVDC Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. Gaps where mature vegetation was removed would increase the openness and visual connections between this LCA and the landscape to the east, where the proposed Converter Station would be located on the skyline. This would alter the perception of the area, permanently severing the historic parkland and altering the character through the introduction of the access road and the bridge across the River Fromus.</p> <p>For the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link, there would be a greater area where vegetation has been lost and where evidence would remain of former works. The impact is considered to be low.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )

By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to reinstate the majority of vegetation removed to facilitate construction. A gap would remain where the access road crosses the landscape from the B1121 to the proposed Converter Station, including where it crosses the River Fromus. Proposed planting would assist in integrating the proposed Access Road into the landscape, but the severance and visual connections between the historic parkland of Hurts Hall and the proposed Converter Station site would remain.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
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Table 1.13: LCA B4: Fromus Valley – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B4: Fromus Valley				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	Northern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A Proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B4 is a short and shallow river valley including the town of Saxmundham. Wet meadows define much of the valley south of Saxmundham, with the valley sides supporting arable use and remnant historic parkland. North of the town, while arable use is prominent, there is more vegetation present, comprising principally hedgerows, tree belts and woodland.	No	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Benhall Green Meadows, Manor Farm Meadows, Ancient Woodland: Ash Ground, Hurtshall Park, unnamed area of woodland around Hurtshall Park, Lodge Plantation, National Cycle Network Route 41, Locally Listed park and garden: Carlton Park	The River Fromus runs through the centre with some wet meadows in the valley floor and the dryer sides, mixture of hedgerows, trees and woodlands, including some ancient in origin. The SBIS wildlife sites Benhall Green Meadows and Manor Farm Meadows are located in the south of the LCA.	Carlton Park, Hurts Hall and Hurtshall Park are located on the valley sides. Saxmundham and Kelsale have historic centres defined by Conservation areas. The Layers is an area of open land connected to agricultural history to the town.	The landscape is generally in good condition, particularly the areas of parkland. Volunteers regularly clear the River Fromus.	This area has been a stopping point and transport hub since its origins as a market town for travellers en route from Ipswich to Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth. There is evidence of settlement in Saxmundham since the bronze age, though the name originates from Saxon times. Artists known in the area include Maggie Hambling.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This area comprises three landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands. This is a subtle shallow valley system containing the market town of Saxmundham and a more dispersed pattern of settlement to the north and south. South of Saxmundham the valley floor becomes more defined, supporting wet meadows while the well-drained valley sides support arable land use and some parkland. The more fertile Claylands north of Saxmundham, where early enclosure took place have an organic feel	The historic built environment and a small river valley and surrounding parkland are distinctive elements, surrounded by otherwise intense arable agriculture.	National Cycle Network Route 41 passes through the area. There are many local recreational facilities in Saxmundham and at the recreation ground at Carlton Park. There are fishing lakes south of Benhall Green. Access to the River Fromus and the parklands is limited.	Saxmundham is a gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast as it hosts one of the closest railway stations to popular tourist destinations such as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The town has an historic centre, which supports local tourism. There is a large caravan site south of Sternfield.	Saxmundham and the transport routes which connect it to the wider landscape dominate this area. Some important views around Saxmundham have been defined in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan. There are attractive views long the River Fromus and across Hurtshall park from local roads, but there is no public access to these areas. The A12 runs through this area and traffic on this busy trunk road is a detractor.	There is higher relative tranquility further from the settlements within the rural landscape. Tranquillity is substantially reduced locally by the A12 and to a lesser extent the B1121 and railway line. There is a low sense of wildness as the landscape is largely intensively farmed arable land and settlement. The parkland character	LCA B4 contributes setting and approach to Saxmundham. The shallow River Fromus runs over a sandy soil with vegetated sides and serves a function for ecological connectivity. The more managed parkland areas feature mature trees and pockets of woodland. Hedgerows on field and road boundaries are common and form the main connections across the landscape.

although throughout the area, arable fields have been regularised. The landscape is well vegetated through a mix of hedgerows, tree belts and some woodland. The valley bottom is particularly well-wooded in the centre of the area, around the villages of Sternfeld and Benhall. Settlement peters out further south, and the experience becomes more remote, experienced from narrow lanes, with views into small scale, peaty, wet meadows. Remnant parkland landscapes including veteran trees, perimeter planting, and mansion houses are dotted throughout, including the imposing Hurts Hall and its parkland just south of Saxmundham. A Conservation Area covers the attractive historic core of Saxmundham which has a wealth of traditional, listed buildings. Plantation woodland lines the banks of the River Fromus within the parkland associated with Hurts Hall. The rural river valley character is relatively unspoilt by development, particularly along the gateway into Saxmundham which provides a scenic approach and plays a role in reinforcing Saxmundham's setting in the river valley.					of Hurtshall park further extends the human influences over the landscape.	
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
The River Fromus and Hurtshall park are the key features of value in this landscape. The area is bisected by the A12 trunk road and a railway line, which disrupt the landscape patten and tranquility. Away from the river valley, the land us is predominantly arable agriculture. This landscape is not considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	High Woodland and the river with its vegetated banks are the key natural heritage features. Whilst not registered, the parkland associated with Hurtshall is distinctive and contributes to the setting of Saxmundham, including its conservation area. Recreational opportunities include fishing on the lakes and the local PRow network, but access to the River Fromus is limited. Tranquillity is reduced near the A12. B1121 and railway line.	Medium This area is a host landscape for the proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station. It is also host landscape to a short section of the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link. The majority of the area is settlement or arable farmland, bisected by transport routes. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include the historic parkland featuring open landscape with areas of woodland and individual mature trees; the vegetation and ecological connectivity of the banks of the River Fromus, and the River Fromus; the southern SBIS wildlife sites; various pockets of mature woodland; a robust hedgerow network; the culturally valued Layers and the scenic approach to the settlement of Saxmundham.			High The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.	

Table 1.14: LCA B4: Fromus Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B4: Fromus Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The majority of LCA B4 would not be physically affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme. However, construction of the permanent access road to the proposed Converter Station, would be located in the centre of the area. For the access road, Historic parkland south of Hurts Hall would be displaced and vegetation would be removed in order to construct the road and a bridge. Vegetation would be cleared from the banks of the River Fromus, which would include some mature woodland. Further mature vegetation in the form of a willow plantation would need to be removed. This vegetation currently provides biodiversity benefits, and character setting function for the approach to Saxmundham, where key views across this parkland are identified in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as being important. Removal of this vegetation may also open up views to the wider construction site of the proposed Converter Station for the duration of construction. Construction of the road would introduce plant including excavators and cranes, signage and lighting, disrupting the rural character and quality of the area. Construction traffic using the proposed Access Road during construction of the proposed Converter Station would continue to reduce the relative tranquility locally.</p> <p>Further north and to the east in this LCA, construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station would be perceptible from various locations. This would affect the approach to Saxmundham and this character area from both the north and the east, affecting the baseline tranquil approach and the feeling of the character area being set in a wider rural, agricultural area of low development. The combined construction period for all the nearby works is up to 4 years.</p> <p>For the proposed Northern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, it would not cross through this character area, though the construction works would be less than 200m from the boundary.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. Gaps where mature vegetation was removed would increase the openness and visual connections between this LCA and the landscape to the east, where the proposed Converter Station would be located on the skyline. This would alter the perception of the area, permanently severing the historic parkland and altering the character through the introduction of the access road and the bridge across the River Fromus.</p> <p>For the HVAC Proposed Underground Cable Corridor (North option), only a very small part of the LCA to the east of the proposed converter Station would be affected, avoiding the SBIS wildlife sites in the south. The impact is considered to be very low</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to reinstate the majority of vegetation removed to facilitate construction. A gap would remain where the access road crosses the landscape from the B1121 to the proposed Converter Station, including where it crosses the River Fromus. Proposed planting would assist in integrating the proposed Access Road into the landscape, but the severance and visual connections between the historic parkland of Hurts Hall and the proposed Converter Station site would remain.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.15: LCA B4: Fromus Valley – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA B4: Fromus Valley				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A Converter station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA B4 is a short and shallow river valley including the town of Saxmundham. Wet meadows define much of the valley south of Saxmundham, with the valley sides supporting arable use and remnant historic parkland. North of the town, while arable use is prominent, there is more vegetation present, comprising principally hedgerows, tree belts and woodland.	No	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Benhall Green Meadows, Manor Farm Meadows, Ancient Woodland: Ash Ground, Hurtshall Park, unnamed area of woodland around Hurtshall Park, Lodge Plantation, National Cycle Network Route 41, Locally Listed park and garden: Carlton Park	The River Fromus runs through the centre with some wet meadows in the valley floor and the dryer sides, mixture of hedgerows, trees and woodlands, including some ancient in origin. The SBIS wildlife sites Benhall Green Meadows and Manor Farm Meadows are located in the south of the LCA.	Carlton Park, Hurts Hall and Hurtshall Park are located on the valley sides. Saxmundham and Kelsale have historic centres defined by Conservation areas. The Layers is an area of open land connected to agricultural history to the town.	The landscape is generally in good condition, particularly the areas of parkland. Volunteers regularly clear the River Fromus.	This area has been a stopping point and transport hub since its origins as a market town for travellers en route from Ipswich to Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth. There is evidence of settlement in Saxmundham since the bronze age, though the name originates from Saxon times. Artists known in the area include Maggie Hambling.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This area comprises three landscape types - Rolling Estate Claylands, Rolling Estate Sandlands and Valley Meadowlands. This is a subtle shallow valley system containing the market town of Saxmundham and a more dispersed pattern of settlement to the north and south. South of Saxmundham the valley floor becomes more defined, supporting wet meadows while the well-drained valley sides support arable land use and some parkland. The more fertile Claylands north of Saxmundham, where early enclosure took place have an organic feel although throughout	The historic built environment and a small river valley and surrounding parkland are distinctive elements, surrounded by otherwise intense arable agriculture.	National Cycle Network Route 41 passes through the area. There are many local recreational facilities in Saxmundham and at the recreation ground at Carlton Park. There are fishing lakes south of Benhall Green. Access to the River Fromus and the parklands is limited.	Saxmundham is a gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast as it hosts one of the closest railway stations to popular tourist destinations such as Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The town has an historic centre, which supports local tourism. There is a large caravan site south of Sternfield.	Saxmundham and the transport routes which connect it to the wider landscape dominate this area. Some important views around Saxmundham have been defined in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan. There are attractive views long the River Fromus and across Hurtshall park from local roads, but there is no public access to these areas. The A12 runs through this area and traffic on this busy trunk road is a detractor.	There is higher relative tranquility further from the settlements within the rural landscape. Tranquillity is substantially reduced locally by the A12 and to a lesser extent the B1121 and railway line. There is a low sense of wildness as the landscape is largely intensively farmed arable land and settlement. The parkland character of Hurtshall park further extends the human	LCA B4 contributes setting and approach to Saxmundham. The shallow River Fromus runs over a sandy soil with vegetated sides and serves a function for ecological connectivity. The more managed parkland areas feature mature trees and pockets of woodland. Hedgerows on field and road boundaries are common and form the main connections across the landscape.



<p>the area, arable fields have been regularised.</p> <p>The landscape is well vegetated through a mix of hedgerows, tree belts and some woodland.</p> <p>The valley bottom is particularly well-wooded in the centre of the area, around the villages of Sternfeld and Benhall.</p> <p>Settlement peters out further south, and the experience becomes more remote, experienced from narrow lanes, with views into small scale, peaty, wet meadows.</p> <p>Remnant parkland landscapes including veteran trees, perimeter planting, and mansion houses are dotted throughout, including the imposing Hurts Hall and its parkland just south of Saxmundham.</p> <p>A Conservation Area covers the attractive historic core of Saxmundham which has a wealth of traditional, listed buildings.</p> <p>Plantation woodland lines the banks of the River Fromus within the parkland associated with Hurts Hall.</p> <p>The rural river valley character is relatively unspoilt by development, particularly along the gateway into Saxmundham which provides a scenic approach and plays a role in reinforcing Saxmundham’s setting in the river valley.</p>					<p>influences over the landscape.</p>	
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>The River Fromus and Hurtshall park are the key features of value in this landscape. The area is bisected by the A12 trunk road and a railway line, which disrupt the landscape patten and tranquility.</p> <p>Away from the river valley, the land us is predominantly arable agriculture. This landscape is not considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Woodland and the river with its vegetated banks are the key natural heritage features. Whilst not registered, the parkland associated with Hurtshall is distinctive and contributes to the setting of Saxmundham, including its conservation area.</p> <p>Recreational opportunities include fishing on the lakes and the local PRow network, but access to the River Fromus is limited. Tranquillity is reduced near the A12. B1121 and railway line.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station. It is also host landscape to a short section of the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor , co-location with Sea Link. The majority of the area is settlement or arable farmland, bisected by transport routes.</p> <p>Features and characteristics susceptible to change include the historic parkland featuring open landscape with areas of woodland and individual mature trees; the vegetation and ecological connectivity of the banks of the River Fromus, and the River Fromus; the southern SBIS wildlife sites; various pockets of mature woodland; a robust hedgerow network; the culturally valued Layers and the scenic approach to the settlement of Saxmundham.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.</p>	



Table 1.16: LCA B4: Fromus Valley - assessment of effects

LCA B4: Fromus Valley	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The majority of LCA B4 would not be physically affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme. However, construction of the permanent access road to the proposed Converter Station, and the construction of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, would be located in the centre of the area (approximately 190m x 100). For the access road, Historic parkland south of Hurts Hall would be displaced and vegetation would be removed in order to construct the road and a bridge. Vegetation would be cleared from the banks of the River Fromus, which would include some mature woodland. Further mature vegetation in the form of a willow plantation would need to be removed. This vegetation currently provides biodiversity benefits, and character setting function for the approach to Saxmundham, where key views across this parkland are identified in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as being important. Removal of this vegetation may also open up views to the wider construction site of the proposed Converter Station for the duration of construction. Construction of the road would introduce plant including excavators and cranes, signage and lighting, disrupting the rural character and quality of the area. Construction traffic using the proposed Access Road during construction of the proposed Converter Station would continue to reduce the relative tranquility locally.</p> <p>The combined construction period for all the nearby works is up to 4 years. Further north and to the east in this LCA, construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station would be perceptible from various locations. This would affect the approach to Saxmundham and this character area from both the north and the east, affecting the baseline tranquil approach and the feeling of the character area being set in a wider rural, agricultural area of low development.</p> <p>For the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link, it would cross through this area and would have a greater impact, displacing agricultural land and vegetation in an areas approximately 190m x 100m. This would particularly affect trees belonging to the Redhouse Christmas Tree Farm.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established in year 1 of operation. Along the route of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. Gaps where mature vegetation was removed would increase the openness and visual connections between this LCA and the landscape to the east, where the proposed Converter Station would be located on the skyline. This would alter the perception of the area, permanently severing the historic parkland and altering the character through the introduction of the access road and the bridge across the River Fromus.</p> <p>For the Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, co-location with Sea Link, there would be a greater area where vegetation has been lost and where evidence would remain of former works. The impact is considered to be low.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to reinstate the majority of vegetation removed to facilitate construction. A gap would remain where the access road crosses the landscape from the B1121 to the proposed Converter Station, including where it crosses the River Fromus. Proposed planting would assist in integrating the proposed Access Road into the landscape, but the severance and visual connections between the historic parkland of Hurts Hall and the proposed Converter Station site would remain.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.17: LCA D2: Westwood and Dingle Marshes – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LCA D2: Westwood and Dingle Marshes			Both	All		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Open Coastal Fen, Coastal Dunes and shingle ridges, Estate Sandlands.		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section C3 and D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA D2 forms the coastal strip between Dunwich and Walberswick and extends to the edge of Dunwich Forest. The area is expansive and open and predominantly characterised by its complex landscape of reedbeds, mud-flats, shingle, woodland, areas of lowland heath, freshwater lagoons and pockets of grassland and strong sense of remoteness.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The area falls mostly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar: Minsmere-Walberswick, SAC Special Area of Conservation, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve (nearly the whole area), SBIS County Wildlife sites: Dunwich Forest, Walberswick Salt Marsh (edge of), Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path, National Cycle Network Route 42, RSPB reserve, Conservation area	A rich and varied natural heritage including open coastal fens, coastal dunes and shingle ridges, strongly influenced by its coastal location. This area also contains important areas of heath and acid grassland of the Sandlings type. The Suffolk Sandlings landscape was a previously much larger area of lowland heath and is important nationally for biodiversity. Use of flint and local crag in architecture in Walberswick village evidencing local geology. The area also contains one of the UK's largest areas of reedbed. A dynamic and tidal landscape subject to periodic flooding on the lower ground.  Dunwich Forest was a man made plantation forest which is currently being 'rewilded' in places to wood pasture,	Dunwich River was an important trade waterway supporting Walberswick which was a thriving port. The area also had a ship building yard.  The village of Walberswick, which lies on the northern edge, has a distinctive vernacular use of flint in buildings.  The Suffolk Sandlings landscape was historically associated with sheep grazing and rabbit warren.  WWII military heritage: defence remnants including pill boxes and anti-tank blocks between Walberswick and Dunwich. South of Hoist covert there is a rare 'Suffolk Square' pill box and its associated earthworks.  Next to the Dunwich River among the reedbeds is the picturesque ruin of a wind pump, which forms a local landmark. The landscape features drainage ditches and dykes showing historical management of the land and waterways.	The heathland has managed grazing and the forest is managed by the Forestry Commission in association with the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust in some areas.	Historically, the Dunwich River was a busy waterway serving the thriving ports of Walberswick and Southwold.  The settlement of Dunwich was the capital of the Kingdom of the East Angles in the Anglo-Saxon period, but most of the town was lost to the sea from the mediaeval period.  The village of Walberswick has a strong artistic heritage and became popular with notable painters since it became a tourist destination in the early Victorian era. Notably Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Philip Wilson Steer.

			broadleaved woodland and heathland.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The landscape is comprised of Open Coastal Fen, Coastal Dunes and shingle ridges, and edged by the slopes of the Estate Sandlands type. This is an open and uninhabited wild landscape made up of extensive areas of reedbed and freshwater lagoons</p> <p>The area is backed and defined by the gentle rising land of the wider estate sandlands landscape character type to the west. Cattle graze on low intensity grassland dissected by a network of dykes with scrub growing along them in places</p> <p>In addition to the grassland, there is a complex mosaic of extensive reedbeds, mud-flats, lagoons, shingle, woodland and areas of lowland heath.</p> <p>The area is important for nature conservation as demonstrated by the extensive designations (RAMSAR, SPA, SAC, two NNRs, SSSI) and supports important plant and bird species</p> <p>The open landscape provides opportunities for recreation including bird watching and walking and contrasts with the wooded landscape of Dunwich Forest</p> <p>Strong historical land use is evident through the different dykes and drainage ditches</p> <p>Strong sense of remoteness and solitude created by the expansive landscape and limited access and development.</p> <p>The landscape feels remote due to the lack of vehicle access and settlement. It's open nature and proximity to the sea creates a very expansive perception</p>	<p>This is a highly distinctive landscape with several landscape types. The shingle beaches contrast with the rolling Sandlings heaths and farmland. The shingle beaches and fenland provide opportunities for long distance and panoramic views including out to sea and along the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The landscape displays a rhythm dictated by the Dunwich River and the small tributaries that feed into it across marsh and fenland interspersed by the sandy heaths and woodlands of the Sandlings on the higher ground. The area extends to cover farmland and the southern part of the village of Walberswick, adding to its distinctiveness and sense of place.</p>	<p>National Cycle Network Route 42 and long distance trails comprising the Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path run through this character area. There are numerous additional PRoW for walking and open access to the beach and large areas of heathland. Large parts of the area comprise open access land.</p> <p>Beach access, swimming, boating, birdwatching and other wildlife related recreation, horse-riding on bridle routes are popular within the area.</p>	<p>The area is popular with tourists for walking, beach and wildlife related recreation. Extensive areas of heath, marshland and dunes for exploring. The character area covers part of the villages of Walberswick and Dunwich, which are tourist destinations in their own right.</p>	<p>Highly scenic, with strong visual interest through the varied pattern of land cover the character of which varies with the seasons. There are wide and far reaching views along the Suffolk Heritage Coast, out to sea and inland, enclosed to the west by the extensive Dunwich Forest. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape.</p>	<p>There is a strong sense of tranquillity, wildness, and remoteness across much of the area, which is sparsely populated. The seasonal influx of visitors can detract from tranquillity on promoted routes and on the dunes. The village of Walberswick is also less tranquil in high season..</p>	<p>High functional value from extensive, rare areas of heath and acid grassland, to rivers, fens and marshland, to coastal dunes. This area is important in the national context for its biodiversity and is functionally connected by the coast to other important sites including Minsmere National Nature Reserve to the south. There is a highly dynamic mosaic of habitats due to periodic flooding and rapid transitions, the value of which is recognised by multiple designations for nature conservation.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
	Very high		Very high		Very high	

<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>LCA D2 is a scenic, tranquil, varied, distinctive and ecologically rich landscape of high quality, with strong connections to the North Sea and recreational appeal covered by multiple designations.</p>	<p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Landfall Site and part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. The landscape has various characteristics and features which would be susceptible to change. These include the shingle beaches, Dunwich River and the marshes around it, and Dunwich Forest. The remote, tranquil, natural and scenic aspects of the landscape would be susceptible to change.</p>	<p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>
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Table 1.18: LCA D2: Westwood and Dingle Marshes - assessment of effects

LCA D2: Westwood and Dingle Marshes	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>There would be localised impacts in the northern part of LCA D2 to the south and west of Walberswick associated with the construction of the proposed Landfall Site and the proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor. There would be no perceptible change in the majority of the LCA.</p> <p>Construction of the proposed Landfall would comprise earthworks which would raise the land level to create a platform within the middle of an open arable field. This would include the construction of bunds and a drainage basin. Most of the proposed Landfall Site would be taken up by construction compounds and activity would include excavators (up to 10m tall), cranes and drilling machinery. Secondary construction compounds would be located south of Lodge Road and south of The Street.</p> <p>An access road would be constructed alongside the proposed Underground Cable Corridor which would limit construction traffic using local roads. This would involve the removal of some vegetation comprising sections of hedgerow and vegetated field boundaries, including at the crossings of Stocks Lane and Lodge Road. The route avoids areas of valuable mature habitat including Hoist Covert.</p> <p>Construction activity would involve the temporary displacement of arable farmland, which is characteristic of the LCA but not the most valuable land use in the area.</p> <p>Tranquillity would be affected by construction noise, and the general perception of construction activity from a distance in a relatively flat and open landscape, known for its views. Scenic qualities both looking out to sea, where there would be a Jack-up barge, and inland towards the proposed Landfall Site from the beach and fens would be detrimentally affected. The perception of a remote, natural setting to the south of the proposed Landfall Site would be reduced. Lighting during construction hours may stand out against the skies, particularly in the winter, dusk and on cloudy days. The topography and vegetation west of Hoist Covert would limit the perception of construction activity to the south west of the affected area.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>There would be no physical above ground infrastructure and no perception of the Proposed Scheme in year 1 of operation across the majority of LCA D2. Impacts would be limited to the northern part, close to the proposed Landfall site. These impacts would relate to the perception of gaps in hedgerows removed to facilitate construction and the scarring of the landscape above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would have established by year 15 of operation to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>



Table 1.19: LCA J3: Blyth Estuary – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA J3: Blyth Estuary				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Saltmarsh and Intertidal Flats, Coastal Levels and Estate Sandlands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment and Waveney District Landscape Character Assessment			Section C3 and D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA J3 is located between Blythburgh in the west and Southwold on the coast in the east. The area is dominated by the estuary of the River Blyth and the elevated sandy farmland fringes which enclose it. The valley sides are arable, whilst on higher slopes, woodland and the remnants of heath is present. A mixture of reedbeds, rivers, grazing marsh, mud-flats and reed-filled dykes are scattered across the landscape, contributing to an attractive views and a strong sense of place.	The character area falls mostly within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape and the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar: Minsmere-Walberswick, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve, SBIS County Wildlife sites: Blythburgh Marshes, Registered Park: Henham Park (just outside of study area), Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path, Locally Listed park and garden: Henham Park, Ancient Woodland: Braker Hill, Lodge Covert.	<p>The River Blyth widens out to form a large tidal estuary with a series of connected marshes and islands. This is a dynamic landscape, which changes dramatically between high tide, when it is inundated with water, and low tide, when the mud is revealed.</p> <p>A series of woodlands and coverts line the intersection of the A145 and A1095. Remnant areas of common and heathland are found on upper slopes.</p>	<p>Southwold Harbour is a working harbour, although it is much smaller than historically when Southwold was a busy trading port. The mouth of the River Blyth is heavily canalised from around Tinkers and Reydon Marshes until it meets the sea.</p> <p>Drainage ditches join the natural estuarine landscape from adjoining arable farmland and grazing on the shallow valley sides. Buss Creek, which flows north towards the North Sea at Southwold is controlled by sluices.</p> <p>There is evidence of Roman salterns (salt-making areas) along the northern edge of the estuary. Lookouts and elevated positions across this landscape have been important throughout the centuries; in prehistory tumuli were located on the ridge overlooking the Blyth estuary. The remnants of a brick windpump adjacent the river is a prominent local landmark.</p> <p>The disused Halesworth to Southwold railway line crosses the River Blythe between Walberswick and Southwold. The current footbridge</p>	The condition of this landscape is strongly influenced by the sea and inundation. Grazing marshes are present and arable farmland reclaimed from the floodplain in on some is on the northern slopes. Pig farms feature in the north though these are outside of the study area. The A12 causes East-West severance.	<p>The area has notable historical importance linked with its strategic coastal position. Blythburgh was probably an Anglo-Saxon royal residence and reputed to have been the burial place of King Anna of the East Angles in AD 654.</p> <p>More recent history incudes military activity: there is evidence from pill boxes along the coast and particularly at The Denes south of Southwold, where gun emplacements and lookouts were established during WWII.</p>

				replaced a former swing bridge on the same alignment.		
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This character area comprises Saltmarsh and Intertidal Flats, Coastal Levels and Estate Sandland types.</p> <p>There is a High scenic quality to the undeveloped valley sides and extensive wetland landscapes gives the estuary a strong sense of timelessness and naturalness. Memorable and distinctive mixture of historic settlement, grazing marsh and areas of heath, common and woodland. Opportunities for elevated views over the natural habitats.</p> <p>Historically significant remnant sea defences and drainage ditches create visual layers of activity across the estuary reflecting different periods of reclamation and inundation.</p> <p>Significant nature conservation importance: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserve (NNR), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar (conservation of wetlands) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designations</p> <p>Tourism is an important part of the local economy with visitors attracted to Southwold and Walberswick for the beaches, wildlife sites and gentile sea-side attractions.</p> <p>Blythburgh Priory is a Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Walberswick retains a low key, village character with an attractive green and a more natural beach.</p> <p>Distinctive and prominent landmarks are strongly linked to the landscape and sense of place, including Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh, Southwold lighthouse and the water towers and churches at Southwold and Walberswick.</p>	<p>Very distinctive, striking estuarine landform which changes daily with the seasons, the tides and often rapidly with the weather. There is a strong sense of place created by the combination of reed beds, rivers, grazing marsh, mud flats and reed-filled dykes.</p> <p>The black clad harbour buildings in Walberswick and Southwold Harbour create distinctive places.</p>	<p>Recreation in the area includes boating and fishing, walking, birdwatching and wildlife related recreation. Some of the PRow cross mudflats and are only accessible at low tide.</p> <p>The northernmost limits of the Sandlings long distance promoted route passes from Walberswick Common to the banks of the Blyth, and back south along the beach.</p>	<p>The harbour on the Southwold side in the southern part of LCA J3 is a tourist hotspot and offers a variety of restaurants, fish mongers and chandlery.</p> <p>The northern part of the area is more remote from the tourist destinations of Southwold and Walberswick. Some boat trips are available on the River Blyth.</p>	<p>There is high scenic quality where the tree-filled parkland of Henham meets the open skies of the estuary and the coast at Southwold. From the elevated sandy farmland fringes and the lower lying wetlands there are extensive scenic views of the estuary and marshes, interspersed with areas of greater enclosure formed by mixed woodland and forestry. The changing view of open water at high tide and mudflats at low tide, with remnants of flood defences criss-crossing the area, is memorable. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. Landmarks outside of this area that are key in views include Holy Trinity Church in Blythburgh and the churches at Walberswick and Southwold, Southwold Lighthouse and the water towers at Southwold and Walberswick.</p>	<p>There is a strong sense of tranquillity and isolation within this open and expansive landscape due to the limited access and lack of built developments and settlement.</p> <p>This is a wild landscape, with the character of the estuary influenced by the natural processes of the tides and weather. Further inland there are many 'quiet lanes' adding to a sense of rural remoteness.</p>	<p>This landscape contributes strongly to biodiversity, with the tidal estuary with extensive areas of marshland including Tinkers Marshes, part of Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve providing a variety of habitats, some of which are breeding grounds for protected birds. There is a highly dynamic mosaic of habitats (due to tides and periodic flooding) along with rapid transitions. Further biodiversity value comes from the functionally connected woodland areas north of the Blyth including Spring Hill, Broom Covert and Lodge Covert.</p>

The northernmost limits of the Sandlings long distance footpath passes from Walberswick Common to the banks of the Blyth, and back south along the beach.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	LCA J3 is a scenic, tranquil, distinctive, dynamic and ecologically rich estuary, covered by multiple designations.		This is not a host landscape. However, the landscape has various characteristics and features which would be highly susceptible to change. These include: The distinctive estuarine character with its wide, far-reaching views and low level open grazing marshes; the general dominance of natural habitats, landforms and processes with an absence of human activity; the tranquillity of the setting, the strong scenic quality and the strong sense of place. This LCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level and falls mostly within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, representing important qualities that would be susceptible to change.		The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.	

Table 1.20:LCA J3: Blyth Estuary - assessment of effects

LCA J3: Blyth Estuary	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b>
There would be no physical impacts on this LCA during construction and the majority of the LCA J3 would remain as described in the baseline. Construction activity could be perceived onshore in the western part of the area and offshore in the eastern part of the area, affecting the sense of remoteness, isolated and tranquillity, but in parts of the area already affected by noise of traffic on the A12 and activity within Southwold harbour.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is not significant.
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
In year 1 of operation, there would be no perceptible change compared to the baseline situation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
In year 15 of operation, there would be no perceptible change compared to the baseline situation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.21: LCA K2: Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA K2: Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	Mostly NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths with a smaller area in NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Estate sandlands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section C2, C3, and D Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA K2 is a large area, comprised of a series of coastal plateaus north of Minsmere, which stretch inland as far as Westleton, then north as far as Walberswick. The area is predominantly characterised by its large areas of forest along with important remnant areas of heathland. Gentle coastal slopes are evident between the Clayland plateau and the coastline. Large areas of heathland have been converted to farmland, predominantly for arable production and pig farming.	LCA K2 falls entirely within the National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar: Minsmere-Walberswick, SAC Special Area of Conservation, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve, SBIS County Wildlife sites: Dunwich Forest, Grey Friars Wood, Westleton Common, Holly Hills Wood, Scheduled monument: Blythburgh Priory (and Greyfriars Dunwich outside of study area), The Sandlings Walk, National Cycle Network Route 42, RSPB reserve, Conservation area	There is rich and varied natural heritage including Minsmere-Walberswick heath, which comprise the largest remaining heathland tracts in east Suffolk. Free draining soils over drift deposits support sandlands vegetation throughout the area. Dunwich forest varies in form from native broadleaf woodland, to wood pasture, plantation, wet woodland and lowland heath. Its variety of habitats is reflected in the multiple wildlife designations present	There are several remnants of WWII military heritage including pill boxes and anti-tank blocks near Dunwich. Pill boxes took the form of the 'Suffolk Square', unique to the county.  Conservation areas in Walberswick, Westleton, Blythburgh and Dunwich define the historic core of settlements.  St Andrews Church in Walberswick is a Grade II* listed building and Blythburgh Priory is a scheduled monument. Grade II* remains of the Greyfriars Monastery adjoining Monastery Hill in Dunwich, this is also a Scheduled Monument.  Historically, Walberswick was a thriving port, and the ruins of the once sizeable church of St Andrews show the former wealth of the village. The village has a distinctive vernacular use of flint in buildings.	Heathland is in good condition although encroached upon by pig farming. It is well managed and grazed in part, with areas of bracken and birch contained.  Conifer plantations within Dunwich Forest are in the process of restoration to a mixture of wood pasture, wet woodland and lowland heathland in the southern area, in a partnership between the Forestry Commission, the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.	This part of the Suffolk coast is a nationally and regionally significant Second World War historic landscape due to the presence of anti-invasion defences. Relics can be seen at Walberswick and Dunwich beach which were considered vulnerable and so were heavily defended.  Large areas of Dunwich heath were used as military training ground in WWII.  In the Anglo-Saxon period, Dunwich (out of the study area) was the capital of the Kingdom of the East Angles in the Anglo Saxon period. The former harbour and town have mostly disappeared due to coastal erosion.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
The area is entirely within the Estate Sandlands type. The area is important as it accommodates the largest surviving tracts of Heathland in east Suffolk. Much of the eastern half of the area is designated	This is a distinctive landscape featuring much of the Suffolk Sandlings, and Dunwich Forest. Some original heathland has been given over to agriculture but the distinctive Sandland typology	LCA K2 is popular with visitors for its desolate beach, wide range of walks and wildlife related recreation. The Sandlings Walk	The character area covers part of the villages of Walberswick and Dunwich which are tourist destinations. Facilities for tourists are limited to large car	The rich variety of habitats and landscape types contribute strongly to scenic quality, which is particularly high around Dunwich Forest, Walberswick village and common, and in and around Blythburgh and	This large LCA covers a wide area which includes the small settlements of Walberswick and Westleton and the detractors of the B1125 and A12. The extensive	Minsmere-Walberswick and Dunwich Forest have high ecological and biodiversity value. This character area has multiple designations recognising the value of



<p>within the Minsmere-Walberswick RAMSAR, SAC, SPA and SSSI demonstrating its international importance in terms of habitat and wildlife.</p> <p>Much of the eastern half the area, east of the B1125, is in the National Landscape.</p> <p>The area occupies a belt of gentle coastal slopes between the Clayland plateau to the west and the coastline to the east.</p> <p>Its free draining soils overlie drift deposits. The character of the soils is mixed and varies from finer grained loamy sands to coarser sands.</p> <p>The topography can be more varied where occasional small rivers have denuded through the easily eroded mineral deposit.</p> <p>The vegetation associated with the sandlands can be seen throughout - acid-grasses and heathers on the heaths, now often invaded with bracken and birch.</p> <p>Much of Dunwich Forest is being transformed from a conifer plantation into a mixture of wood pasture, wet woodland and lowland heathland in the southern area, in a partnership between the Forestry Commission, the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Settlement is limited in the area, confined to a few villages, and a scant number of hamlets and farms.</p> <p>The area is an important contributor to the economy and culture of Suffolk's coastal zone, providing active recreation in its commons, heaths, woods and quiet lanes. Visitors flock through the area into Walberswick and Dunwich in the summer months.</p> <p>Walberswick, Westleton, Blythburgh and Dunwich are covered by Conservation Areas that recognise the quality of their traditional buildings, and their relationship with open greens and open spaces, in wider heathland landscape settings.</p>	<p>can be seen in the vegetation of hedgerows on field and lane boundaries.</p>	<p>long-distance promoted route and National Cycle Network Route 42 run through this character area.</p>	<p>parks at these settlements.</p>	<p>Westleton. Large areas of pig farming act as a detractor. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the National Landscape.</p> <p>The huge white dome of Sizewell B is a recurring landmark in views along the beaches on this part of the coast, its visibility varies according to the weather. It is mostly an accepted part of the landscape and views in the area.</p>	<p>areas of Dunwich Forest offer a sense of enclosure and isolation whilst the large open areas of heathland offer a sense of remote wildness. There is a rich variety of species of plants, birds and invertebrates on the Sandlings heaths add to a perceptual sense of wildness.</p>	<p>the varied habitats for wildlife from a local up to European level. It is a varied landscape from woodland to rare lowland heath to rolling farmland.</p>
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Dunwich displays military heritage from defensive military interventions during WWII including the placement of extensive minefields and barbed wire. Some relics remain, such as the pill boxes and anti-tank blocks. St Andrews Church in Walberswick is a Grade II* listed building and Blythburgh Priory is a scheduled monument. Grade II* remains of the Greyfriars Monastery adjoining Monastery Hill, Dunwich. This is mainly walling with a couple of gateways, this is also a Scheduled Monument. As well as the road network, the forestry compartments, and farmland boundaries echo the grid-like pattern. Straight edges also tend to define the heathlands, though the villages follow a less linear pattern. Detracting features include the large areas of pig farming which has encroached over time on the original heathland.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	LCA K2 is a large and varied landscape featuring important landscapes for biodiversity, recreation and is recognised for its tranquillity and beauty.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Landfall and the northern part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. There are multiple features and characteristics of this landscape that would be susceptible to the change. These include the Minsmere-Walberswick heath, other smaller areas of Sandlings habitat, Dunwich Forest, the historic villages of Walberswick, Blythburgh and Westleton. The remote, tranquil, mostly unpopulated, natural and scenic aspects of the landscape would be susceptible to change. Less susceptible to change are the areas of pig farming which have already encroached on heathland.		The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.	

Table 1.22: LCA K2: Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands - assessment of effects

LCA K2: Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>There would be no physical impacts and no perceptible change in the key characteristics across the majority of LCA K2. Physical impacts associated with the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. Approximately 6.9km of proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would cross the northern part of the area, between Walberswick and Westleton. Approximately 900m of this would be construction using trenchless techniques, passing under East Sheep Walk to the west of Walberswick, under Dunwich Road, under the Dunwich River and under a woodland at Bowers Lane. Each trenchless crossing would have a construction compound.</p> <p>There would be two Primary Compounds within LCA K2, with one located to the south of the B1387 at Toby's Walks, and one where The Street in Walberswick meets Dunwich Road. A Secondary Compound would also be located in Walberswick, south of The Street. In addition, there would be nine Joint Cable Bays and various open trench crossings. This would require the removal of some sections of hedgerow and vegetated field boundaries.</p> <p>Construction activity would involve the temporary displacement of arable farmland, which is characteristic of the LCA but not the most valuable land type in the area. Dunwich Forest would be unaffected as would most areas of Sandlings heath. Tranquillity would be affected in localised areas by the noise and activity of construction. Lighting is expected to be localised.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>There would be no physical above ground infrastructure and no perception of the Proposed Scheme in year 1 of operation across the majority of LCA K2 in year 1 of operation. Impacts would be limited to the area of land disturbed within the proposed Landfall site and in the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, close to the proposed Landfall site. These impacts would relate to the perception of gaps in hedgerows removed to facilitate construction and the scarring of the landscape above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would have established by year 15 of operation to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement.</p>	<p>The very high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.23: LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section B3, B4, and C1 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor, Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA K3 is a coastal strip south of Minsmere to Aldeburgh and westwards towards Friston. This area is distinguished by its ‘Sandlings’ character and its relationship with the coast and its popular resorts. The area is characterised predominantly by its flat and gently rolling slopes, intertwined with areas of woodland. Arable farming is prominent across the landscape, some areas of heathland remain, with Scots pines dotted across the landscape. Sizewell nuclear power station is a recurring landmark in views along the coast, more noticeable in open areas. CA K3 lies within the setting of the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Approximately half of LCA K3 falls within the National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Arable fields are the primary land use. Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  Heathland, which is common in other parts of LCA K3, is only found at Knodishall Common within the study area. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken. The heaths are important for rare birds.	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warren. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a fairly open feel.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition, Hedgerows often require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal resorts.	Under Henry VIII, Aldeburgh, the town at the western edge of this LCA became an important shipbuilding centre. Later on, it grew as a seaside resort in Victorian times, and it remains popular now. It has been particularly associated with the arts and culture since the composer Benjamin Britten lived here for many years. He founded the Aldeburgh Festival in 1948. which remains relevant internationally.  Leiston, was a manufacturing town making steam engines and tractors, and also munitions during the wars, at ‘Leiston Works’ which operated until 1981.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional

<p>The area is entirely within the Estate Sandlands landscape type. For the most part, this is flat and gently rolling farmland, regularly interspersed with small woodlands, and strips, and oak studded field boundaries.</p> <p>Much of the southern and eastern part of the Area is within the National Landscape though this is outside of the study area.</p> <p>This area features more of the remaining semi-natural habitats and less arable land but also features much more settlement.</p> <p>The soils are the freely-draining sandy acidic soils found along the Suffolk Coast, overlying red crag which is formed of shelly-sand and silt deposits.</p> <p>Tourism is contained at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.</p> <p>Sizewell nuclear power station occupies a beachside location inland of Leiston near the small village of Sizewell.</p> <p>Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear.</p> <p>14th century Leiston Abbey lies north-west of the town and is a Scheduled Monument. The atmospheric ruins of a small chapel can still be seen on the site of the original building</p> <p>Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI which contains a rich mosaic of habitats.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>The coastal settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh are distinctive, but the landscape further inland lacks distinctive elements found elsewhere. Much of the southern and eastern part of the Area is within the National Landscape, though this is far from the study area. This area features more of the remaining semi-natural habitats and less arable land but also features much more settlement.</p>	<p>Two long distance footpaths pass through the area. These are the Sandlings Walk promoted route, which 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. National Cycle Network Route 42 also passes through the area, including through the centre of the village of Friston.</p>	<p>Tourism is mainly concentrated in and around Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. Some related land uses spill into the countryside, such as car parks and the two golf courses. Leiston Abbey draws some tourists.</p>	<p>Visual experience and perceptions vary. The more semi-natural areas are scenic and rich in naturalness and provide enclosure in the woodland and wooded heaths. The farmland inland lacks the distinctive elements found to the south. Too the north, views of 20th century development on the edges of Leiston are less attractive. Detracting features include the double row of large overhead power lines that cross the area, carrying power away from Sizewell, passing north of Aldringham. They distort the sense of scale within the landscape.</p>	<p>A sense of enclosure is found in the woodlands and in some areas of more enclosed farmland. The sense of wildness varies from a sense of rural remoteness to a more settled and developed feeling closer to Leiston. The overhead powerline detract from a sense of rural tranquillity and naturalness. Tranquillity is an affected at certain times of the year by agricultural machinery.</p>	<p>Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI which contains a rich mosaic of habitats. The Hundred River valley provides linear ecological connectivity.</p>
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follows the route known as the Sailors' Path which connects Snape to Aldeburgh. Detracting features include the double row of large pylons that cross the area, carrying power away from Sizewell, passing north of Aldringham. They have a substantial negative impact in the more open areas, and they distort the sense of scale within the landscape.						
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
This southern and eastern parts of LCA K3 fall within the National Landscape and exhibit strong indicators of value. The northern part lies outside of the designation and within its setting but is dominated by large-scale arable farmland. Overall, this landscape is considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	<p>Very high</p> <p>This is a varied landscape, approximately half of which is within the National Landscape. In these parts there is high scenic quality with semi-natural, farmed views, and attractors such as Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, with large areas of Heathland and recreational opportunities including various PRowWs and the Suffolk Coast Path give this an overall high value. Scenic quality is varied, and lower near the overhead power lines from Sizewell nuclear power station. Further north and inland the landscape is dominated by large-scale arable farming, which lacks the distinctive characteristics of the coastal areas.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario, associated access road and part of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor. The features and characteristics that are susceptible to change include blocks of woodland both large and small, Dunwich Forest, ancient woodland at Friston; Various areas of heathland including Aldringham Common under SPA and SSSI designations and Knodishall Common; Hundred River; tourist and recreation spots at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. This western area of the LCA is within the National Landscape.</p> <p>Less susceptible parts of the LCA include: the existing large pylon corridor, which is the same area as the Proposed Scheme; the area closer to Sizewell, and the light commercial edges of Leiston; the fragmented nature of vegetation, with woodland in scattered blocks.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity. The summary value is considered high and not very high, as the most valued areas that are within the National Landscape are not within the study area.</p>	

Table 1.24: LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands - assessment of effects

LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario, built over a period of approximately 13 months. It would introduce intense construction activity within a relatively small part of the overall LCA. A construction compound would be located adjacent to this with a maximum area of 170m x 170m and 6m high.</p> <p>Part of the Substation would be located on the northern edge of this LCA. A construction compound would be located adjacent with a maximum area of 170m x 170m and 6m high. A further compound would be just outside this LCA boundary. Construction activity would involve the displacement of arable farmland, which is characteristic of the LCA. In addition to the proposed Substation, a permanent access road would be constructed on the northern edge of the LCA. .</p>	<p>The High Sensitivity and low magnitude of impact would result in a Moderate adverse effect, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. The permanent addition of the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario would be located in the context of the existing substation and a double row of overhead power lines and a relatively small part of this large LCA that would be physically altered.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. Restrictions on tree planting within the easement means that there may be some difference compared to the baseline, although this would be barely perceptible.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.25: LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section B3, B4, and C1 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor, Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA K3 is a coastal strip south of Minsmere to Aldeburgh and westwards towards Friston. This area is distinguished by its ‘Sandlings’ character and its relationship with the coast and its popular resorts. The area is characterised predominantly by its flat and gently rolling slopes, intertwined with areas of woodland. Arable farming is prominent across the landscape, some areas of heathland remain, with Scots pines dotted across the landscape. Sizewell nuclear power station is a recurring landmark in views along the coast, more noticeable in open areas. LCA K3 lies within the setting of the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Approximately half of LCA K3 falls within the National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	<p>Arable fields are the primary land use. Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.</p> <p>Heathland, which is common in other parts of LCA K3, is only found at Knodishall Common within the study area. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken. The heaths are important for rare birds.</p>	<p>Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warrening. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.</p> <p>Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a fairly open feel.</p> <p>The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.</p>	The landscape is in varying condition, Hedgerows often require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal resorts.	<p>Under Henry VIII, Aldeburgh, the town at the western edge of this LCA became an important shipbuilding centre. Later on it grew as a seaside resort in Victorian times and it remains popular now. It has been particularly associated with the arts and culture since the composer Benjamin Britten lived here for many years. He founded the Aldeburgh Festival in 1948. which remains relevant internationally.</p> <p>Leiston, was a manufacturing town making steam engines and tractors, and also munitions during the wars, at ‘Leiston Works’ which operated until 1981.</p>
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional

<p>The area is entirely within the Estate Sandlands landscape type.</p> <p>For the most part, this is flat and gently rolling farmland, regularly interspersed with small woodlands, and strips, and oak studded field boundaries.</p> <p>Much of the southern and eastern part of the Area is within the National Landscape though this is outside of the study area.</p> <p>This area features more of the remaining semi-natural habitats and less arable land but also features much more settlement.</p> <p>The soils are the freely-draining sandy acidic soils found along the Suffolk Coast, overlying red crag which is formed of shelly-sand and silt deposits.</p> <p>Tourism is contained at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.</p> <p>Sizewell nuclear power station occupies a beachside location inland of Leiston near the small village of Sizewell.</p> <p>Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear.</p> <p>14th century Leiston Abbey lies north-west of the town and is a Scheduled Monument. The atmospheric ruins of a small chapel can still be seen on the site of the original building</p> <p>Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI which contains a rich mosaic of habitats.</p> <p>The settlements of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness are key components of this landscape. They have very different</p>	<p>The coastal settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh are distinctive, but the landscape further inland lacks distinctive elements found elsewhere. Much of the southern and eastern part of the Area is within the National Landscape, though this is far from the study area. This area features more of the remaining semi-natural habitats and less arable land but also features much more settlement.</p>	<p>Two long distance footpaths pass through the area. These are the Sandlings Walk promoted route, which 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. National Cycle Network Route 42 also passes through the area, including through the centre of the village of Friston.</p>	<p>Tourism is mainly concentrated in and around Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. Some related land uses spill into the countryside, such as car parks and the two golf courses. Leiston Abbey draws some tourists.</p>	<p>Visual experience and perceptions vary. The more semi-natural areas are scenic and rich in naturalness and provide enclosure in the woodland and wooded heaths. The farmland inland lacks the distinctive elements found to the south. Too the north, views of 20th century development on the edges of Leiston are less attractive. Detracting features include the double row of large overhead power lines that cross the area, carrying power away from Sizewell, passing north of Aldringham. They distort the sense of scale within the landscape.</p>	<p>A sense of enclosure is found in the woodlands and in some areas of more enclosed farmland. The sense of wildness varies from a sense of rural remoteness to a more settled and developed feeling closer to Leiston. The overhead powerline detract from a sense of rural tranquillity and naturalness. Tranquillity is affected at certain times of the year by agricultural machinery.</p>	<p>Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI which contains a rich mosaic of habitats. The Hundred River valley provides linear ecological connectivity.</p>
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<p>appearance and histories, exerting a significant influence on the overall character of the area and shaping people's experience and recreational focus.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Detracting features include the double row of large pylons that cross the area, carrying power away from Sizewell, passing north of Aldringham. They have a substantial negative impact in the more open areas, and they distort the sense of scale within the landscape.</p>						
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>This southern and eastern parts of LCA K3 fall within the National Landscape and exhibit strong indicators of value. The northern part lies outside of the designation and within its setting, but is dominated by large-scale arable farmland. Overall, this landscape is considered to meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>This is a varied landscape, approximately half of which is within the National Landscape. It these parts there is high scenic quality with semi-natural, farmed views, and attractors such as Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, with large areas of Heathland and recreational opportunities including various PROWs and the Suffolk Coast Path give this an overall high value. Scenic quality is varied, and lower near the overhead power lines from Sizewell nuclear power station. Further north and inland the landscape is dominated by large-scale arable farming, which lacks the distinctive characteristics of the coastal areas.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation Scenario, associated access road and part of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor. The features and characteristics that are susceptible to change include blocks of woodland both large and small, Dunwich Forest, ancient woodland at Friston; Various areas of heathland including Aldringham Common under SPA and SSSI designations and Knodishall Common; Hundred River; tourist and recreation spots at Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. This western area of the LCA is within the National Landscape.</p> <p>Less susceptible parts of the LCA include: the existing large pylon corridor, which is the same area as the Proposed Scheme; the area closer to Sizewell, and the light commercial edges of Leiston; the fragmented nature of vegetation, with woodland in scattered blocks.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity. The summary value is considered high and not very high, as the most valued areas that are within the National Landscape are not within the study area.</p>	



Table 1.26: LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands - assessment of effects

LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation, built over a period of approximately 18-24 months. It would introduce intense construction activity within a relatively small part of the overall LCA.</p> <p>Part of the Substation would be located on the northern edge of this LCA. A construction compound would be located adjacent with a maximum area of 170m x 170m and 6m high. A further compound would be just outside this LCA boundary. Construction activity would involve the displacement of arable farmland, which is characteristic of the LCA. In addition to the proposed Substation, a permanent access road would be constructed on the northern edge of the LCA.</p> <p>Localised perceptual qualities of LCA K3 would affected by the presence of plant including tall cranes, security fencing and workers, introducing intense activity into the rural landscape. Some sections of hedgerows and vegetated field boundaries would be removed to facilitate construction. Tranquillity would be affected in localised areas by the noise, visual disturbance and lighting. Existing large mature woodland parcels between the draft Order Limits and Friston and Coldfair Green would reduce intervisibility with those settlements. Works would be carried out to connect the existing overhead powerlines north and west of Friston, so additional activity would be perceived along that route.</p>	<p>The High Sensitivity and a medium magnitude of impact would result in a Moderate adverse (<b>significant</b>) effect.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. The Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation would have a permanent footprint up to 2.1 hectares and up to 16m in height with eight associated buildings up to 5m high and external electrical equipment up to 15m high. It would be located in the context of the existing double row of overhead power lines and a relatively small part of this large LCA that would be physically altered.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. Restrictions on tree planting within the easement means that there may be some difference compared to the baseline, although this would be barely perceptible..</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.27: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		Northern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands			N/A
Source		Part of Proposed Scheme				
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warren. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			support nightingale, bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised.</p> <p>Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural 'backwater', focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.28: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, Proposed HVAC Proposed Underground Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Construction activity would stretch across the centre of the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern part of the LCA would be impacted by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, but in the south it would include the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of sections of numerous hedgerows and other vegetated boundaries where the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open trench construction. Locally there would be visual, noise and movement disturbance. This is a large LCA but the scale of the change locally would be large.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, proposed Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the HVDC Underground Cable Corridor and the HVAC Underground Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for both HVDC Underground Cable Corridor and the HVAC Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised.</p> <p>The Proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario would represent a small addition to the existing energy infrastructure.</p>	The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cables</li><li>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cables</li><li>Both scenarios for the Kiln Lane Substation</li></ul>	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .



Table 1.29: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		Southern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warren. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			support nightingale, bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised.</p> <p>Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural 'backwater', focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.30:LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options) Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed HVDC Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed HVAC Underground Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for both the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The Proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario would represent a small addition to the existing energy infrastructure.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.31: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	Western Route option of the proposed Underground HVDC Cables Corridor		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale,	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warren. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.



			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets. There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation. The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised. Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin. The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming. There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries. Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.32: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor. The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario would represent a small addition to the existing energy infrastructure.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for both the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p>	The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios.</p>	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.33: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		Eastern Route option of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands			N/A
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale,	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warren. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets. There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation. The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised. Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin. The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming. There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries. Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
	Medium		Medium		Medium	



<p>This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.</p>	<p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.</p>	<p>The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.</p>
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Table 1.34:LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor. The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario would represent a small addition to the existing energy infrastructure.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for both the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation ScenariosKiln.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.35: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	Northern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale.	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warrening. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised. Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	



Table 1.36:LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for all options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The scenario in which a new permanent substation (the proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation Scenario) would be constructed would represent a larger, albeit localised change to this character area, in the context of the existing overhead power lines.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.37: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	Southern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale,	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warrening. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised. Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching. Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.38: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for all options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The scenario in which a new permanent substation (the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation Scenario) would be constructed would represent a larger, albeit localised change to this character area, in the context of the existing overhead power lines.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cables</li><li>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cables</li><li>Both scenarios for the Kiln Lane Substation.</li></ul>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is not significant.</p>



Table 1.39:LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation		Western Route option of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands			N/A
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale,	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warrening. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.

			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised.</p> <p>Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural ‘backwater’, focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm,</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles.</p> <p>Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls.</p> <p>On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility			Sensitivity
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium			Medium
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching.  Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.			The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.

Table 1.40:LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cables, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for all options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The scenario in which a new permanent substation (the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation) would be constructed would represent a larger, albeit localised change to this character area, in the context of the existing overhead power lines.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.41: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation		Eastern Route option of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
District	NCA 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient Estate Claylands			N/A
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, and C2 Proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA L1 forms a broad area of linked interfluvial plateaux of the Rivers Alde, Fromus, Yox and Blyth. The area is predominantly characterised by its gently rolling rural nature, with expansive areas of farmland, with small areas of parkland around the edges of the character area. Woodland is scattered across the landscape as are hedgerows and roadside trees, the latter responsible for a large percentage of the tree cover.	Around half of the area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Knodishall Whin, Knodishall Common, Church Common, Great Wood, Aldeburgh Golf Course, Aldringham and Aldeburgh disused railway line, Ancient woodland: Great Wood, Decoy Wood, Millers Covert, Potrobella Covert, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove; National Cycle Network Route 42	Woodland is present in several forms. There are large blocks – Dunwich Forest and Black Heath Wood, and several smaller woods, coverts and strips. There is one ancient woodland in the centre of the area - Great Wood, in Friston.  There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common, though these are far from the study area. Aldringham Common is SPA and SSSI, part of a large tract of wildlife habitat that forms the Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI. There are patches of sand sedge and heather, dispersed within acid grassland and associated flora, with gorse and bracken invading in some areas. The heaths are important for rare birds such as wood lark and night jar, and the woodlands support nightingale,	Much of this landscape was previously managed as lowland heath, over many centuries, as it was too marginal to be of use to farming. It was used as common sheep grazing and for rabbit warrening. The landscape then underwent rapid change with the advancement of agricultural practices, such as irrigation, in the 20th century. There is heathland at North Warren, Aldringham Common, The Walks, and Thorpeness Common. Names such as The Walks in Aldringham, reference the old practice of walking sheep through the grasslands.  Arable farming dominates the landscape. This is an area of late enclosure and farms were put together from the heathland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Enclosure patterns are usually rectilinear and field sizes fairly uniformly medium to large contributing to a sense of openness.  The absence of watercourses in the sandlands means settlement here was historically not very viable, but there are scattering of tumuli indicating the presence of ancient settlement.	The landscape is in varying condition. Hedgerows require more regular management where dominated by suckering elm. The land is under pressure from recreation and settlement expansion owing to its proximity to some of Suffolk’s popular coastal destinations.	This area has long been settled. There is evidence of Romano-British farms in the area and records of Norman churches, at Bramfield for example. However, it is notable that despite this being the largest character area in the district, there are no villages of any size on the plateaux, only hamlets and farmsteads.  Heveningham Hall and park is known for its links with Capability Brown and provides a scenic setting for events such as Country Fairs.



			bull finch, and tree pipits.			
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The area is entirely within the Ancient Estate Claylands typology. This is the largest character area in the district and is a landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character. There are no large villages, only an irregular network of quiet lanes with scattered farms and hamlets.</p> <p>There is also a large area of parkland on the north edge of the plateau at Heveningham. It is deeply rural and attractive although orientation is not always easy along its narrow, straight lanes without distinctive topographical features or landmarks to provide orientation.</p> <p>The enclosure pattern is generally ancient and the underlying feel is organic, but field boundaries tend to be straight and regularised. Woodland is scattered in parcels across the area, some of them ancient in origin.</p> <p>The area has a unified character and is described as a deeply rural 'backwater', focused on farming.</p> <p>There is little intrusion from modern development, especially in the more remote western part. Whilst some conversion has taken place of agricultural buildings, the remoteness of the area has helped protect it from development pressure, and it has likely changed little in the 20th and 21st centuries.</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation and SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its</p>	<p>This area is distinctive through its unified character, being peaceful, rural and focussed on farming, with little intrusion from modern development.</p> <p>Vernacular architecture is evidenced in the scattered cottages and farms. Timber framed farmhouses and cottages are finished in coloured render. Some cottages are thatched but otherwise roofs are predominantly red pantiles, although there are examples of distinctive black pantiles. Outbuildings have a typical east Suffolk character - red brick weather boarding, sometimes natural coloured, sometimes black, and in addition there is some flint work in barns and walls. On houses and outbuildings gables can be edged with white bargeboards, sometimes ornately finished.</p>	<p>The area has good PRow access and National Cycle Network Routes 41 and 42 passes through the area.</p>	<p>Whilst this is an area focussed on farming, tourism outside of the immediate area along the Suffolk Heritage Coast to the east has led to some modern buildings and proliferation of signage along the A12 corridor, and ongoing development pressure.</p>	<p>The area comprises extensive, lightly settled farmland, mainly arable but with some pasture. Further south, the visual experience is more textured and varied with less dominance of large scale agriculture. There are ponds scattered across the plateau which provide texture and interest. Large industrial agricultural buildings have a negative influence, especially where there is inadequate screening.</p>	<p>A deeply rural, remote and tranquil area. Detractors from this include several large-scale modern agricultural buildings, including several intensive livestock units.</p>	<p>Hedgerows with mature trees connect woodland forming a network of habitats which support birds and other wildlife typical of farmland areas.</p> <p>A SSSI designation across a series of ponds at Dews Farm, Bramfield, noted for its population of Great Crested Newts.</p>

population of Great Crested Newts. Vernacular architecture is seen in the scattered cottages and farms						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	This is a relatively undeveloped area of rural farmland with recreational opportunities through PRow network, a sense of tranquillity and areas of scenic interest.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and the proposed Converter Station. The LCA sits partly within the National Landscape. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change include: the tranquil, rural character, with little intrusion from modern development; the light, scattered nature of existing development; the ancient field patterns with robust hedged boundaries and woodland parcels; areas of ancient woodland, SAC and SSSI; the parkland setting around Saxmundham, and Leiston Abbey and its setting. Less susceptible to change are the large arable fields which could be easily restored. This LCA is on a plateau making it susceptible to change from both within and outside of the LCA as views are far reaching.  Less susceptible parts of the LCA include larger scale farmland with intrusive agricultural buildings and lost boundaries, providing little ecological connectivity or character setting. The arable fields in general would be less susceptible as they would be easily restored.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.42: LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands - assessment of effects

LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options), the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Physical effects stretch over the LCA, from south to north. The central and northern construction is for the proposed HVDC Cable Corridor, but in the south it includes the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation. Although trenchless crossings would avoid displacement of the most valuable vegetation, there would be removal of numerous hedgerows and vegetated boundaries as the proposed Underground Cable Corridor crosses arable land. In the south, the impacts would be greater, with large construction compounds, earthworks and the building of large-scale buildings, in addition to open cut construction. Locally the character would be affected by visual, noise and movement disturbance.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is a large LCA and there would be no perceptible change across the majority of the area. However, there would be intense change around the site of the proposed Converter Station, Kiln Lane Substation and to a lesser extent, along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>Proposed planting would not yet be established. Along the route for all options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, proposed construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The scenario in which a new permanent substation (the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation) would be constructed would represent a larger, albeit localised change to this character area, in the context of the existing overhead power lines.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b></p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established. No above ground infrastructure is proposed along the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor or proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, and the character and functionality of the landscape would have returned to the baseline condition. The area of physical change within this LCA would be limited to the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). The contribution of the proposed planting to the setting of Saxmundham, the additional public amenity and ecological benefits this would reduce the magnitude of impacts. However, this would still represent a complete and permanent change in character in this part of LCA L1 from one of rural farmland to that of large scale energy infrastructure. The resulting impact is considered to be low, for all Proposed Underground Cable Corridor options and both substation scenarios.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the Western and Eastern options for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and</p> <p>Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is not significant.</p>

Table 1.43:LCA O1: Benhall Estate Sandlands - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LCA O1: Benhall Estate Sandlands			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
District	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Rolling estate sandlands		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment			Section A Proposed Converter station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LCA O1 is a small area formed of shallow valley slopes in the wedge shaped interfluvium of the Rivers Alde and Fromus. The area is bisected by the A12 corridor which physically severs the area to the west of the A12, which is dominated by a large area of parkland – Benhall Park. The area has a strong Sandlings character and away from the major transport corridors that pass through, it feels quiet and empty. The parkland includes blocks of mixed woodlands enclosing and forming a backdrop to the arable parcels or parkland.	No	Ancient woodland: Plants Grove, Foxburrow Wood, Pond Wood, Benhall Lodge Park, Stewarts Covert, 4 x unnamed woodlands north of Benhall Lodge Park; Locally Listed park and garden: Benhall Lodge Park	Woodland is found in irregular small plantation blocks and rectilinear strips. The species are typical sandland species - oak and ash, sweet chestnut, brought into East Anglia by the Romans, and conifers.  There are occasionally rows of Scots Pine on field boundaries and along with the bracken-filled verges, which are characteristic of the wider Sandlings character type.	A large proportion of the western part is extant and former parkland. Benhall Park lies just west of the A12 in the centre of the area. There are records of a manor house here since at least 1225.  St. Mary’s church, Benhall, is an isolated flint church west of the park (C19th but possible a remodelled more ancient structure), and a small flint gatehouse lies nearby.	Generally the farmed and parkland landscapes are in a good condition, maintaining a high percentage of woodland cover, and long lengths of recently planted and restored hedgerows are in evidence. Where parkland has been converted to arable land the character is eroded. Small holdings can have a negative effect with inappropriate ornamental tree species such as eucalyptus and a proliferation of garden structures and fencing.	The manor of Benhall Lodge was purportedly once in the ownership of King Henry VIII.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
The area is entirely comprised of the Rolling Estate Sandlands landscape type. Soils are a typical Sandlings mix of sandy soil types, overlying thin glacial deposits on top of Crag sands. The gently undulating landform is a result of incision by the small rivers on either side, through the layers of easily denuded minerals revealing different profiles and giving rise to variation in soils	The estate farmland and parkland landscapes, each with strong and distinctive character, are unified by the well wooded landscape and the mixture of native and semi-ornamental tree species.	There are some recreational opportunities associated with Benhall Lodge Gardens and the Maize Maze.	The passing tourist traffic accessing the beaches and scenic resorts of the Suffolk coast provides opportunities for businesses. The Walled Garden to the west of Benhall Lodge is a local tourist attraction.	The views through the parkland of Benhall Lodge are attractive and distinctive.  In general the visual experience is mixed. Where field boundaries are not hedged. Extensive views are possible over consecutive large fields and stretch to distant wooded skylines, punctuated by pylons in the south of the area. Elsewhere there is a stronger estate character to views, with more	LCA O1 is generally undeveloped, rural and peaceful, although traffic on the A12 trunk road causes visual and noise disturbance, reducing tranquility locally.  Farms are generally isolated from the road network. There is therefore a sense of a lack of settlement and remoteness away from the A12 and A1094.	Hedged boundaries and woodland provide a network of habitats typical of farmland areas. Benhall Lodge has specimen and mature trees along with high wooded cover with biodiversity value.

Woodland is found in irregular small plantation blocks and rectilinear strips The landscape supports typical sandland species with occasional rows of Scots Pine on field boundaries. Settlement is light and dispersed - Benhall is a small nucleated village just beyond the eastern extents of the character area. Other outlying hamlets are present.				containment from woodland which forms a backdrop views over the fields, strips of Scots Pine are distinctive.		
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
The historic parkland and garden at Benhall Lodge have a long and rich history. This landscape retains important features of their former status such as boundary tree belts, tree clumps, grassland with veteran trees, pleasure grounds, ha-has and garden buildings, many of which are listed in the English Heritage register.	High		High		High	
	Benhall Lodge is a locally designated parkland which makes a strong contribution to local landscape character, cultural heritage, distinctiveness and biodiversity. The rest of the area is agricultural and in generally good condition. The shallow valley slopes and woodland are locally distinctive and contribute to natural heritage. The busy roads reduce tranquillity.		This area is not a host landscape for any elements of the Proposed Scheme. The features and characteristics that are more susceptible to change through indirect effects include the quiet, rural character of the narrow lanes; the generally undeveloped, lightly settled nature with historic farmsteads and estate farms; the locally designated Parkland; the robust structure of woodland belts and hedges, including Ancient Woodlands.		The high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.	



Table 1.44:LCA O1: Benhall Estate Sandlands - assessment of effects

LCA O1: Benhall Estate Sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
This LCA would not be physically affected by construction of the Proposed Scheme. The proposed Converter Station construction area would be approximately 1km from the edge of this LCA. Impacts on the setting of LCA O1 may include the presence of construction traffic along the A12 and A1094 and the tops of tall cranes on the skyline, affecting the tranquillity and rural nature of the area.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is not significant.
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
The magnitude of impact would be very low in year 1 of operation, arising from the proximity of the access road from the B1121 to the proposed Converter Station.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is not significant
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
In year 1 of operation, there would be no perceptible change compared to the baseline situation.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.45: LLCA 01 Coldfair Green – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LLCA 01 Coldfair Green			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	All options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands, Ancient estate claylands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 01 Coldfair Green is surrounded by rolling hills and farmland. Knodishall Common is a large area of heathland located to the east of the settlement. The Hundred River runs east to west through the village and Snape Road connects the village to Leiston, 1km to the north, Coldfair Green is approximately 4km from Thorpeness, the nearest coastal settlement.	No	SBIS County Wildlife site: Knodishall Common	Knodishall Common is a large area of heathland on the edge of Coldfair Green. It is managed by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and Natural England and is designated as an SBIS County Wildlife Site. There is extensive woodland to the west of the village and the Hundred River, which is a minor watercourse, runs through the village.	The ruins of St. Peter's Church on Knodishall Common date back to the early 1300s. This site is possibly the location of the Roman fort Sitomagus. Buxlow was the original name for the area, deriving from the Saxon word for tumuli or artificial mounds, of which there are many in the area surrounding Coldfair Green.	Knodishall Common is in good condition and well managed by the RPA and Natural England. On 24th July 2022 a fire took place on the common destroying the majority of the land. A Higher Level Stewardship agreement is in place to manage the common.	The area was originally named Knodishall surrounding Coldfair (or St Andrews) Green. It was named Coldford Green on Hodskinson's 1783 map.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This LLCA is the village of Coldfair Green. The area is of the Estate sandlands and Ancient estate claylands typologies. Coldfair Green is just under 1km from Leiston The church of St Marys dates to the 14th Century The village is mainly residential and has a number of shops and small businesses The church of St Marys dates to the 14th Century Hundred River runs through the village and Knodishall Common, a remnant heathland is on the western edge. There is a large woodland on the eastern edge of the area Large overhead pylons are located immediately north of the	Knodishall Common contributes to the setting and distinctiveness of the village given its relative size and heathland character. The village is adversely affected by the large pylons to the east and north of the village which lead towards Sizewell nuclear power station.	The Sandlings Walk long-distance promoted route passes by the south west edge of the settlement. Knodishall common comprises open access land designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act.	LLCA 01 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	There is some scenic value associated with Knodishall Common. To the east of the village large overhead power lines detract from the rural character and have an adverse effect on the beauty of the village. They are out of scale with their surroundings and dominate this side of the settlement.	The common features an open and natural landscape. It is generally tranquil, except for the noise from Snape Road and intermittent agricultural activities, which vary throughout the year. There is a large woodland to the east of the village. However, large pylons on the east and north edges of the village detract from its tranquil, rural character.	The Hundred River and Knodishall Common, and the woodland to the east of the village support biodiversity and connections, particularly to the natural space of Aldringham and towards Thorpeness and the coast.

settlement Long distance trail The Sandlings Walk meets the south eastern edge of the LLCA						
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium Knodishall Common, a distinctive natural space and an SBIS County Wildlife site, contributes to the recreational and natural heritage value of LLCA 01. The Sandlings Walk long-distance trail meets the southern border of the area, and a small river and woodland enhance the natural attributes of the LLCA. However, imposing pylons to the north of the village adversely affect the scenic value and tranquility.	Medium LLCA 01 is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, at around 2km from the Draft Order Limits. Features and characteristics of LLCA 01 particularly susceptible to the change include the open and natural setting of Knodishall Common and the rural setting of the surrounding fields to the west of the settlement. The centre of the village, with a busy road running through and a more built up character from where the Proposed Scheme would not be perceived, is less likely to be susceptible This is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, at around 2km from the Draft Order Limits.			Medium The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.46:LLCA 01 Coldfair Green - assessment of effects

LLCA 01 Coldfair Green	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
There would be no physical changes to the landscape of LLCA 01. Most construction relating to the Amendment to the Kiln Lane Substation scenario would be located beyond intervening woodland. There would be limited perception of this construction activity within the village, with slightly more intervisibility within the common.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is not significant.
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
For the Amendment to the Kiln Lane Substation scenario, intervening woodland between the Kiln Lane Substation and LLCA 01 would substantially limit intervisibility. The key characteristics of the area would remain and the setting would return largely to the baseline situation.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is not significant.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, mitigation planting around the Kiln Lane Substation would be established and this would further integrate the buildings into the landscape and further reducing the impacts on the setting of LLCA 01.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.47: LLCA 01 Coldfair Green – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 01 Coldfair Green				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	All options associated with the proposed Underground Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands, Ancient estate claylands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Kiln Lane Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 01 Coldfair Green is surrounded by rolling hills and farmland. Knodishall Common is a large area of heathland located to the east of the settlement. The Hundred River runs east to west through the village and Snape Road connects the village to Leiston, 1km to the north, Coldfair Green is approximately 4km from Thorpeness, the nearest coastal settlement.	No	SBIS County Wildlife site: Knodishall Common	Knodishall Common is a large area of heathland on the edge of Coldfair Green. It is managed by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) and Natural England and is designated as an SBIS County Wildlife Site. There is extensive woodland to the west of the village and the Hundred River, which is a minor watercourse, runs through the village.	The ruins of St. Peter's Church on Knodishall Common date back to the early 1300s. This site is possibly the location of the Roman fort Sitomagus. Buxlow was the original name for the area, deriving from the Saxon word for tumuli or artificial mounds, of which there are many in the area surrounding Coldfair Green.	Knodishall Common is in good condition and well managed by the RPA and Natural England. On 24th July 2022 a fire took place on the common destroying the majority of the land. A Higher Level Stewardship agreement is in place to manage the common.	The area was originally named Knodishall surrounding Coldfair (or St Andrews) Green. It was named Coldford Green on Hodskinson's 1783 map.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This LLCA is the village of Coldfair Green. The area is of the Estate sandlands and Ancient estate claylands typologies. Coldfair Green is just under 1km from Leiston The church of St Marys dates to the 14th Century The village is mainly residential and has a number of shops and small businesses The church of St Marys dates to the 14th Century Hundred River runs through the village and Knodishall	Knodishall Common contributes to the setting and distinctiveness of the village given its relative size and heathland character. The village is adversely affected by the large pylons to the east and north of the village which lead towards Sizewell nuclear power station.	The Sandlings Walk long-distance promoted route passes by the south west edge of the settlement. Knodishall common comprises open access land designated under the CRoW Act.	LLCA 01 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	There is some scenic value associated with Knodishall Common. To the east of the village large overhead power lines detract from the rural character and have an adverse effect on the beauty of the village. They are out of scale with their surroundings and dominate this side of the settlement.	The common features an open and natural landscape. It is generally tranquil, except for the noise from Snape Road and intermittent agricultural activities, which vary throughout the year. There is a large woodland to the east of the village. However, large pylons on the east and north edges of the village detract from its tranquil, rural character.	The Hundred River and Knodishall Common, and the woodland to the east of the village support biodiversity and connections, particularly to the natural space of Aldringham and towards Thorpeness and the coast.



Common, a remnant heathland is on the western edge. There is a large woodland on the eastern edge of the area Large overhead pylons are located immediately north of the settlement Long distance trail The Sandlings Walk meets the south eastern edge of the LLCA						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	Knodishall Common, a distinctive natural space and an SBIS County Wildlife site, contributes to the recreational and natural heritage value of LLCA 01. The Sandlings Walk long-distance trail meets the southern border of the area, and a small river and woodland enhance the natural attributes of the LLCA. However, imposing pylons to the north of the village adversely affect the scenic value and tranquility.		LLCA 01 is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, at around 2km from the Draft Order Limits. Features and characteristics of LLCA 01 particularly susceptible to the change include the open and natural setting of Knodishall Common and the rural setting of the surrounding fields to the west of the settlement. The centre of the village, with a busy road running through and a more built up character from where the Proposed Scheme would not be perceived, is less likely to be susceptible This is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, at around 2km from the Draft Order Limits.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.48:LLCA 01 Coldfair Green - assessment of effects

LLCA 01 Coldfair Green	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
There would be no physical changes to the landscape of LLCA 01. Most construction relating to the Kiln Lane Substation would be located beyond intervening woodland. There would be slightly more intervisibility within the common. For the proposed Full Build of Kiln Lane Substation Scenario, there would be construction of an access road, crossing several fields and boundaries over about 2km, to the west of this LLCA, less than 1km away. There would also be work carried out on the existing pylons close to the northwest corner of the settlement. These combined activities would impact the setting of LLCA 01, but there would be little or no perception of this activity within the majority of the village.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
For the proposed Full Build out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario, the land taken for the construction access road would have been returned to its former use. Though mitigation planting would be in place, it would not yet be established, so there would be breaks in boundaries evident in fields to the west of this LLCA. The distance and intervening woodland between the Kiln Lane Substation and LLCA 01 means that there would be limited visibility of the Proposed Scheme.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, planting around the proposed Kiln Lane Substation would be established and this would further integrate the buildings into the landscape and further reducing the impacts on the setting of LLCA 01.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.49:LLCA 02 Friston sandlands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 02 Friston sandlands				Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands, Ancient estate claylands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 02 is a large area, encompassing mainly arable farmland surrounding Friston, bound by Saxmundham Road to the north west, and the A1094 to the south. The area stretches to the edge of Coldfair Green to the east. Numerous tree belts and rectilinear plantations feature, with one notable Ancient woodland at Grove Wood, which is also an SBIS County Wildlife Site. It contributes to the setting of the National landscape, which lies to the south.	On the border of the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape	SBIS County Wildlife site: Grove Wood Ancient Woodland: Grove Wood, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove	Grove Wood, a large ancient woodland which is also an SBIS County Wildlife Site. Mature trees are a common feature in hedgerows and property boundaries and access tracks.	Various estates with large grounds.	LLCA 02 supports mostly arable farming. Detractors to landscape condition include presence of large pylons across the north and large areas of pig farming.	No notable cultural associations have been identified. The area is historically related to agriculture and is sparsely settled.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is mostly of the Estate sandlands typology, a small area north of Friston is Ancient estate claylands.</p> <p>Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils, overlying drift deposits of either glacial or fluvial origin.</p> <p>Where there was late enclosure, the field pattern is one of straight-sided, relatively large geometric units. Even where there is map evidence for old enclosures, the boundaries have frequently been realigned to make more regular shapes. This is mainly because field</p>	LLCA 02 is a relatively homogenous landscape of agricultural land interspersed with blocks of woodland and regular hedgerows. It lacks distinctive features or strong characteristics.	The Sandlings Walk runs through the character area and the area is crossed by numerous PRowS.	LLCA 02 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	<p>There are open views across the agricultural landscape interspersed with rectilinear woodland blocks and hedgerow boundaries. There are opportunities for glimpsed view of large stately houses.</p> <p>Livestock farms degrade the quality of views across the open landscape, as do the overhead power lines in the north east of the area and polythene sheeting over some arable fields.</p>	The area is mostly open and sparsely inhabited, making it feel remote. Hedgerows give a sense of enclosure and smaller scale in places. Grove Road is a Quiet Lane which runs past Grove Wood. There is a sense of relative remoteness and tranquillity and enclosure. Large areas of pig farming are a detractor from the tranquil rural character.	Grove Wood is an Ancient Woodland and SBIS County Wildlife Site. The area has numerous small areas of woodland and many hedgerows, adding to biodiversity value.

<p>boundaries on these sandy soils were less substantial than those on the clayland and short-lived shrubby species such as gorse are recorded as being used in hedges.</p> <p>The land use is mainly arable farming but around Friston there is a dominance of pig farming.</p> <p>There is an absence of watercourses, characteristic of Estate sandlands typology.</p> <p>The area has many blocks of woodland, often in belts and rectilinear plantations. The sizeable Grove Wood stands out as a rare Ancient Woodland in the area, it is also designated as an SBIS County Wildlife Site. There is a incidence of relatively late, estate type, brick buildings.</p>						
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>A medium value landscape with many hedgerows and areas of woodland, including one that is ancient. Views are open, scenic and rural and there is a tranquillity from the sparse development. A good PRoW network- including a long distance trail - offers recreational value, and functional value comes from the widespread agricultural land use. While it lacks distinctiveness, LLCA 02 lies immediately to the north of the National Landscape and falls within its setting.</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>The area is a host landscape for part of the Kiln Lane Substation. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include: The remote, rural and tranquil character, enhanced by quiet lanes and sparse development; the SBIS country wildlife site and ancient woodland, Grove Wood; the open, far reaching views. Less susceptible to change are the areas of expansive areas of featureless arable farmland, pig farming which degrade the scenic quality of the area, and the large overhead power lines.</p>			<p>Medium</p> <p>The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.50:LLCA 02 Friston sandlands - assessment of effects

LLCA 02 Friston sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation Scenario would be constructed almost entirely in this LLCA. The north eastern part would be in LLCA 05: Saxmundham East Claylands. Construction would take place for up to 13 months and would involve displacement of arable land and removal of some field boundary vegetation. Existing intervening vegetation to the north and northeast of Friston would provide some enclosure but taller plant such as tower cranes would extend across the skyline. These activities would disrupt the rural character and relative tranquillity of the area. The substation extensions would constructed as extension to the existing substation, which would provide some screening of construction activities. Existing woodland would partially enclose the construction site, reducing perceptibility within a large part of LLCA 02. Construction noise and visual disturbance would reduce tranquility and the sense of remoteness locally.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation most displaced land would be returned to its former function. The scale of impacts relating to the proposed extensions to the existing substation would represent a relatively small addition in the context of the existing infrastructure. The geographical extent would be localised by existing intervening vegetation, including large blocks of woodland and the baseline character across large parts of LLCA would return to the baseline situation.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established and this, in addition to Grove Wood and Friston House Wood, would substantially enclose the proposed substation, reducing the perception of new infrastructure in the landscape. The character of the area would largely returned to its former state.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .



Table 1.51: LLCA 02 Friston sandlands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 02 Friston sandlands				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands, Ancient estate claylands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 02 is a large area, encompassing mainly arable farmland surrounding Friston, bound by Saxmundham Road to the north west, and the A1094 to the south. The area stretches to the edge of Coldfair Green to the east. Numerous tree belts and rectilinear plantations feature, with one notable Ancient woodland at Grove Wood, which is also an SBIS County Wildlife Site. It contributes to the setting of the National landscape, which lies to the south.	On the border of the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape	SBIS County Wildlife site: Grove Wood Ancient Woodland: Grove Wood, Foxburrow Covert, Rudleys Grove	Grove Wood, a large ancient woodland which is also an SBIS County Wildlife Site. Mature trees are a common feature in hedgerows and property boundaries and access tracks.	Various estates with large grounds.	LLCA 02 supports mostly arable farming. Detractors to landscape condition include presence of large pylons across the north and large areas of pig farming.	No notable cultural associations have been identified. The area is historically related to agriculture and is sparsely settled.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is mostly of the Estate sandlands typology, a small area north of Friston is Ancient estate claylands.</p> <p>Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils, overlying drift deposits of either glacial or fluvial origin.</p> <p>Where there was late enclosure, the field pattern is one of straight-sided, relatively large geometric units. Even where there is map evidence for old enclosures, the boundaries have frequently been realigned to make more regular shapes. This is mainly because field boundaries on these sandy</p>	LLCA 02 is a relatively homogenous landscape of agricultural land interspersed with blocks of woodland and regular hedgerows. It lacks distinctive features or strong characteristics.	The Sandlings Walk runs through the character area and the area is crossed by numerous PRowWs.	LLCA 02 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	<p>There are open views across the agricultural landscape interspersed with rectilinear woodland blocks and hedgerow boundaries. There are opportunities for glimpsed view of large stately houses.</p> <p>Livestock farms degrade the quality of views across the open landscape, as do the overhead power lines in the north east of the area and polythene sheeting over some arable fields.</p>	The area is mostly open and sparsely inhabited, making it feel remote. Hedgerows give a sense of enclosure and smaller scale in places. Grove Road is a Quiet Lane which runs past Grove Wood. There is a sense of relative remoteness and tranquillity and enclosure. Large areas of pig farming are a detractor from the tranquil rural character.	Grove Wood is an Ancient Woodland and SBIS County Wildlife Site. The area has numerous small areas of woodland and many hedgerows, adding to biodiversity value.

soils were less substantial than those on the clayland and short-lived shrubby species such as gorse are recorded as being used in hedges.						
The land use is mainly arable farming but around Friston there is a dominance of pig farming.						
There is an absence of watercourses, characteristic of Estate sandlands typology.						
The area has many blocks of woodland, often in belts and rectilinear plantations. The sizeable Grove Wood stands out as a rare Ancient Woodland in the area, it is also designated as an SBIS County Wildlife Site. There is a incidence of relatively late, estate type, brick buildings.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	A medium value landscape with many hedgerows and areas of woodland, including one that is ancient. Views are open, scenic and rural and there is a tranquillity from the sparse development. A good PRow network- including a long distance trail - offers recreational value, and functional value comes from the widespread agricultural land use. While it lacks distinctiveness, LLCA 02 lies immediately to the north of the National Landscape and falls within its setting.		The area is a host landscape for part of the Kiln Lane Substation. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include: The remote, rural and tranquil character, enhanced by quiet lanes and sparse development; the SBIS country wildlife site and ancient woodland, Grove Wood; the open, far reaching views. Less susceptible to change are the areas of expansive areas of featureless arable farmland, pig farming which degrade the scenic quality of the area, and the large overhead power lines.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.52: LLCA 02 Friston sandlands - assessment of effects

LLCA 02 Friston sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
The proposed Kiln Lane Substation would be constructed almost entirely in this LLCA. The north eastern part would be in LLCA 05: Saxmundham East Claylands. Construction would take 18 to 24 months and would involve displacement of arable land and removal of some field boundary vegetation. Existing intervening vegetation to the north and northeast of Friston would provide some enclosure but taller plant such as tower cranes would extend across the skyline. A temporary haul road approximately 2.75km in length would extend across the eastern part of LLCA 02, joining the Snape Road. This road would cross several arable fields and hedgerow boundaries, necessitating vegetation removal. Work would also be carried out along existing overhead power lines, which would draw attention to them and highlight the industrial activity in the area. These activities would disrupt the rural character and relative tranquillity of the area.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation most displaced land would be returned to its former function. The substation would be 16m tall and approximately 200m x 110m, introducing additional large scale infrastructure into the area. Proposed planting would not yet be established and there would be some gaps in hedgerows and evidence some scarring across fields were construction compounds and other temporary facilities were located. Existing woodland would partially enclosure the proposed Kiln Lane Substation, but the structures on the skyline in some parts of LLCA 02, increasing the perception of infrastructure in the rural landscape.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established and this, in addition to Grove Wood and Friston House Wood, would substantially enclose the proposed substation, reducing the perception of new infrastructure in the landscape.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in m adverse effects by year 15 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.53: LLCA 03 Friston – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 03 Friston				Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 03 relates to the village of Friston, 5km southeast of Saxmundham and 6km northwest of Aldeburgh. The B1121 runs through the centre of the village, joining those two towns. The village is surrounded by farmland, both arable and livestock. There is a large, private woodland in the north east corner and the accessible Knodishall Whin, in the south east.	No	SBIS County Wildlife site: Knodishall Whin	Woodland at Friston House defines the northern edge of the village. Knodishall Whin, which is an SBIS County Wildlife Site, lies to the south.	St Mary's Church dates back to the Norman period with the main body of the church dating back to the 14th century. Friston post mill was built in 1812 and is the tallest of its type in England and is a prominent local landmark.	Knodishall Whin is a managed wildlife site. There are several large houses and estates with well looked after grounds within the village. Fristonwood House has a sizeable woodland.	Friston's name is recorded in the Domesday Book as Frisetuna and seems to come from Anglo-Saxon Frīsa tūn, meaning 'the farmstead of the Frisians'. Freston is an alternative name for the parish. The village has an open garden day in the summer.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This LLCA is of the Estate Sandlands typology.</p> <p>Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils, overlying drift deposits of either glacial or fluvial origin.</p> <p>Also typical in this typology and seen in Friston is a high incidence of relatively late, estate type, brick buildings, including Friston House and its adjoining woodland.</p> <p>Knodishall Whin is in the south eastern corner of the LCA and is an SBIS County Wildlife Site.</p> <p>The village almost divided into two halves, with a large green and meadow in the centre where the main roads intersect.</p>	Friston is a quiet village, remote from other settlement with a large central green and houses of mixed eras, some historic and some of the late 20th century construction. Grove Road, a quiet lane runs through it and is narrow and bound by hedges, adding to the rural character.	The Sandlings Walk long-distance promoted route passes by the northern edge of the settlement. Many PProWs in the village reaching out to the surrounding countryside. The village has a village hall, pub and two churches and a playground on the large central green.	LLCA 03 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	Views across The Green and the meadow to the church contribute to the sense of place. Most routes in the village are narrow, hedgerow lined country lanes. Open views to the surrounding countryside to the west and south include detractors including pig farming and overhead power lines to the north.	The village is small, rural and relatively tranquil, though it is cut through by the B1121 which is a route to the coast. To the north east is Grove Road, a Quiet Lane which runs out into the surrounding countryside. The narrow hedgerow lined country lanes give a pleasing sense of enclosure and tranquillity. The pig farming to the west and south is a detractor from the feeling of peaceful countryside surroundings.	Knodishall Whin is an SBIS County Wildlife Site and Friston House Wood is a large private woodland. The green infrastructure network surrounding the village is spare, mostly comprising hedgerows with mature trees and some woodland.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	

This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Friston is a remote and relatively quiet rural village, with a designated quiet lane and scenic views across the village green. Tranquillity is adversely affected by the B1121 cutting through the centre and proximity to overhead power lines to the north. Knodishall Whin and Friston Wood House add biodiversity value. Recreational value comes from the large, central green, and PRowS, including a long distance trail which passes by the northern edge of the settlement. The village is not covered by any landscape designations but falls within the setting of the National Landscape.	LLCA 03 is not a host landscape. It lies 250m from the Draft Order Limits at the closest point and less than 1km away from the centre of Friston village. Characteristics that would be particularly susceptible to change include the tranquillity of the small village; scenic views across the centre of the village; the rural character with hedgerow lined quiet lanes.	The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.



Table 1.54:LLCA 03 Friston - assessment of effects

LLCA 03 Friston	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
There would be no physical changes to the landscape of LLCA 03. Construction of the Proposed Amendment to the Kiln Lane Substation scenario would take place less than 1km from the centre of LLCA 03 and 0.25 km from the northern edge. Intervening woodland would provide some enclosure, but large areas would be exposed, especially from the north east of the settlement. Construction would take place for up to 13 months. Construction noise may reduce relative tranquillity within the village.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established but Friston House Wood and Grove Wood would partially enclose the Amendment to the Kiln Lane Substation scenario. Some perception of the proposed structures on the skyline would remain from the village edge, affecting its rural setting, in the context of the existing substation that would have been built under a separate consent.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is not significant.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in further integrating the proposed substation into the landscape. Some perception of the proposed structures on the skyline would remain from the village edge, affecting its rural setting.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.55: LLCA 03 Friston – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 03 Friston				Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Substation			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 03 relates to the village of Friston, 5km southeast of Saxmundham and 6km northwest of Aldeburgh. The B1121 runs through the centre of the village, joining those two towns. The village is surrounded by farmland, both arable and livestock. There is a large, private woodland in the north east corner and the accessible Knodishall Whin, in the south east.	No	SBIS County Wildlife site: Knodishall Whin	Woodland at Friston House defines the northern edge of the village. Knodishall Whin, which is an SBIS County Wildlife Site, lies to the south.	St Mary's Church dates back to the Norman period with the main body of the church dating back to the 14th century. Friston post mill was built in 1812 and is the tallest of its type in England and is a prominent local landmark.	Knodishall Whin is a managed wildlife site. There are several large houses and estates with well looked after grounds within the village. Fristonwood House has a sizeable woodland.	Friston's name is recorded in the Domesday Book as Frisetuna and seems to come from Anglo-Saxon Frīsa tūn, meaning 'the farmstead of the Frisians'. Freston is an alternative name for the parish. The village has an open garden day in the summer.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This LLCA is of the Estate Sandlands typology.</p> <p>Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils, overlying drift deposits of either glacial or fluvial origin.</p> <p>Also typical in this typology and seen in Friston is a high incidence of relatively late, estate type, brick buildings, including Friston House and its adjoining woodland.</p> <p>Knodishall Whin is in the south eastern corner of the LCA and is an SBIS County Wildlife Site.</p> <p>The village almost divided into two halves, with a large green and meadow in the centre where the main roads intersect.</p>	Friston is a quiet village, remote from other settlement with a large central green and houses of mixed eras, some historic and some of the late 20th century construction. Grove Road, a quiet lane runs through it and is narrow and bound by hedges, adding to the rural character.	The Sandlings Walk long-distance promoted route passes by the northern edge of the settlement. Many PRowers in the village reaching out to the surrounding countryside. The village has a village hall, pub and two churches and a playground on the large central green.	LLCA 03 is close to the Suffolk Heritage Coast and is likely to support local tourism.	Views across The Green and the meadow to the church contribute to the sense of place. Most routes in the village are narrow, hedgerow lined country lanes. Open views to the surrounding countryside to the west and south include detractors including pig farming and overhead power lines to the north.	The village is small, rural and relatively tranquil, though it is cut through by the B1121 which is a route to the coast. To the north east is Grove Road, a Quiet Lane which runs out into the surrounding countryside. The narrow hedgerow lined country lanes give a pleasing sense of enclosure and tranquillity. The pig farming to the west and south is a detractor from the feeling of peaceful countryside surroundings.	Knodishall Whin is an SBIS County Wildlife Site and Friston House Wood is a large private woodland. The green infrastructure network surrounding the village is spare, mostly comprising hedgerows with mature trees and some woodland.

Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Friston is a remote and relatively quiet rural village, with a designated quiet lane and scenic views across the village green. Tranquillity is adversely affected by the B1121 cutting through the centre and proximity to overhead power lines to the north. Knodishall Whin and Friston Wood House add biodiversity value. Recreational value comes from the large, central green, and PRowWs, including a long distance trail which passes by the northern edge of the settlement. The village is not covered by any landscape designations but falls within the setting of the National Landscape.	LLCA 03 is not a host landscape. It lies 250m from the Draft Order Limits at the closest point and less than 1km away from the centre of Friston village. Characteristics that would be particularly susceptible to change include the tranquillity of the small village; scenic views across the centre of the village; the rural character with hedgerow lined quiet lanes.	The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.

Table 1.56:LLCA 03 Friston - assessment of effects

LLCA 03 Friston	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
There would be no physical changes to the landscape of LLCA 03. Construction of the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario would take place less than 1km from the centre of LLCA 03 and 0.25 km from the northern edge. In this scenario, the draft Order Limits would meet the northern border of this LLCA and enter the LLCA alongside Friston House Wood as potential access routes may be located there, though they are not the preferred routes. Intervening woodland would provide some enclosure, but large areas would be exposed, especially from the north east of the settlement. Construction would take place for 18 to 24 months. Construction of a haul road 0.4km outside this LLCA to the east (preferred route) of this LLCA, and work to the existing overhead powerlines north of the settlement would strengthen the presence of industrial infrastructure around the settlement and negatively affect its rural character and scenic quality. Construction noise may reduce relative tranquillity within the village.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against high magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established but Friston House Wood and Grove Wood would partially enclose the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario. Some perception of the proposed structures on the skyline would remain from the village edge, affecting its rural setting.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in further integrating the proposed substation into the landscape. Some perception of the proposed structures on the skyline would remain from the village edge, affecting its rural setting.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.57: LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands			Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands		L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A and B1 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 04 covers an area of mainly arable farmland, surrounding Knodishall and stretching to the B1119 and to the western residential developments of Leiston. There are many blocks of semi-natural woodland scattered throughout the area and hedgerow trees are ubiquitous. Most of the fields are large and rectilinear but some are smaller and follow a more historic pattern with accompanying winding lanes, contributing to the rural character. Knodishall village and the Hundred River are in the centre of this area.	No	No	Hundred River	Grade II listed buildings in Knodishall including the Church of St Lawrence and Knodishall Place. There is a Grade II listed First World War Memorial in the churchyard of St Lawrence. The disused Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary.	On the whole this area has been well maintained and has not experienced the regularisation of fields and impact of large agricultural buildings that other areas of the plateau claylands have. It retains a more historic and characterful landscape pattern with many long stretches of intact hedgerows.	The village of Knodishall and Parish of St Lawrence was historically closely connected with the other nearby villages of Coldfair Green and Aldringham. The parish of Buxlow was consolidated with Knodishall in 1721.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the Ancient estate claylands typology.</p> <p>The plateau landform means that the views are open and can be long. However, the comprehensive network of winding lanes, tall hedgerows and occasional blocks of woodland screening mean that other areas can be much more intimate.</p> <p>The B1119 runs along the top of the area into Leiston.</p> <p>New housing developments on the western edge of Leiston have replaced some arable fields.</p>	Knodishall is a pretty and tranquil village set amongst trees and private parkland. The area in general still has small field enclosure patterns, giving a strong sense of a typical rural scene.	There is a good network of walks around Knodishall and the Hundred River, and the village has a church, St Lawrence.	No notable tourism. Tourists on their way to the coast are likely to travel along the B1119.	The area in general is scenic and has open views over farmland interspersed with woodland backdrops and the course of the small Hundred River. Attractive views back to Knodishall and across the fields from the PRow network around the settlement. Less scenic as you are closer to the edges of Leiston. In the south of the area large pylons are detractors from the small scale rural scene.	A quiet and calm rural area with hedgerow lined winding country lanes giving a sense of enclosure and tranquillity. Grove Road on the western edge of the area is a Quiet Lane.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. Hundred River flows through this area and offers biodiversity and ecological connectivity. The old railway line (Aldeburgh Branch) offers linear ecological



Blocks of semi-natural woodland scattered throughout the area are made up of oak, ash, field maple, hornbeam and small-leaved lime.  The village of Knodishall is in the centre of the area, with a narrow, winding street, a church and some large historic homes including Knodishall Hall, which sits along the Hundred River.						connectivity through its vegetated sides.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	A characterful and scenic rural landscape with listed buildings, country lanes and intact hedgerows linking woodlands. Further ecological value comes from the Hundred River and the disused Aldeburgh Branch railway line. A tranquil, calm area with limited development beyond an attractive village and isolated residences. The presence of large overhead power lines are dominant in the south and reduce the value from high to medium.		The area is not a host landscape, though the Draft Order Limits for the proposed Underground HVAC Cables and the Kiln Lane Substation is approximately 400m from the western boundary of the LLCA. Features more susceptible to change include the small scale field enclosures and hedgerow boundaries, the linear connectivity of vegetation along the old railway line and alongside the Hundred River. The quiet rural character and tranquillity would also be susceptible. Less susceptible would be the scattered blocks of woodland, which offer screening potential and the existing detractors of the overhead power lines in the south.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.58:LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands - assessment of effects

LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
LLCA 04 would not be physically impacted in the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario. There would be construction activity to the south of the LLCA with construction of a temporary haul road, and works to the existing overhead power lines, some of which would take place within this LLCA. There would also be some intervisibility with construction of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Route, the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Route and the proposed Converter Station. These activities would alter the setting and tranquillity of the area. Blocks of woodland and the low lying topography would limit perception across much of the area.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Blocks of existing woodland would limit intervisibility with the proposed Converter Station and the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, LLCA 04 would mostly have returned to its baseline character as proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.59: LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands		L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A and B1 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 04 covers an area of mainly arable farmland, surrounding Knodishall and stretching to the B1119 and to the western residential developments of Leiston. There are many blocks of semi-natural woodland scattered throughout the area and hedgerow trees are ubiquitous. Most of the fields are large and rectilinear but some are smaller and follow a more historic pattern with accompanying winding lanes, contributing to the rural character. Knodishall village and the Hundred River are in the centre of this area.	No	No	Hundred River	Grade II listed buildings in Knodishall including the Church of St Lawrence and Knodishall Place. There is a Grade II listed First World War Memorial in the churchyard of St Lawrence. The disused Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary.	On the whole this area has been well maintained and has not experienced the regularisation of fields and impact of large agricultural buildings that other areas of the plateau claylands have. It retains a more historic and characterful landscape pattern with many long stretches of intact hedgerows.	The village of Knodishall and Parish of St Lawrence was historically closely connected with the other nearby villages of Coldfair Green and Aldringham. The parish of Buxlow was consolidated with Knodishall in 1721.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the Ancient estate claylands typology.</p> <p>The plateau landform means that the views are open and can be long. However, the comprehensive network of winding lanes, tall hedgerows and occasional blocks of woodland screening mean that other areas can be much more intimate.</p> <p>The B1119 runs along the top of the area into Leiston.</p>	Knodishall is a pretty and tranquil village set amongst trees and private parkland. The area in general still has small field enclosure patterns, giving a strong sense of a typical rural scene.	There is a good network of walks around Knodishall and the Hundred River, and the village has a church, St Lawrence.	No notable tourism. Tourists on their way to the coast are likely to travel along the B1119.	The area in general is scenic and has open views over farmland interspersed with woodland backdrops and the course of the small Hundred River. Attractive views back to Knodishall and across the fields from the PRow network around the settlement. Less scenic as you are closer to the edges of Leiston. In the south of the area large pylons are detractors from the small scale rural scene.	A quiet and calm rural area with hedgerow lined winding country lanes giving a sense of enclosure and tranquillity. Grove Road on the western edge of the area is a Quiet Lane.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. Hundred River flows through this area and offers

<p>New housing developments on the western edge of Leiston have replaced some arable fields.</p> <p>Blocks of semi-natural woodland scattered throughout the area are made up of oak, ash, field maple, hornbeam and small-leaved lime.</p> <p>The village of Knodishall is in the centre of the area, with a narrow, winding street, a church and some large historic homes including Knodishall Hall, which sits along the Hundred River.</p>						<p>biodiversity and ecological connectivity. The old railway line (Aldeburgh Branch) offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides.</p>
<b>Valued landscape</b>	<b>Value</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>		<b>Sensitivity</b>	
<p>This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>A characterful and scenic rural landscape with listed buildings, country lanes and intact hedgerows linking woodlands. Further ecological value comes from the Hundred River and the disused Aldeburgh Branch railway line. A tranquil, calm area with limited development beyond an attractive village and isolated residences. The presence of large overhead power lines are dominant in the south and reduce the value from high to medium.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The area is not a host landscape, though the Draft Order Limits for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor and the Kiln Lane Substation is approximately 400m from the western boundary of the LLCA. Features more susceptible to change include the small scale field enclosures and hedgerow boundaries, the linear connectivity of vegetation along the old railway line and alongside the Hundred River. The quiet rural character and tranquillity would also be susceptible. Less susceptible would be the scattered blocks of woodland, which offer screening potential and the existing detractors of the overhead power lines in the south.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.</p>

Table 1.60:LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands - assessment of effects

LLCA 04 Knodishall claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
LLCA 04 would be physically impacted by construction of the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario. There would be construction activity to the south of the LLCA with construction of a temporary haul road, and works to the existing overhead power lines, some of which would take place within this LLCA. There would also be some intervisibility with construction of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Route, the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Route and the proposed Converter Station. These activities would alter the setting and tranquillity of the area. Blocks of woodland and the low lying topography would limit perception across much of the area.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Blocks of existing woodland would limit intervisibility with the proposed Converter Station and the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, LLCA 04 would mostly have returned to its baseline character as proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .



Table 1.61: LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands				Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	Northern Route option of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands, Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A, B1 and B2 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 05 is a large area immediately east of Saxmundham, bound by the old railway line to the north, and the B1121 to the south. Arable fields over sandy and free draining soils. Late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges, fields often large and regularised. Woodland belts and coverts are a consistent feature. This is a sparsely settled area with isolated farms and some large estate style houses.	No	No	Woodland blocks	The old Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary. There are various listed buildings across the area, mainly estate style buildings and farms, including the Grade II listed Buxlow Manor.	This landscape has been subject to change from field regularisation and accompanying large agricultural buildings, to an intrusion of suburbanisation with horse paddocks and barn conversions. Some smaller fields and old hedgerow boundaries do remain, as do good condition woodland blocks, regularly scattered across the area.	No notable associations. An area historically related to agriculture and sparsely settled with large estate houses.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the typology of Ancient estate claylands and Rolling estate sandlands.</p> <p>Woodland in the form of belts, coverts and plantations are a consistent feature throughout these landscapes and is a reflection of its late enclosure character.</p> <p>Straight hedgerows between arable fields many of which are large and regularised.</p> <p>Settlement is mainly in the form of isolated farms, though there are some hamlets and clusters of housing along quieter roads.</p>	A typical rural scene of modern agriculture on clayland plateaux. Distinctive in a wider context but less so in a local one.	Horse paddocks, an escape room, a Christmas tree farm.	Low key tourism through holiday cottage rentals. Tourists would be using the B1119, passing through the area to access the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Long open views over the plateau towards the coast, broken up by woodland blocks. The dome of Sizewell B can be seen on a clear day. A generally uncluttered and rural scene, though large pylons in the south degrade the views and can be seen from a great distance.	The area is mainly quiet, with some remote feeling narrow country lanes, though the B1119 and the noise of agricultural practices can break this tranquillity. Grove Road to the eastern edge of the area is a Quiet Lane. The presence of large pylons in the south distorts the sense of scale and detracts from the tranquil, rural perception.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. The old railway line offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides, often with mature trees.

The B1119 is an important route towards the coast and it runs along the northern part of the area.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	A medium value landscape with agricultural value and a mostly tranquil, rural character. Ecological value comes from woodland blocks and hedgerows. The landscape features areas that are scenic, with narrow country lanes or wide open views, but large agricultural buildings and the overhead powerlines in the south are detractors.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Converter Station, Proposed Underground Cable Corridor (all associated options)), converter station access road and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Features and characteristics susceptible to change would include: the linear ecological features (hedgerows and vegetation along the railway line); the open and far reaching views; the tranquil and rural character.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.62: LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands - assessment of effects

LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LLCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, proposed Converter Station, proposed Access Road, Proposed Underground HVAC Proposed Cable Corridor (both the North and South options) and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). LLCA 05 is the host landscape for the proposed Converter Station and construction would result in extensive changes across a large part of the area. This would include the establishment of construction compounds, access tracks, earthworks reprofiling and the construction of buildings and structures, with tall plant across the skyline. Construction activity relating to the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the access road over the River Fromus, part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios) would also affect LLCA 05. Large areas of arable land would be displaced, some vegetation including mature trees would be removed and there would be a reduction in relative tranquillity across much of the area. Lighting of the works at night would extend the influence of construction across the wider landscape.</p> <p>The above applies to: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (North option) The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The introduction of the 26m high proposed Converter Station, and the 16m high Kiln Lane Substation (the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario) and associated structures would transform the character of LLCA 05 from a rural landscape to one dominated by energy infrastructure. Earthworks around the western and northern sides of the proposed Converter Station would assist in integrating the proposed buildings into the landscape, reducing the apparent mass of the buildings into the landscape and its impact on local skylines. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation and there would be some scarring of the land where construction compounds and other temporary facilities were located.</p> <p>The above applies to: Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and Both scenarios for the Kiln Lane Substation.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the very high magnitude of impact would result in major adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the proposed Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape. The height of the proposed Converter Station relative to the surrounding ground means that it would remain a prominent feature in the landscape and on local skylines, although the active parts of the site within the security fence would be predominantly enclosed. The proposed planting would also contribute to enhancing the biodiversity and green infrastructure of the landscape, enhancing connectivity and amenity. Large scale changes compared to the baseline situation would remain.</p> <p>The above relates to all of the following: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (North option) The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the high magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>significant</b>.</p> <p>This acknowledges the permanent change to the landscape character from the addition of the Proposed Scheme, whilst recognising the benefits to ecology and community connectivity that have been provided by the proposed mitigation measures.</p>

Table 1.63:LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands				Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation	Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands, Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A, B1 and B2 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 05 is a large area immediately east of Saxmundham, bound by the old railway line to the north, and the B1121 to the south. Arable fields over sandy and free draining soils. Late enclosure with a p ttern of tree belts and straight hedges, fields often large and regularised. Woodland belts and coverts are a consistent feature. This is a sparsely settled area with isolated farms and some large estate style houses.	No	No	Woodland blocks	The old Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary. There are various listed buildings across the area, mainly estate style buildings and farms, including the Grade II listed Buxlow Manor.	This landscape has been subject to change from field regularisation and accompanying large agricultural buildings, to an intrusion of suburbanisation with horse paddocks and barn conversions. Some smaller fields and old hedgerow boundaries do remain, as do good condition woodland blocks, regularly scattered across the area.	No notable associations. An area historically related to agriculture and sparsely settled with large estate houses.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the typology of Ancient estate claylands and Rolling estate sandlands.</p> <p>Woodland in the form of belts, coverts and plantations are a consistent feature throughout these landscapes and is a reflection of its late enclosure character.</p> <p>Straight hedgerows between arable fields many of which are large and regularised.</p> <p>Settlement is mainly in the form or isolated farms, though there are some hamlets and</p>	A typical rural scene of modern agriculture on clayland plateaux. Distinctive in a wider context but less so in a local one.	Horse paddocks, an escape room, a Christmas tree farm.	Low key tourism through holiday cottage rentals. Tourists would be using the B1119, passing through the area to access the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Long open views over the plateau towards the coast, broken up by woodland blocks. The dome of Sizewell B can be seen on a clear day. A generally uncluttered and rural scene, though large pylons in the south degrade the views and can be seen from a great distance.	The area is mainly quiet, with some remote feeling narrow country lanes, though the B1119 and the noise of agricultural practices can break this tranquillity. Grove Road to the eastern edge of the area is a Quiet Lane. The presence of large pylons in the south distorts the sense of scale and detracts from the tranquil, rural perception.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. The old railway line offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides, often with mature trees.

clusters of housing along quieter roads.  The B1119 is an important route towards the coast and it runs along the northern part of the area.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	A medium value landscape with agricultural value and a mostly tranquil, rural character. Ecological value comes from woodland blocks and hedgerows. The landscape features areas that are scenic, with narrow country lanes or wide open views, but large agricultural buildings and the overhead powerlines in the south are detractors.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Converter Station, Proposed Underground HVAC Cables, Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), converter station access road and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Features and characteristics susceptible to change would include: the linear ecological features (hedgerows and vegetation along the railway line); the open and far reaching views; the tranquil and rural character.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	



Table 1.64:LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands - assessment of effects

LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LLCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cables, Proposed Converter Station, Proposed Access Road, Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options) and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). LLCA 05 is the host landscape for the proposed Converter Station and construction would result in extensive changes across a large part of the area. This would include the establishment of construction compounds, access tracks, earthworks reprofiling and the construction of buildings and structures, with tall plant across the skyline. Construction activity relating to the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the access road over the River Fromus, part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios) would also affect LLCA 05. Large areas of arable land would be displaced, some vegetation including mature trees would be removed and there would be a reduction in relative tranquillity across much of the area. Lighting of the works at night would extend the influence of construction across the wider landscape.</p> <p>The above applies to: Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The introduction of the 26m high proposed Converter Station, and the 16m high Kiln Lane Substation (the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario) and associated structures would transform the character of LLCA 05 from a rural landscape to one dominated by energy infrastructure. Earthworks around the western and northern sides of the proposed Converter Station would assist in integrating the proposed buildings into the landscape, reducing the apparent mass of the buildings into the landscape and its impact on local skylines. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation and there would be some scarring of the land where construction compounds and other temporary facilities were located.</p> <p>The above applies to: Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the very high magnitude of impact would result in major adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the proposed Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape. The height of the proposed Converter Station relative to the surrounding ground means that it would remain a prominent feature in the landscape and on local skylines, although the active parts of the site within the security fence would be predominantly enclosed. The proposed planting would also contribute to enhancing the biodiversity and green infrastructure of the landscape, enhancing connectivity and amenity. Large scale changes compared to the baseline situation would remain.</p> <p>The above relates to all of the following: Southern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the high magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>significant</b>.</p> <p>This acknowledges the permanent change to the landscape character from the addition of the Proposed Scheme, whilst recognising the benefits to ecology and community connectivity that have been provided by the proposed mitigation measures.</p>

Table 1.65: LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option		
LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation	Northern Route option of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands, Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A, B1 and B2 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 05 is a large area immediately east of Saxmundham, bound by the old railway line to the north, and the B1121 to the south. Arable fields over sandy and free draining soils. Late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges, fields often large and regularised. Woodland belts and coverts are a consistent feature. This is a sparsely settled area with isolated farms and some large estate style houses.	No	No	Woodland blocks	The old Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary. There are various listed buildings across the area, mainly estate style buildings and farms, including the Grade II listed Buxlow Manor.	This landscape has been subject to change from field regularisation and accompanying large agricultural buildings, to an intrusion of suburbanisation with horse paddocks and barn conversions. Some smaller fields and old hedgerow boundaries do remain, as do good condition woodland blocks, regularly scattered across the area.	No notable associations. An area historically related to agriculture and sparsely settled with large estate houses.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the typology of Ancient estate claylands and Rolling estate sandlands.</p> <p>Woodland in the form of belts, coverts and plantations are a consistent feature throughout these landscapes and is a reflection of its late enclosure character.</p> <p>Straight hedgerows between arable fields many of which are large and regularised.</p> <p>Settlement is mainly in the form of isolated farms, though there are some hamlets and clusters of housing along quieter roads.</p>	A typical rural scene of modern agriculture on clayland plateaux. Distinctive in a wider context but less so in a local one.	Horse paddocks, an escape room, a Christmas tree farm.	Low key tourism through holiday cottage rentals. Tourists would be using the B1119, passing through the area to access the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Long open views over the plateau towards the coast, broken up by woodland blocks. The dome of Sizewell B can be seen on a clear day. A generally uncluttered and rural scene, though large pylons in the south degrade the views and can be seen from a great distance.	The area is mainly quiet, with some remote feeling narrow country lanes, though the B1119 and the noise of agricultural practices can break this tranquillity. Grove Road to the eastern edge of the area is a Quiet Lane. The presence of large pylons in the south distorts the sense of scale and detracts from the tranquil, rural perception.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. The old railway line offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides, often with mature trees.

The B1119 is an important route towards the coast and it runs along the northern part of the area.					
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity		
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium A medium value landscape with agricultural value and a mostly tranquil, rural character. Ecological value comes from woodland blocks and hedgerows. The landscape features areas that are scenic, with narrow country lanes or wide open views, but large agricultural buildings and the overhead powerlines in the south are detractors.	Medium This area is a host landscape for the proposed Converter Station, Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (northern route option), proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), proposed Converter Station access road and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Features and characteristics susceptible to change would include: the linear ecological features (hedgerows and vegetation along the railway line); the open and far reaching views; the tranquil and rural character.	Medium The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.		

Table 1.66:LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands – assessment of effects

LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LLCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, proposed Converter Station, proposed Access Road, proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options) and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). LLCA 05 is the host landscape for the proposed Converter Station and construction would result in extensive changes across a large part of the area. This would include the establishment of construction compounds, access tracks, earthworks reprofiling and the construction of buildings and structures, with tall plant across the skyline. Construction activity relating to the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the access road over the River Fromus, part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios) would also affect LLCA 05. Large areas of arable land would be displaced, some vegetation including mature trees would be removed and there would be a reduction in relative tranquillity across much of the area. Lighting of the works at night would extend the influence of construction across the wider landscape.</p> <p>The above applies to: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (North option) Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The introduction of the 26m high proposed Converter Station, and the 16m high Kiln Lane Substation (the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario) and associated structures would transform the character of LLCA 05 from a rural landscape to one dominated by energy infrastructure. Earthworks around the western and northern sides of the proposed Converter Station would assist in integrating the proposed buildings into the landscape, reducing the apparent mass of the buildings into the landscape and its impact on local skylines. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation and there would be some scarring of the land where construction compounds and other temporary facilities were located.</p> <p>The above applies to:</p> <p>Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor Both Kiln Lane Substation scenarios.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the very high magnitude of impact would result in major adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the proposed Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape. The height of the proposed Converter Station relative to the surrounding ground means that it would remain a prominent feature in the landscape and on local skylines, although the active parts of the site within the security fence would be predominantly enclosed. The proposed planting would also contribute to enhancing the biodiversity and green infrastructure of the landscape, enhancing connectivity and amenity. Large scale changes compared to the baseline situation would remain.</p> <p>The above relates to all of the following: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (North option) The Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario.</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the high magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.67: LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands			Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation		Southern Route option of the Underground HVAC Cables	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Ancient estate claylands, Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A, B1 and B2 Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 05 is a large area immediately east of Saxmundham, bound by the old railway line to the north, and the B1121 to the south. Arable fields over sandy and free draining soils. Late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges, fields often large and regularised. Woodland belts and coverts are a consistent feature. This is a sparsely settled area with isolated farms and some large estate style houses.	No	No	Woodland blocks	The old Aldeburgh Branch railway line which used to go to the coast runs along the northern boundary. There are various listed buildings across the area, mainly estate style buildings and farms, including the Grade II listed Buxlow Manor.	This landscape has been subject to change from field regularisation and accompanying large agricultural buildings, to an intrusion of suburbanisation with horse paddocks and barn conversions. Some smaller fields and old hedgerow boundaries do remain, as do good condition woodland blocks, regularly scattered across the area.	No notable associations. An area historically related to agriculture and sparsely settled with large estate houses.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the typology of Ancient estate claylands and Rolling estate sandlands.</p> <p>Woodland in the form of belts, coverts and plantations are a consistent feature throughout these landscapes and is a reflection of its late enclosure character.</p> <p>Straight hedgerows between arable fields many of which are large and regularised.</p> <p>Settlement is mainly in the form of isolated farms, though there are some hamlets and</p>	A typical rural scene of modern agriculture on clayland plateaux. Distinctive in a wider context but less so in a local one.	Horse paddocks, an escape room, a Christmas tree farm.	Low key tourism through holiday cottage rentals. Tourists would be using the B1119, passing through the area to access the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Long open views over the plateau towards the coast, broken up by woodland blocks. The dome of Sizewell B can be seen on a clear day. A generally uncluttered and rural scene, though large pylons in the south degrade the views and can be seen from a great distance.	The area is mainly quiet, with some remote feeling narrow country lanes, though the B1119 and the noise of agricultural practices can break this tranquillity. Grove Road to the eastern edge of the area is a Quiet Lane. The presence of large pylons in the south distorts the sense of scale and detracts from the tranquil, rural perception.	Woodland copses and coverts, often in plantation style are frequent and offer biodiversity value both locally and as stepping stones for wildlife. Ecological connectivity is given from many long lines of hedgerows which are often in good quality and link the woodlands. The old railway line offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides,



clusters of housing along quieter roads.  The B1119 is an important route towards the coast and it runs along the northern part of the area.						often with mature trees.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		Medium		Medium	
	A medium value landscape with agricultural value and a mostly tranquil, rural character. Ecological value comes from woodland blocks and hedgerows. The landscape features areas that are scenic, with narrow country lanes or wide open views, but large agricultural buildings and the overhead powerlines in the south are detractors.		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Converter Station, Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both the Western and Eastern options), proposed Converter Station access road and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). Features and characteristics susceptible to change would include: the linear ecological features (hedgerows and vegetation along the railway line); the open and far reaching views; the tranquil and rural character.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.68:LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands – assessment of effects

LLCA 05 Saxmundham east claylands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This LLCA would be physically affected by construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor, proposed Converter Station, proposed Access Road, proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (both the North and South options) and the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios). LLCA 05 is the host landscape for the proposed Converter Station and construction would result in extensive changes across a large part of the area. This would include the establishment of construction compounds, access tracks, earthworks reprofiling and the construction of buildings and structures, with tall plant across the skyline. Construction activity relating to the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor, the access road over the River Fromus, part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and part of the Kiln Lane Substation (both scenarios) would also affect LLCA 05. Large areas of arable land would be displaced, some vegetation including mature trees would be removed and there would be a reduction in relative tranquillity across much of the area. Lighting of the works at night would extend the influence of construction across the wider landscape.</p> <p>The above applies to: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (South option) The Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>The introduction of the 26m high proposed Converter Station, and the 16m high Kiln Lane Substation (the Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario) and associated structures would transform the character of LLCA 05 from a rural landscape to one dominated by energy infrastructure. Earthworks around the western and northern sides of the proposed Converter Station would assist in integrating the proposed buildings into the landscape, reducing the apparent mass of the buildings into the landscape and its impact on local skylines. Proposed planting to provide landscape integration, habitat and visual screening would not yet be established. Along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor gaps would remain in vegetation and there would be some scarring of the land where construction compounds and other temporary facilities were located.</p> <p>The above applies to: Both the North and South options for the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor; and Both Kiln Lane Substation Scenarios</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the very high magnitude of impact would result in major adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
High	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the proposed Converter Station and the proposed Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario into the landscape. The height of the proposed Converter Station relative to the surrounding ground means that it would remain a prominent feature in the landscape and on local skylines, although the active parts of the site within the security fence would be predominantly enclosed. The proposed planting would also contribute to enhancing the biodiversity and green infrastructure of the landscape, enhancing connectivity and amenity. Large scale changes compared to the baseline situation would remain.</p> <p>The above relates to all of the following: Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor (South option) The Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation scenario</p>	<p>The medium sensitivity assessed against the high magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.69:LLCA 06 River Fromus valley meadowlands - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 06 River Fromus valley meadowlands				Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Valley meadowlands, Rolling estate sandlands, Ancient estate claylands			B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme				
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Proposed Converter Station				
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape						
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage		Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 06 encompasses the area directly south of Saxmundham, following the valley of the River Fromus, alongside Hurts Hall and past the village of Sternfield, with Benhall (in LLCA 07) past the western border. The former Hurtshall Park has now mostly been converted to arable land use. The centre of the area is more wooded and features the winding River Fromus in a more natural form. Further south the area is dominated by arable farming and a series of peaty bottomed fishing lakes, and two SBIS county wildlife sites are in the area.	No	SBIS County Wildlife sites: Benhall Green Meadows, Manor Farm Meadows, Ancient Woodland: Hurtshall Park and 1 x unnamed area of woodland around Hurtshall Park	River Fromus	Grade II listed Hurts Hall and surrounding parkland now in arable use. Commercial nursery tree planting Grade II listed St Mary Magdalen Church Sternfield. Various listed residential buildings in Sternfield including Sternfield Hall.		The landscaped parkland and plantation between Sternfield and Saxmundham give the area a well managed, manicured feel. Further south the area feels more natural with dense areas of woodland and the mainly inaccessible River Fromus which may benefit from some management as it is very shaded in areas. Recent works on Benhall Green Meadows have extended an area of fen meadow habitat.	Senior members of the Royal Family stayed at Sternfield Hall on occasion in the 60s and 70's. Both the Queen and Queen Mother attended the Church of St Mary Magdalene at Sternfield.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)		Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>The northern part of this LLCA, immediately south of Saxmundham features Hurts Hall and the surrounding arable land use which was the former Hurtshall Park.</p> <p>There is an area of plantation tree planting for commercial nursery use south of Hurts Hall along the western valley side.</p> <p>The valley bottom is well-wooded around the villages of Sternfield and Benhall.</p>	A varied, and distinctive landscape. The area along the valley has a contrasting character from the grand landscape of Hurts Hall to the uniform willow plantation, to the country lanes in and around Sternfield which are narrow, treelined and feel very rural. The River Fromus and its winding path and adjacent woodland and arable use is the dominant feel of the area. The newly created area of fenland at Benhall Green Meadows consolidates this natural, wildlife focussed feel. The valley then	The River has poor access and there is limited recreational offer in this character area beside the fishing lakes and some walking routes around Manor Farm Meadows..	There is a large caravan site at Marsh Farm next to the fishing lakes. Tourism limited otherwise.	The grounds of Hurts Hall scenically enhance the southern approach to the Saxmundham along with the church which is seen on higher land behind. Sternfield is an attractive small hamlet with a picturesque church on raised ground. The River Fromus, flowing over a sandy bed is picturesque but not readily accessed. It can be glimpsed from various crossings.		The northern half of this character area feels highly managed and connected to Saxmundham. Further south the area feels more natural and tranquil with dense areas of woodland, fenland and the River Fromus which is not easily accessed and has a wild, untamed feel to it. Further south the area is more open, with fishing ponds,	This varied landscape has high functional value through the mosaic of valley habitats, including woodland, parkland, nursery tree planting, and fenland. There are two SBIS county wildlife site designations, one of which has been newly

<p>Sternfield is an attractive small hamlet with a Grade II listed church, St Mary Magdalene occupying an elevated position on a country lane. There are several listed buildings in Sternfield.</p> <p>Giant geometrical stands of poplar at Sternfield and the ‘avenue’ of poplars along the river banks to the north have strong visual impact and distort the sense of scale in this small valley.</p> <p>The central part of this LLCA is not currently accessible and features the winding River Fromus, areas of woodland and the newly rewilded Benhall Green Meadows, an area of fen meadow habitat created as compensatory habitat for Sizewell C works with an SBIS Country Wildlife Site designation.</p> <p>The southern part of this character area is more arable and open, with a four large fishing lakes connected to the River Fromus and a caravan park.</p> <p>Benhall sewage works are in the south west corner of the LLCA with Manor Farm Meadows either side, an SBIS county wildlife site with public rights of way access.</p>	<p>opens out to arable farmland and fishing lakes in the south.</p>				<p>arable fields and a sewage works.</p>	<p>created. The River Fromus is important for ecological connectivity. It flows south east to join the Alde near Snape Watering.</p>
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>High</p> <p>A varied and generally well maintained landscape with large areas dedicated to wildlife habitats and a picturesque country village with notable church. The River Fromus and distinctive parkland of Hurts Hall add character, distinctiveness and scenic properties. Overall the value attributed to this landscape is high.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>The area is a host landscape for the permanent access route to the proposed Converter Station. Areas most susceptible to change include the northern part of the LLCA where there is open land with wide views towards Hurts Hall. The River Fromus and its related ecology and natural setting is also susceptible to change. The Hamlet of Sternfield and the lower reaches of the River Fromus are a little less susceptible to change due to the large areas of woodland which provide screening.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.70: LLCA 06 River Fromus valley meadowlands – assessment of effects

LLCA 06 River Fromus valley meadowlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would be physically affected by the construction of the access road over the River Fromus for the proposed Converter Station. The proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station would join the B1121 in this area, cutting across the parkland south of Hurts Hall. The low lying landscape and the removal of part of the existing plantation woodland and vegetation on the banks of the River Fromus would increase the openness of the landscape, adversely affecting tranquillity and the scenic qualities of the landscape. Whilst the B1121 is a busy road, construction vehicles increase the level of activity at this gateway to Saxmundham from the south. Mature woodland between the draft Order Limits and the hamlet of Sternfield further south would limit impacts on tranquillity during construction. The Church of St Mary Magdalen sits on higher ground and removal of the plantation woodland and vegetation on the banks of the River Fromus open up visual connections with the churchyard, affecting the rural character of the setting. The southern part of the LLCA would be much less affected as vegetation provides substantial screening. The SBIS county wildlife sites in the south would be unaffected.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
The permanent change addition of the access road and the bridge over the River Fromus would create a permanent break in the vegetation alongside the River Fromus. Some areas of vegetation that were cleared for construction would have been reinstated, but this planting would not yet be established, the landscape would be more open and the access road more exposed. The open landscape to the south of Hurts Hall reduce the sense of parkland character.	The high sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting would have established to assist with integrating the proposed Access Road into the landscape and would contribute to restoring habitat connectivity along the River Fromus.	The high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .



Table 1.71: LLCA 07 Saxmundham south sandlands and Benhall – baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 07 Saxmundham south sandlands and Benhall			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and O1 Benhall estate sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A Proposed Underground Cable Corridor and proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 07 stretches from Saxmundham's southern border to Benhall Green. The B1121 and railway line dissect the area and the A12 runs down the western border. An area of fields called The Layers is in the north of the area, and Benhall Lodge is just outside the area boundary to the south east. Around Kiln Lane there are blocks of woodland, mostly connected to each other with hedgerows.	No	Ancient Woodland: Stewarts Covert	Woodland blocks, belts and coverts Sandy free draining soil	Benhall Green has several listed buildings, mainly residential. The Layers is a historic area for agriculture closely connected to Saxmundham town.	Maintained arable fields and woodlands though some hedgerows are patchy.	For over 100 years, from 1831 – 1939, Saxmundham hosted the annual Suffolk Show a total of 14 times, often on The Layers, an open space to the immediate south.  The manor of Benhall was owned by many notable people including Henry VIII, the Lodge is just to the west of this area, on the other side of the A12.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is in the Rolling estate sandlands typology.</p> <p>This is mostly arable fields over sandy soil, broken up by transport links: the A12 to the western border, the railway line and the B1121.</p> <p>The landscape pattern of Rolling estate sandlands is of late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts, coverts and plantations and straight hedges, which can be seen here, particularly around Kiln Lane and Gray's Lane.</p> <p>Settlement is also common in this typology and this area has the village of Benhall Green. Just beyond this area to the south are a cluster of other villages.</p>	The presence of infrastructure through this area somewhat degrades a stronger sense of character and distinctiveness. It can feel like an entry/exit point to Saxmundham, though it does provide a scene setting value for the approach to Saxmundham. Off the main roads it feels quiet, wooded, small scale and characterful.	There is a village club in Benhall Green that offers a bar and function hall.	No notable tourism.	Key views approaching Saxmundham in this area are named in the town's Local Plan. Views across the B1121 from The Layers towards Hurts Hall are particularly scenic. The Layers offers a level of protection for rural views from the town where development may have otherwise encroached.	The A12 to the west, the B1121 though the centre, and the railway line disrupt and degrade an otherwise rural and tranquil area.	Hedgerows and various woodland coverts and bocks provide ecological value and connectivity, particularly given the proximity to the River Fromus in the neighbouring area. The railway line offers linear ecological connectivity through its vegetated sides, often with mature trees. Functional value from arable farming at the Layers. Scene setting function in the approach to the neighbouring settlement of Saxmundham.

The Layers, immediately south of Saxmundham, is a locally important area of fields which have been historically important for agriculture including for livestock shows.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium	A varied area with functional value from agriculture and linear ecological features. Scenic value as a setting for the entry point to Saxmundham and historic cultural value at The Layers, just south of Saxmundham. An overall value of medium.	Medium	The area is a host landscape for the permanent access route to the proposed Converter Station. The land to the sides of the B1121 in this area is susceptible to change as it is key to the views and perceptual scenic value of the approach to Saxmundham, with The Layers to the west and Hurts Hall to the right. This is a relatively flat and open landscape with hedgerow that is patchy. The area further south of this LLCA is less susceptible to change as it is relatively well screened by intervening vegetation and built form. The linear ecological features of hedgerows and vegetation alongside the roads and railway line are susceptible to change as their value lies in the strength of their intactness and connectivity.	Medium	The medium value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.

Table 1.72: LLCA 07 Saxmundham south sandlands and Benhall – assessment of effects

LLCA 07 Saxmundham south sandlands and Benhall	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
The majority of LLCA 07 would largely unaffected as dense intervening vegetation would limit perception. The proposed Access Road for the proposed Converter Station would join the B1121 in this area, cutting across the parkland south of Hurts Hall. The low lying landscape and the removal of part of the existing plantation woodland and vegetation on the banks of the River Fromus would increase the openness of the landscape, adversely affecting tranquillity and the scenic qualities of the landscape. Whilst the B1121 is a busy road, construction vehicles increase the level of activity at this gateway to Saxmundham from the south.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be very limited impact on this character area. Adverse impacts would result from the permanent addition of the access road, which would join the B1121, crossing the parkland to the south of Hurts Hall.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is not significant.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting to replace lost boundaries during construction, and additional proposed planting for mitigation, screening and setting would have established to restrict intervisibility with the proposed Converter Station.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.73: LLCA 08 Saxmundham – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 08 Saxmundham				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths and NCA 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands		Rolling estate claylands, Ancient estate claylands, Rolling estate sandlands		B3 Yox Valley and L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands and O1 Benhall estate sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section A and B1 Adjacent to proposed Converter Station			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 08, Saxmundham is located on the eastern side of the A12. The town has a historic core and conservation area with many listed buildings. Significant residential development extends east and north-west. The built form is comprised predominantly of residential buildings, with more varied use closer to the railway station and large commercial buildings to the eastern edge. The road network is irregular in pattern. There are recreational spaces at Memorial Field in the west, and Mayflower Play Area	No	National Cycle Network Route 41, Conservation area, Part of Carlton Park, Registered Park and Garden, Ancient Woodland: Lodge Plantation	River Fromus runs through the town.	The historic core is covered by a conservation area designation and the town has number of listed buildings including the Grade II listed St John The Baptist Church.	The town is in good condition with well maintained streets in the centre and in the newer residential areas.	Evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Saxon settlement. The town has long played a role as a market town and as a transport link. The town had a livestock market until 1977. During WWII, in land, the countryside was defended with a series of ‘stop line’ defences and defended nodal points, which crossed the entire county in a linear direction west from the coast. Larger villages or towns with a convergence of four or five major roads or river crossings became ‘nodal’ points, heavily defended with pill boxes, associated earthworks and various roadblocks. Saxmundham was a main nodal point. Artists known in the area include Maggie Hambling.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
Land use is predominantly residential throughout, with some educational uses and the majority of retail or commercial	Saxmundham is a characterful town set in a rural landscape, with attractive buildings in the historic core and a variety of independent	National Cycle Route 41 begins in the centre of this character area.	Hospitality and accommodation based tourism in this town which serves as a	Attractive historic buildings and narrow winding streets and a well maintained environment make Saxmundham a pretty town. To	There are quiet pockets to the north east along the River Fromus but in general it is a bustling	The Fromus and some green space on its banks runs along the North East corner offer

<p>use east of the station, along the High Street and Church Street.</p> <p>Saxmundham has a conservation area and number of listed buildings, most of which are east of the railway line along the length of the High Street.</p> <p>Significant 20th and 21st residential development has occurred west of the railway line, with an informal layout of cul-de-sacs, along with a new housing development along the eastern edge.</p> <p>The junction between the A12 and B1119 west of Saxmundham forms the primary thoroughfare into the town, and the B1121 being a key gateway at the north and south.</p> <p>The railway station is in the centre of the town with a level crossing intersecting at Mill Road and also at Station Approach next to the station.</p> <p>Detached and semi-detached two to three storey dwellings form the majority of the residential areas, with bungalows along Saxon Road and some three storey buildings along the High Street.</p> <p>There are recreational spaces at Memorial Field in the west, and Mayflower Play Area. There are walks along and around the River Fromus in the centre of town along with roadside grassland in some areas. Saxmundham Sports and Recreation club sits just north of the town towards Kelsale.</p>	<p>businesses and a small weekly market.</p>	<p>There are recreational spaces at Memorial Field in the west, and Mayflower Play Area. There are walks along and around the River Fromus in the centre of town along with roadside grassland in some areas. Saxmundham Sports and Recreation club sits just north of the town towards Kelsale.</p>	<p>gateway by road and rail to the Suffolk Heritage Coast.</p>	<p>the north and south this is enhanced by glimpsed backdrops of parkland. Scenic qualities are degraded towards the eastern and western edges by the encroachment of development.</p>	<p>little town with activity on the main streets, and around the railway station and supermarkets. Residential areas are more tranquil.</p>	<p>ecological connectivity value. There are various mature trees around the town. The town has community functionality, with shops, services and a small weekly market. Their large supermarkets serve a role for a wider area of much smaller settlements.</p>
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The Church of St John the Baptist, on the eastern side of the River Fromus was recorded in the Domesday book and sits on the side of town that has the earliest origins.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape does not meet the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Medium		High		Medium	
	A medium value landscape area with characterful historic buildings in a conservation area, which serves as a gateway to the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Recreation, tourism and community value across the area. Scenic and ecological value from the River Fromus and its landscaped surroundings.		This area is not a host landscape, but it borders the Draft Order Limits and is less than a km from the proposed Converter Station. Characteristics particularly susceptible to change would be the relative tranquillity of the town, particularly the residential areas to the east; the setting of the town within rural surroundings, and its status as a gateway out to the countryside for access the coast; the River Fromus; the historic centre, its listed buildings, and St Johns Church.		The medium value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in medium sensitivity.	

Table 1.74: LLCA 08 Saxmundham - assessment of effects

LLCA 08 Saxmundham	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would not be physically affected by construction of the Proposed Scheme and there would be no perception of construction activity within the majority of the town. This is because the lower elevation of Saxmundham relative to the site of the proposed Converter Station, intervening built form and dense mature vegetation would limit intervisibility to the eastern edge. However, construction activity associated with the proposed Converter Station Site immediately to the east and the close proximity of the proposed Underground Cable Corridors would affect its setting. This would create a swathe of works extending out from the edge of Saxmundham at an important gateway from the east coast.	The medium sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
There would be no perception of the Proposed Scheme throughout the majority of LLCA 08. The introduction of the proposed Converter Station just outside the town to the east would represent a permanent, large scale change to the landscape setting of the town at an important gateway to the east coast. Proposed planting would not have yet established to integrate the proposed buildings into the landscape. As a consequence, the industrial infrastructure would form a substantial new addition to the skyline to the east.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the medium magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
By year 15 of operation, planting proposed within the site of the proposed Converter Station would have established, reducing the prominence of the buildings on the skyline and increasing the wooded setting of the town to the east. The increase in habitats and connectivity would enhance the green infrastructure of LLCA 08, strengthening links with the wider landscape.	The medium sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is not significant.

Table 1.75: LLCA 09 Walberswick Sandlings – baseline

Name		Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option					
LLCA 09 Walberswick Sandlings		Both	All					
Hierarchy			National Character Area	County Character Area	District Character Area			
Local			NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths	Estate sandlands, Open coastal fens	K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands and D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes			
Source		Part of Proposed Scheme						
Defined by the Applicant		Section C3 and D Close to Landfall						
Summary			Determining the value attached to the landscape					
			Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscapes condition	Associations
LLCA 09 covers a large, intact area of the Suffolk Sandlings, part of the Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes. The area is under multiple designations for wildlife and habitats including Ramsar. A highly scenic area with multiple access routes for recreation and a long distance trail and areas of sheep grazing. An area almost absent of human development with only occasional isolated residences.			The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Cycle Network Route 42	Sandlings landscape with a mixture of lower acid grassland and mature wooded areas. Under multiple designations including Ramsar.	Suffolk’s coast is a nationally and regionally significant Second World War historic landscape due to the presence of anti-invasion defences. WWII military defence remnants in this area include a 'Suffolk Square' pillbox next to the footpath south of Hoist Covert along with its rare associated earthworks. The north of the area	Very good. Sheep grazing in places. A managed landscape. Encroachment of bracken and birch in contained areas. Part of the Sandlings habitat which is now rare and fragmented.	The Suffolk Sandlings were a vast unbroken heathland stretching along the Suffolk coast. This is one of the largest remaining fragments. The light sandy soils made them relatively economically unviable and so they were used for rabbit warren and sheep walks but have been encroached on mainly by agriculture in the last 100 years and 80% has been lost. e.(Ref: 25/03/2025

				around Tinkers Walks and Hill Covert has several Tumuli.		<a href="https://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/promoted-trails/sandlings-walk/">https://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/promoted-trails/sandlings-walk/</a> ). Many birds and flowers are unique to this landscape. 'East Sheep Walk' in this area across the common and along Sallow Walk Covert refers to this history. A Suffolk Square pill-box and dug out earthworks just south of Hoist Covert is a reminder of the areas vulnerability and defensive history during WWII. Tinkers Walks run through this area and refers to a local ghost story.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This character area is mostly lowland heath, a landscape typified by scattered trees and shrubs, bracken, gorse, open areas of acid grassland, lichens and wet heaths closer to the river. Only 8% of these the Sandlings heaths remain.</p> <p>Presence of grazing sheep, rabbits and numerous species of bird.</p>	Highly distinctive, and nationally rare lowland heath habitat typical of the area with	Long distance trail The Sandlings Walk runs through the area.	Very high nature related tourism value. Long distance trail The Sandlings Walk follows the traces of this	Highly scenic and unique landscape encompassi	Very high. Remote, tranquil, otherworl	Very high functional value for ecology. Sheep

<p>This LLCA is over a part of the Sandlings that demonstrates a good intact relationship between a wet habitat (fens) and dryer heathland which is important to its composition and rare in the remaining Sandlings (In the Sandlings 85% of heathland is designated as an SSSI and most are also SPA and SAC.).</p> <p>This LLCA also covers a one of the best and most intact areas of this Sandlings heathland.</p> <p>Agricultural fields break it up but less so than in other areas of Suffolk. Sheep graze on some parts of the heath.</p> <p>Lodge Road runs through this area and there are a few isolated residences and a two small public carparks giving access to the various walks including long distance trail the Sandlings Walk.</p> <p>The area has some WWII defensive relics and some historic tumuli.</p>	<p>gorse, grasslands, birch and pine on a sandy soil. Area intermittently more open and densely wooded.</p>	<p>National Cycle trail 42 runs through the south western corner of this character area. Bridleways cross through.</p> <p>Birdwatching and walking are the main recreational activities but horse-riding and cycling also take place.</p>	<p>specific landscape. Many other walking routes and bridleways in this area. There are two small carparks which support access to walks in the area.</p>	<p>ng a mosaic of acid grassland, lowland heath, wooded areas of birch pine and bracken with sandy paths. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>	<p>dly. High sense of wildness.</p>	<p>grazing in places. Heath and acid grassland habitat important for biodiversity.</p>
<b>Valued landscape</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>			
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>A very high value landscape with multiple opportunities for recreational walks and wildlife spotting through an ecologically sensitive and unique Sandlings habitat. The long distance Sandlings Walk is in this LLCA and is named for this specific landscape which has both historic and ecological value recognised by multiple designations. A tranquil, remote and scenic area with a distinct character.</p>	<p>Very high</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground HVDC Cables. Multiple features and characteristics would be susceptible to change, including: The sense of wildness and remoteness with little human activity and a focus on nature; the sense of tranquillity; the recreational opportunities though the space via active travel routes including the Sandlings Walk and bridleways. This LLCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level, and falls entirely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, underlining the presence of important qualities that would be susceptible to change.</p>	<p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>		



Table 1.76: LLCA 09 Walberswick Sandlings - assessment of effects

LLCA 09 Walberswick Sandlings	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would be directly affected by the construction of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor (both options). A 28m stretch of trenchless crossing would be drilled underneath East Sheep Walk, in order to protect the sensitive habitat above. Changes resulting from the intervisibility of the trenchless drilling rig and related construction compound, the open cut construction of the proposed Underground HDVC Cable Corridor and the proposed Landfall Site works are likely to temporarily adversely affect the tranquillity of the LLCA. This area has multiple PRoWs, the long distance Sandlings Walk and bridleways running through it, all of which would be disturbed in certain locations by this construction activity in the adjacent areas. The nature of the vegetation and the extent of this LLCA means that there are areas that would be much less affected and where the character would remain unchanged. Landscape connectivity for wildlife and recreation is integral to the character of LLCA 09 and the avoidance of physical impacts on this area through the use of a trenchless crossing means the impact on the area would be limited.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be limited impact on this character area. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident where there would be short gaps in hedgerows.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed replacement planting along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors would have established. Restrictions on tree planting within the easement means that there may be some difference compared to the baseline, although this would be barely perceptible.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.77: LLCA 10 Dunwich River open coastal fens – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 10 Dunwich River open coastal fens				Both	all	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Open coastal fens		D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section C3 and D Close to the proposed Landfall			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 10 covers the area of the Dunwich River and its surrounding marshes. It is bound by the higher land of Fen Hill to the south west and the salt marsh near the Blyth estuary harbour to the north east. The area is part of a National Nature Reserve, and the river and marshes are covered by multiple designations for wildlife and habitats.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve, SBIS County Wildlife site: Dunwich Forest, edge of, RSPB reserve	One of the UK's largest areas of reedbed. Wide area of connected marshes. A mosaic of habitats, important for bird nesting, under multiple designations including Ramsar.	Watermill, managed reedbeds and drainage ditches, some historic river flood defences	Very good. Well managed reedbeds, one of the largest in the UK, boardwalks and paths in good state recently replaced or resurfaced. Areas of sensitive marram grass habitat fenced off, clear signage informing public of the landscape and its sensitivity.	Navigable route connected to both Walberswick and Dunwich's history as thriving ports and locations for ship building.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
Dunwich River  Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve  Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and marshes  Corporation Marshes between Dunwich River and the dunes  Old town Marshes between Dunwich River and the higher land inland  Point Marsh  Westwood Marshes, a large area of Marshes north of Dunwich River.	Highly distinctive landscape of natural river and floodplain with managed areas of reedbeds and drainage.	The open access land of the saltmarsh, dunes, pathways through reedbeds and along the river and marshes offer multiple recreational opportunities. Walking, birdwatching, kayaking, beach activities. Beach huts for recreational use. The Suffolk Coast path runs through this area.	A caravan site is located in this LLCA. Popular waking routes including the King Charles III England Coast Path. Visitors to the beach and inland for birdwatching and walking. Beach huts for tourist use.	Very high. Juxtaposition of different landscape features that change with the seasons and tides. Landscape accentuated by the presence of wildlife and attractive backdrops in all directions. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Large area of natural and semi natural habitat, with an absence of development and human activity, contribute to a sense of relative tranquillity. Further enhanced by sounds (bird calls, the wind through reeds, waves on shingle) and dark skies. Seasonal influx of visitors can detract from tranquillity in places, but around the marshes in particular it remains tranquil.	One of the UK's largest areas of managed reedbed. An important bird nesting area, ecological connectivity is provided by the connected landscapes of river, marshes, dunes, reedbeds and fens.

Suffolk Coast Path runs along a part of Dunwich River on the southern bank						
Edge of Dunwich Forest						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	A very high value landscape with ecological importance, functional value for water catchments, biodiversity and connectivity. A valued landscape for recreation and tourism with many walking routes, including the Suffolk Coast Path and King Charles III England Coast Path, multiple areas of accessible marshland, seasonal camping accommodation and a natural, scenic and tranquil atmosphere.		This area can be considered a host landscape, the proposed Underground HDVC Cables would be under this landscape, they would be inserted by HDD drilling and so there would be no physical appearance above ground. The landfall site is adjacent to this area. The area has a Very high susceptibility to change, for the following features and characteristics: The sensitive ecological habitats and natural heritage; the distinctive character; high scenic value and intervisibility with other scenic landscapes, tranquillity; and recreational opportunities enabled by the PProW network. This LLCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level, and falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, underlining the presence of important qualities that would be susceptible to change.		The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.	

Table 1.78: LLCA 10 Dunwich River open coastal fens - assessment of effects

LLCA 10 Dunwich River open coastal fens	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
Whilst not a host landscape for external works, HDD drilling of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would run underneath the northern part of this LLCA between the offshore jack-up barge and the proposed Landfall site. The presence of adjacent construction activity both inland and offshore would temporarily disrupt the skyline and the sense of remoteness and scenic beauty of the area to the north and east. Impacts on these perceptual impacts would dissipate across the southern parts of the area and inland where dense woodland would limit perception. Due to the presence of sensitive ecological receptors in this area barriers up to 5m tall for noise and visual mitigation would be put in place around the proposed Landfall site.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be limited impact on this character area. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident where there would be short gaps in hedgerows to the north.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.79: LLCA 11 Walberswick sandlands plateau - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 11 Walberswick sandlands plateau			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands			K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Proposed Landfall and the Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 11 is an area of agricultural land on sandy soil, a mix of arable and livestock, south of the B1387 between Dunwich Road and Walberswick.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	No	Sandy soils typical of the Estate Sandlands	Land that was previously Sandlings habitat converted to farmland over the course of the 20th century. Little remaining trace of the former land use.	Managed agricultural fields, both arable and for livestock. In good condition for that context though this land would previously have been of the sandlands character as seen in the areas to the immediate north and south.	An area that was previously part of the Sandlings landscape.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
Estate Sandlands typology.  Agricultural fields, a mixture of arable, grazed fields and outdoor pig farming (pigs).  Water reservoir present in the corner of one field.  Hedgerow boundaries around most fields.	Low distinctiveness, agricultural fields that were previously part of the Sandlings landscape. The pig farming on these fields is typical of this area stretching towards Blythburgh and further south towards Wenhaston.	No public rights of access in this area	Area is agricultural, no tourism noted. Visitors to the more scenic areas of Walberswick drive through this landscape as it flanks the only route in and out of the village by vehicle.	Agricultural fields give an open rural character and maintain wide views, but lack the distinctiveness of the uncultivated or grazing heathland that dominates in the nearby areas. Detractors can include areas of pig farming and plastic sheeting to protect arable fields.	Medium. Rural, quiet and surrounded by natural beauty but an area that is dominated by agriculture, both arable and of livestock, sometimes with the detractors of pig sheds or crop protection.	Agriculturally functional land. Linear ecological connectivity provided by the hedgerows at field boundaries. Character setting function as a rural scene for the approach to the coastal village of Walberswick.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility			Sensitivity
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Medium			High
	A very high overall value for an area within the National Landscape, surrounded by ecologically important habitats, with open views and a tranquil rural character. The		This area is a host landscape for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. Characteristics that would be susceptible to change include: wide, far reaching views; tranquil, rural character; infrequent built form; strong intervisibility with scenic landscapes; and, low hedgerows. Less susceptible to change are the larger, more			The very high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.

	detracting infrastructure of pig farming stands out against the surroundings.	regularised fields. This LLCA falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The lower condition of this area in relation to its surroundings leads to a medium susceptibility to change.	
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Table 1.80:LLCA 11 Walberswick sandlands plateau – assessment of effects

LLCA 11 Walberswick sandlands plateau	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
High	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would be physically affected by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. Approximately 2.4km of route would run through this area, 24m of which would be trenchless, comprising part of the crossing underneath East Sheep Walk and part of the crossing underneath Dunwich Road. Both of these crossings would have associated construction compounds and drilling rigs in this LLCA and there would also be a secondary construction compound in the north western corner at the junction of Dunwich Road and the B1387. Alongside the proposed Underground Cable Corridor there would be a temporary haul road constructed. At least one access route would be created coming off the B1387, which would require widening of an existing track and may involve removal of some vegetation. The construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor in this LLCA would involve the temporary displacement of arable farmland and the crossing of at least four hedgerows, requiring localised vegetation removal. Although construction activity would be relatively localised, it would disrupt tranquility across the rural landscape which is relatively absent of human activity due to the openness of the landscape. Barriers for noise and visual mitigation up to 2m high may be placed along the route which would mitigate the effects from the B1387 to some extent. The presence of construction compounds would stand out in this landscape where built form is absent. This area includes the B1387, the only road into the coastal village of Walberswick.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be limited impact on this character area. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident where there would be short gaps in hedgerows.	The high sensitivity assessed against the low magnitude of impact would result in moderate adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>significant</b>
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Proposed planting would have established by year 15 of operation to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.81: LLCA 12 Blythburgh - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 12 Blythburgh				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section C3 and D Close to proposed Landfall and the Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 12 Blythburgh, is located west of Walberswick. The village is predominantly historic and residential in character, with a few areas of residential expansion. The A12 cuts through the centre and is a historic route. The River Blyth sits on the north-east periphery, with lower lying wetlands fringing the outer edges of the village. Blythburgh Priory is a scheduled monument to the west of the village near the old railway station.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape	Scheduled Monument: Blythburgh Priory, Conservation area	Area of heathland between Priory Road and the River Blyth. Local geology evident in building materials.	Blythburgh Priory is a scheduled monument on the western edge of the village on the banks of the Blyth. An old railway station recalls the line that previously ran to here serving the coastal resorts.	Well cared for village. Flood protection barriers and planting in place along the estuary boundary.	An old railway station recalls the Halesworth - Southwold line that previously ran through here serving the coastal resorts. The Scheduled monument of Blythburgh Priory is an important association for this LLCA, locally as 'The Cathedral of the Marshes'. The area has numerous folklore tales associated with it, often related to smuggling. Blythburgh was probably an Anglo-Saxon royal residence and reputed to have been the burial place of King Anna of the East Angles in AD 654.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>Blythburgh has a relatively historic core, within a small increase in development expanding the village.</p> <p>The A12 is the primary thoroughfare into Blythburgh, running through the centre of the village, north-east to south-west, and Dunwich Road from the south. The road network in the village is limited and comprises of a few roads forming a circular loop with a few tertiary cul-de-sacs stemming from these. Pavement is absent along some roads, or only on one side,</p>	The village uses some typical Suffolk materials and vernacular building styles making it characteristic of the area. Its setting, adjacent to the expansive estuary is distinctive. The proximity and bisection of the A12 makes it less distinctive.	PRoW access around the Priory and in the south of the village across fields towards Walberswick. Blythburgh Priory hosts some community events and the village has a public house.	Visitors to Blythburgh Priory and those staying in the village for visiting the coast or estuary. One public house and hotel.	Attractive village much of which is a designated conservation area. Blythburgh Priory and its surrounding landscape adds to the scenic value, as do the views across the estuary on the eastern edge of the village. The A12 is a detractor.	The River Blyth runs north of Blythburgh and round to the east, just outside the settlement edge, providing tranquillity. A small and quiet village with the A12 running through it acting as a detractor.	Local community functionality with the priory and a public house.

<p>though on some narrower lanes it is entirely absent.</p> <p>The buildings are mainly residential and redbrick or painted, with more traditional architectural styles north of Dunwich Road. There is an area of new development added to the west of the existing Amberley Close.</p> <p>The Church of the Holy Trinity, Blythburgh Priory, forms a local landmark in the north-western area of the village, it is a scheduled monument.</p> <p>Vegetation is mainly focussed within private gardens, roadside grass in some areas, including along Chapel Road lined with mature trees, but there is a lack of any other green open space.</p> <p>The River Blyth runs north of Blythburgh and round to the east, just outside the settlement edge. Wide views across the estuary can be seen from the eastern edges of the settlement</p>						
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility			Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>A very high value landscape, mostly of built form, with a conservation area and Scheduled Monument and value to the local residential community. PRow access to the surrounding Blyth valley to the east and west adds recreational value. A scenic and tranquil area within the National Landscape leads to a very high value, though the A12 is a substantial detractor.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme. Characteristics that would be most susceptible to change include the tranquil rural character of the village, the setting of Blythburgh Priory and the views to the countryside and across the estuary from the south and east of the village. This LLCA falls entirely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>			<p>High</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the high susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.82: LLCA 12 Blythburgh – assessment of effects

LLCA 12 Blythburgh	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
This LLCA would not be physically affected by construction of the Proposed Scheme. There may be some limited intervisibility with construction compounds proposed near Dunwich Road and south of the B1387, and construction of the proposed HDVC Underground Cable. Impacts on the perceptual aspects of LLCA 12 would be limited by the distance from the draft Order Limits and intervening vegetation and built form and localised to the southern edge.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.83:LLCA 13 River Blyth intertidal flats - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 13 River Blyth intertidal flats			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Saltmarsh and intertidal flats, Estate sandlands			J3 Blyth Estuary
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section C3 and D Close to proposed Landfall and the Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 13 is an area of low lying wetlands showcasing the open views of the Blyth estuary including some arable land on the valley side. A mixture of river, mud-flats, grazing marsh and reed-filled dykes scatter this landscape, contributing to a strong sense of place. Opportunities for elevated views over the natural habitats. Historically significant drainage ditches create visual layers of activity across the estuary reflecting different periods of reclamation and inundation.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape	Ramsar, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve.	Wide estuary, mudflats and marshland important for wading birds.	Lookouts and elevated positions across this landscape have been important throughout the centuries; in prehistory tumuli were located on the ridge overlooking the Blyth estuary.	A dynamic landscape and working floodplain, with managed protection to the surrounding built areas.	An area associated with ghost stories and folklore, often related to smuggling and the Blyth's navigable past.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
Wide tidal estuary with mudflats, marsh, dykes and drainage ditches, a promontory with grazing marsh and isolated settlements, and an islet within the estuary.  Small area of settlement along Bulcamp Drift on a remote promontory with grazing marshes.  A dynamic landscape changing with the tides and the seasons and showcasing the wide open 'Suffolk Skies'.	Highly distinctive and dynamic landscape featuring a wildlife rich mosaic of habitats. Unique character defined by the natural landscape.	A good PRow network gives access to the estuary for walking and wildlife related recreation. Occasional recreational boat use on the estuary. Some of the PRow are on the mudflats and only accessible at low tide.	Wildlife and nature related tourism; birdwatching and walking. A handful of holiday lets in this LLCA..	Dynamic landscape due to tidal changes and periodic flooding. Extensive, scenic views featuring mud flats, water, marshland, low level farmland and wildlife. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Large areas of natural habitat, with an absence of development and apparent human activity, contribute to a sense of relative tranquillity. Further enhanced by sounds (bird calls, the wind through reeds) and dark skies.	Very high ecological and water catchment value with tidal estuary and immediate floodplain. Important for breeding birds and marine life and recognised for this with various wildlife designations.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility			Sensitivity

This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high	Very high	Very high
	A very high value landscape with ecological functionality. Strong scenic, tranquil and remote qualities, enhanced by an absence of human activity, and expansive views over natural landscapes. A distinctive landscape under multiple designations with PRoW access for recreation.	This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme and therefore there would be no physical change to any of the landscape features. However, the landscape has various characteristics and features which would be highly susceptible to change. These include: The distinctive estuarine character with its wide, far-reaching views and low level open grazing marshes; the general dominance of natural landforms and processes with an absence of human activity; the tranquillity of the setting, the strong scenic quality and the strong sense of place. This LLCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level and falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, underlining the presence of important qualities that would be susceptible to change.	The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.



Table 1.84:LLCA 13 River Blyth intertidal flats – assessment of effects

LLCA 13 River Blyth intertidal flats	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
This LLCA would not be physically affected by construction of the Proposed Scheme. There may be some intervisibility of the jack up barge out at sea, construction compounds near the Dunwich Road and south of the B1387, and construction of the trenchless parts of the proposed HDVC Underground Cable. However, changes on the perceptual aspects of LLCA 13 arising from construction would be limited by the distance from the draft Order Limits and intervening vegetation.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.85: LLCA 14 River Blyth sandlands - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 14 River Blyth sandlands				Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands			K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme				
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Close to proposed Landfall				
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape						
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations	
LLCA 14 is an area of farmland and grazing marsh reclaimed from marshland along the River Blyth valley floor. Public access runs between the fields giving access to the River from Walberswick Common. A strip of uncultivated land under wildlife designations remains.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls partly within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar (small strip), SAC small strip, SPA small strip, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, small strip.	Small strip of Sandlings landscape. Grazing marsh	Evidence of historical reclamation of former intertidal areas to form freshwater grazing marsh. Areas such as this date back to the 12th Century in Suffolk.	A landscape actively managed for farming, with grazing and water drainage.	An area associated with ghost stories and folklore, often related to smuggling.	
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional	
<p>This LLCA is entirely within the Estate sandlands typology.</p> <p>Most of this area is arable farmland, reclaimed from the marshy floodplain with some grazing, but a strip of heathland connected to Walberswick Common, to the south east runs through here and shows the original sandland habitat.</p> <p>Built form is limited to a farm and residence alongside the B1387.</p> <p>This area crosses over the B1387 to include the arable farmland north of Hoist Covert. This cultivated area is enclosed by natural areas - marsh, woodland and heath on all sides and has PRow access running through it.</p>	Distinctive more by its surroundings than for the arable fields themselves - marsh to the north and Sandlings habitat to the south. The sandy soils are distinctive for the area.	PRow access through the fields towards the River Blyth and Tinkers Marshes, part of Suffolk Coast Nature Reserve, connecting in the other direction to Walberswick Common.	Adjacent to tourist areas and with PRow and a road passing though, but no specific tourism value.	Agricultural fields give an open rural character and maintain wide views, but lack the distinctiveness of the uncultivated or grazing heathland and marshland that dominates in the nearby areas. Detractors can include the evidence of human activity such as crop protection.	Tranquil and rural. Not particularly wild due to management of the land for farming, though a sense of remoteness close to the estuary.	Agriculturally functional land. Grazing marsh and floodplain still functional in places though mostly reclaimed.	
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility			Sensitivity	

This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high	Medium	High
	Predominantly agricultural value with grazing marsh that has PRow access and added value for biodiversity and recreation through a strip of heathland habitat under various designations. Tranquil, scenic, within the National Landscape and relatively absent of human development though culturally under human influence and management.	This area is a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme. Characteristics susceptible to change include: the strip of sensitive heathland habitat; the open aspect with expansive views; the relative lack of human development; the tranquil qualities. This LLCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level for a small area, and falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	The very high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.

Table 1.86:LLCA 14 River Blyth sandlands – assessment of effects

LLCA 14 River Blyth sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would be physically affected by construction. Agricultural fields south of the B1387 would be temporarily severed by the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. This would comprise a section of approximately 40m of open cut construction and 13m of trenchless construction. The trenchless crossing would have an associated construction compound and a joint cable bay. Just outside this LLCA there would be a secondary construction compound and haul road, which would contribute to the likely impacts on the tranquillity of this area. The openness of the landscape means that, although physical impacts would be relatively localised, perceptual changes would affect the character of most of LLCA 14, including a short stretch of the adjacent B1387, the only route into the coastal village of Walberswick.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be very limited impact on this character area. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident where there would be short gaps in hedgerows.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Proposed planting would have established by year 15 of operation to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.87: LLCA 15 Walberswick sandlands fringe - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 15 Walberswick sandlands fringe			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		LT 07 Estate sandlands		K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands and D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Proposed Landfall			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 15 Walberswick sandlands fringe sits immediately south of the built area of Walberswick Village and is comprised of a strip of arable fields. Beneath this LLCA is heathland to the south west and the marshes of Dunwich River to the south east. Many residences from the village look out over these fields to the Dunwich River marshes and the seas. There are PRowS running down the field boundaries from the village to the marshes and heaths which are well used with villagers. The low-lying nature of the fields provide a buffer of clear, open views from the village out to the coast. The field boundaries have heathland vegetation typical of the underlying sandlands.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	No	This was an area of sandlands habitat but as it is now in arable use this can only be perceived in hedgerow species.	An area that would previously have been of the Sandlands type but most of which has been farmed for over 100 years.	Medium. Well managed and cultivated fields.	Historically this land would have been part of the Suffolk Sandlings. In the early 1900's, the field North of Hoist Covert was still heathland, an area called Whinney Piece. The other fields had already been taken for agriculture by this time.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>This area is within the Estate sandlands typology.</p> <p>Low lying arable fields with linear boundaries allowing public rights of way access between the village and the coast.</p>	Distinctive more by nature of their surroundings than the fields themselves. Hedgerow and verge species typical of the Sandland typology.	Numerous well used PRowS run along the field boundaries connecting the village through country lanes to the heathland, allotments, marshes and beach.	No specific tourism draw but multiple routes through the fields towards the heathland, marshes and coast. One of the two PRowS to access the caravan site and	The open nature of the fields allows for wide views out to the coast from the fields. Some of the fields have attractive hedgerows and wildflower banks. From the beach the fields provide a rural backdrop to the village behind and the marsh in the foreground.	Tranquil and rural. Cultivated land so not wild, but with views out to wilder countryside and coast.	Hedgerows and field verges provide a habitat provision and connection function. The arable farming can provide varying habitat

There is a change is topography with the fields sloping towards the coast.			seasonal campsite are in this LLCA.			and biodiversity function dependant on the crops and the level to which the soil has been degraded.
<b>Valued landscape</b>	<b>Value</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>		<b>Sensitivity</b>	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Medium		High	
	A very high value is given for an open, rural and tranquil area within the National Landscape, providing character setting function and ecological connectivity though its vegetated boundaries and hedgerows.		This area is the host landscape for the proposed Landfall. It is also a host landscape for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. This LLCA falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. Features and characteristics that would be susceptible to change include: The open nature of the fields, giving wide views out to sea and back towards the village, the intervisibility with sensitive landscapes; the hedgerows and vegetated boundaries; the function that the LLCA provides for recreation, with PRow's crossing through it connecting the beach, heathland and marshes to the village.		The very high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility to change, results in high sensitivity.	



Table 1.88:LLCA 15 Walberswick sandlands fringe – assessment of effects

LLCA 15 Walberswick sandlands fringe	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very high	Major adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>This is the host landscape for the proposed Landfall and part of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and it would be directly affected by construction. It is expected that the proposed Landfall construction would occur over a period of up to 20 months. This could potentially be undertaken over two periods in different years. The Proposed Landfall Site would be taken over with earthworks, a construction compound (open compound at the time of writing). The centre of the field would have three large HDD drill rigs in an area of approximately 110 x75m. There would likely be hardstanding areas for parking, staff welfare and a large water storage basin. Various machinery including excavators, generators, bulldozers and HGVs would introduce activity across the area. The field closest to The Street at the entrance to the village would have a secondary construction compound of approximately 110 x 75m, another, of the same proportions would be located close to Lodge Road. The fields between these compounds and the proposed Landfall would have open trenches across them for the laying of the proposed underground HVDC Cables. A haul road would run alongside the cable trench, crossing over Lodge Road and avoiding site access through the village and along the narrow Stocks Lane. Lodge Road would be disrupted by the trenched crossing over it. Noise and visual mitigation barriers are likely to be installed for up to 2m along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and 5m around the proposed Landfall. These features and activities would substantially reduce tranquillity across LLCA 15.</p> <p>Vegetation removal would include loss of some hedgerows and vegetated field boundaries. Arable land use would be displaced for construction activity.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity, assessed against the very high magnitude of impact, would result in major adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b>.</p>
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
<p>By year 1 of operation, there would be very limited impact on this character area. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident where there would be short gaps in hedgerows.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the Low magnitude of impact would result in a Moderate adverse (<b>significant</b>) effect.</p>
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>Proposed planting would have established by year 15 of operation to restore field boundaries where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction. There may be some perception of change due to restrictions on planting trees above the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and within the related easement.</p>	<p>The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b>.</p>

Table 1.89:LLCA 16 Walberswick common - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 16 Walberswick common				Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands and Coastal levels			K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands and J3 Blyth Estuary	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme				
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Close to proposed Landfall				
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape						
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations	
LLCA 16 is Walberswick Common: a large area of open access heathland to the north west of Walberswick village above the B1387, with sports facilities and a children's playground. Further recreational opportunities are found from multiple PRow, the long distance Sandlings Walk, bridleways and benches for seating. The is sheep grazing in some areas. Vegetation is of the rare Sandlings type and protected under multiple designations.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar, SAC, SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve	Sandlings landscape of acid heathland	An area associated with grazing and managed heathland. Areas dedicated to sports recreation and playgrounds' Common is managed by the Walberswick Common Lands Charity (founded in 1901).	Good condition, well managed landscape, grasslands, gorse and scrub leading to areas of birch and pine woodland. Managed grazing in by sheep. Clear paths and signage for users of the area. Well managed sports field and fenced off children's play area. Part of the Sandlings habitat which is now rare and fragmented.	An area associated with public access and grazing or livestock 'walks' for the nearby community. The Southwold railway was a small 3ft branch line running from Halesworth to Southwold, Suffolk. And part of the line ran through the common, a footpath now traces part of this line.	
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional	
<p>This area is a mixture of the Estate Sandlands and Coastal Levels typologies.</p> <p>PRowS cross the area and include the main pedestrian route to Southwold from Walberswick and the long distance trail the Sandlings Walk.</p> <p>Vegetation is of the Sandlings type: acid grassland, with some grazing, low level heath</p>	Highly distinctive, rare lowland heath habitat typical of the area and the Sandlings landscape with gorse, grasslands and areas of birch and pine.	Sports field and play equipment. Open access for recreation. Long distance path The Sandlings Walk passes through the common. Benches dotted throughout. Bridleways	Lower tourist draw than other areas of Walberswick and the coast but still of value for walking routes and enjoyment of the heaths. The Sandlings Walk runs through this area and a pedestrian route to Southwold links to this common.	Highly scenic heathland. Wide open views across to Southwold over the Blyth estuary. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Remote and tranquil. Managed landscape with a feeling of wildness.	Large area of heathland connecting to the marshes and estuary of the River Blyth and integral to the wider Sandlings landscape.	

with gorse and less managed areas of birch, pine and bracken.  The old route of the Southwold train is now a footpath through the common.						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility			Sensitivity
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Very high			Very high
	A very high value landscape with distinctive Sandlings habitat and associated wildlife designations and historical associations. Local recreational value with important connecting PRowS and play areas. Wider recreational value with the Sandlings Walk. A tranquil, semi natural and peaceful landscape enhanced by the presence of grazing sheep and the surrounding intervisibility of sensitive landscapes.		This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, though is immediately adjacent to an area that is. Features and characteristics susceptible to change include: The recreational value of the area particularly with regards to the PRow network of the heathland and the Sandlings Walk: tranquillity and scenic qualities enhanced by grazing wildlife and benches for appreciating the views and surroundings; absence of human development and activity; intervisibility of scenic landscapes. This LLCA has multiple designations for wildlife up to European level and falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape, underlining the presence of important qualities that would be susceptible to change.			The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.

Table 1.90:LLCA 16 Walberswick common – assessment of effects

LLCA 16 Walberswick common	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
This LLCA would no physical changes to LLCA 16. However, construction of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would be located just south of this area, affecting its setting, scenic quality and tranquility. Impacts within LLCA 16 would arise from activity relating to cable laying and a secondary construction compound just south of the B1387. The recreational value from the PRowWs that join the B1387, including the long distance Sandlings Walk would be affected. Intervisibility would be limited by heathland vegetation, trees and scrub within the area, limiting perception to the north, including the playground and sports field.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there setting of LLCA 16 would have returned largely to the baseline condition. Proposed replacement planting would not yet be established and therefore they may be perception of short gaps in hedgerows and some scaring on the land where work was carried out to the south.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is not significant.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
By year 15 of operation, proposed planting to the south would have established such that there would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.91: LLCA 17 Walberswick village - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 17 Walberswick village				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands and D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Adjacent to proposed Landfall			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 17 Walberswick Village is located along the Heritage Coast, south of both the River Blyth and Southwold, within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The attractive historic core of the village has a Grade 1 listed flint church. One main street runs through the village towards the harbour. Dunwich River runs between Walberswick village and the beach and the village is the starting point for a wide range of walking options in the surrounding countryside. Walberswick has a strong historic and current connection with the visual arts.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Conservation area	Use of local materials and geology evident in buildings: flint, pebble, crag.	<p>Most of the village is a designated conservation area with numerous Grade II listed houses. Use of flint, crag and thatch in the building vernacular relate to the local geology and reedbeds.</p> <p>The current flint church sits in the ruined grounds of a former much larger priory built when the village was a thriving port.</p>	High. Landscape condition, built environment and streetscape is very good. Roads and lanes may be narrow with low accessibility in places but this is characteristic of a historic rural village.	<p>High value in associations.</p> <p>The village was previously a thriving trading and fishing port from the 13th century though by the late 17th Century trade was declining. The village later became a popular tourist destination following its popularity with notable artists. Historic associations with artists include with Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Philip Wilson Steer and Walter Sickert. The ruined church of St Andrews features in sketches by J.M.W Turner. The village remains connected to artists and notable individuals in cultural and creative fields.</p> <p>The Walberswick-Southwold ferry across the river Blyth has run since 1236 and is currently rowed by the 6th generation of the same family.</p> <p>Folklore: Various stories of hauntings in the area. This part of the Suffolk coast is associated with Black Shuck. A smugglers tale from Walberswick's days as a trading port speaks of a ghost coach and horses driven by a Toby Gill, a Dragoon drummer who was accused and hanged</p>

						for the murder of a local resident in 1750.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
<p>Most of the village is in a conservation area, there are several Grade II listed buildings scattered across the village and St Andrews Church is Grade I listed.</p> <p>The predominant built form is traditional cottages, many in flint or timber structured.</p> <p>There is a green in the centre of the village and allotments to the south.</p> <p>Victorian terrace housing occurs on some streets and across from the green and there is some newer housing to the west of the village.</p> <p>Land use is predominantly residential, with the some retail, commercial and hospitality use near the village green, on the main street and towards the harbour.</p> <p>The B1387 is the primary thoroughfare in Walberswick from the west, and there is no other vehicular access route to or from the village. The road network in the village consists of a mixture of narrow lanes and cul-de-sacs. Pavements are absent along the majority of roads, including the B1387, only a few of the residential roads have pavement present.</p> <p>The Walberswick-Southwold ferry pier provides a connecting service across the River Blyth to Southwold, and a crossing for cycle and pedestrians exists over Bailey Bridge connecting to Palmers Lane.</p>	<p>Highly distinctive character area. Distinctive lanes, buildings and associated coastal cottage gardens, frequent use of local materials (reed, thatch, flint). Banks along Leverets Lane and other lanes rich in wildflowers.</p>	<p>Within LLCA 01 there is a village green and play space, allotments and areas for seating dotted through the village.</p> <p>The village provides a connection or stop off for two long distance trails: the Sandlings Walk and the Suffolk Coastal Path. From the village, access is provided to multiple PRow's giving walking access to: the beach; along the Dunwich River; through the extensive heathland of Minsmere; along the River Blyth; and around the Walberswick Saltmarsh.</p>	<p>Tourism is essential to the village. The businesses and many of the residents rely on it for income. The village has been a popular tourist destination for two centuries since its popularity with artists in the Victorian era. A large proportion of houses in the village are holiday homes.</p>	<p>High. Attractive historic buildings in the village, one of which was moved brick by brick from Lavenham. High level of care for properties and street facing gardens in the village. Views in multiple directions out to the surrounding highly scenic coast, heaths, rivers and rural surroundings. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>	<p>Off the main street the village is tranquil and quiet. The surrounding, open natural spaces of the harbour, estuary, marshes, common and beach provide a sense of tranquillity and remoteness with a sense of wildness at the beach in particular. Though the village can be busy in high season, much of the year it is a quiet and tranquil place.</p>	<p>The village provides amenity functions to residents, visitors and tourists. The green, play space and allotments provide leisure facilities. The village hall in the village hosts numerous activities and support events for the community.</p>



<p>There is a large village green with a play area and further areas of seating and green space amenity south of the green and near the village hall.</p> <p>An area of allotments sits to the south behind the village hall.</p> <p>Off the main street the village is tranquil and quiet.</p> <p>The village is well kept and exceptionally pretty, providing a draw for visitors and tourists outside of the obvious attractions of the surrounding nature.</p> <p>In high season the village is busy and bustling but at quieter times of the year it shares the remoteness and tranquillity of the surrounding marshes and coast.</p>						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	<p>A high quality landscape and built environment in a conservation area, visual connections to the unique surroundings, and the distinctiveness of the village, coupled with its historical and current cultural associations contribute strongly to the value attached to the landscape. This is underpinned by its location within the National Landscape.</p>		<p>This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, but is adjacent to the landfall site. Characteristics and features that are particularly susceptible to change include: the distinctiveness of the historic village in a conservation area, with narrow streets and a quiet, remote, rural character; tranquil pace and scale of activity, devoid of large scale infrastructure or industry; the setting within a wider natural landscape which supports local tourism and recreation; and, the strong, scenic sense of place. This LLCA falls entirely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>		<p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.92: LLCA 17 Walberswick village – assessment of effects

LLCA 17 Walberswick village	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
Though this LLCA is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme and there would be no or limited perception of construction activity within the majority of LLCA 17. However, there would be impacts on its character and setting, particularly to the east. Construction activity would extend across adjacent areas to the south over a period of approximately 20 months. The tranquillity of the village would be impacted by noise and construction vehicles within the village and potentially intervisibility with taller construction plant on the skyline to the south of the Street, although the density of existing development within the village would substantially limit this. There may also be intervisibility with the taller parts of the proposed Jack up Barge out at sea in the eastern most parts of the village edge, temporarily reducing its value for tourists and local recreation.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there setting of LLCA 17 would have returned largely to the baseline condition. Proposed replacement planting would not yet be established and therefore they may be perception of short gaps in hedgerows and some scaring on the land where work was carried out.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.93 LLCA 18 River Blyth coastal levels: - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 18 River Blyth coastal levels				Both		All	
Hierarchy		National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local		NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Coastal levels		J3 Blyth Estuary	
Source				Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant				Section D Close to proposed Landfall			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape						
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations	
LLCA 18 is an area of the River Blyth and land to the south that encompasses grazing marsh, mud-flats and reed-filled dykes. There is a raised pathway on the river embankment that connects Walberswick and Southwold.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SPA, Conservation area	Estuary and marshland on the floodplain.	Harbour on both sides of the river. Canalised part of the river allowing for a deeper channel for navigation. Many moorings along the sides and in-river. Grazing marsh and reed lined drainage ditches inland. Two unexcavated round barrows stand on the heathland known as Tinkers Walks, beside the B1387 road from Blythburgh to Walberswick. Some have said the barrows are Bronze Age, though their position on high ground overlooking an estuary led to speculation that they may be Saxon ship burials.	Good condition. Managed grazing marsh and drainage ditches. Well used small, linear harbour with some erosion and impact on vegetation at periods of high traffic.	History of river use indicating links to past maritime heritage, and contemporary recreational use of the estuaries and coast, with many boatyards and in-river moorings. The area of Tinkers Walks and Deadmans Covert near the B1387 is associated with various ghost stories including of the Suffolk's 'Heath Horse'.	
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional	
Coastal Levels typology.  Canalised part of the estuary with straight sides  Southwold Harbour is under a conservation area on the Southwold side. Boats are moored on both sides. Boat yards, restaurants and fish shops on the Southwold side.	Highly distinctive and dynamic landscape overlooking marshes and reedbeds to one side and Southwold harbour to the other, with the estuary in the centre. Characterful and interesting with its various natural and maritime elements.	The Sandlings Walk runs along the border, going over the Bailey Bridge to Southwold where the long distance path ends. Boating, birdwatching, walking. Walking routes along the raised bank along the riverside also lead to the bridge	Walking and birdwatching. This area is between two popular tourist centres, Southwold and Walberswick.	Highly scenic and picturesque landscape. Scenic walks are popular along the river on a raised bank with views across to Southwold. Views out to sea, into the marshland and with a backdrop of boats and black timber huts towards the coast. Scenic qualities accentuated by wide open skies. This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.	Most of the area is not publicly accessible so the apparent lack of human activity gives a sense of remoteness despite proximity to the village and harbour which can be busy in peak season. The sound of the boats in the	High ecologically functional value from tidal estuary, natural marshes, reedbanks and grazing marshes. Other functional value from the working harbour with boatyards and moorings for recreational	

<p>A raised embankment with pathway along the side of the river leading to the Baily Bridge, crossing over to Southwold.</p> <p>Grazing marsh inland, interspersed with reed lined drainage ditches.</p>		<p>and provide a scenic route between the two settlements.</p>			<p>wind, the wildlife and the reeds add to the tranquil setting.</p>	<p>vessels. Fish stalls and restaurants contribute to local economy and food culture. Functional connectivity between Walberswick and Southwold along the PRow and bridge.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>A very high value landscape with ecological value from the tidal estuary, grazing marshes, reedbanks and floodplains, and further value from the tourism and recreation opportunities provided by the working harbour and scenic walks. Strong scenic qualities, in a distinctive landscape enhanced by the expansive views encompassing a juxtaposition of different natural and manmade landscapes including heritage architecture. A landscape under multiple designations for landscape, ecology and built form.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme however multiple features and characteristics that would be particularly susceptible to change, including: the scenic and picturesque qualities; tourism both recreationally and using the businesses at the harbour; the distinctiveness of the landscape.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.94:LLCA 18 River Blyth coastal levels – assessment of effects

LLCA 18 River Blyth coastal levels	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
There may be some perception of the proposed jack-up barge out at sea and construction compounds near Dunwich Road, but this would be very limited and the character of LLCA 18 would remain as described in the baseline.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the very low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.95: LLCA 19 River Blyth Harbour dunes and saltmarsh - baseline

Name			Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 19 River Blyth Harbour dunes and saltmarsh			Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area	County Character Area			District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths	Coastal dunes and shingle ridges, Coastal levels, Open coastal fens			F2 Southwold Coast and D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes	
Source		Part of Proposed Scheme				
Defined by the Applicant		Section D Close to proposed Landfall				
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 19 is at the north east edge of Walberswick village and comprises a distinctive area of saltmarsh behind the dunes, alongside the estuary which is an SBIS County Wildlife Site. Bridge crossings next to the carparks provide access to the dunes over the Dunwich River. A series of distinctive timber buildings line the estuary.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	SPA, SBIS County Wildlife site: Walberswick Saltmarsh, Walberswick Village Conservation area	Salt marsh, dunes, River Blyth estuary mouth, Dunwich River estuary. Rare communities of salt tolerant plants. Multiple designations for wildlife.	Historic fishing huts with distinctive black timber, within a designated Conservation area. Frequently portrayed in artwork since the start of the village's tourist popularity in the1800's.  Distinctive 'kissing bridge' crossing Dunwich River.  Remains of old sea and river defences have a sculptural presence towards the harbour mouth and serve as a reminder of the great flood that broke through them in 1953.  WWII military heritage: defence remnants include two rows of anti-tank blocks near to the southern carpark.	The buildings are in a conservation area and the sensitive landscape of the saltmarsh is protected through use of PRow to direct pedestrian traffic. Flooding of the marsh and carparks can lead to muddy conditions at times. The area appears to be well managed to protect the structural composition and ecology of the saltmarsh.	Area connected with the village's history as a thriving port and fishing village.  The Walberswick-Southwold ferry across the river Blyth has run since 1236 and is currently rowed by the 6th generation of the same family.  The black timber studios and beach huts have been portrayed by artists for over two centuries. Historic associations with artists including Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Philip Wilson Steer and Walter Sickert. The village remains connected to artists and notable individuals in cultural and creative fields. The village has long hosted a popular yearly crabbing competition which takes place in this LLCA.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
Area behind the main beach dunes, shifting as the beach erodes.	Highly distinctive landscape both in natural and built form. Recognisable scene of black huts against saltmarsh and estuary.	Long distance trail the Suffolk Coast Path runs through this area, along the dunes and across	This is an important area for local tourism. Main paths to the beach, estuary or Dunwich River and	Highly scenic area despite presence of carparks. Distinctive and historic fishing huts, two story timber studios on stilts and beach huts all in the	The exposed nature, wide skies and views out to sea of this area lend it a sense of wildness and remoteness even with	This area is functionally linked to the River Blyth, the sensitive coastal habitats and the marshes of the River Blyth and the



<p>Saltmarsh between Dunwich River and the dunes and along the edges of the River Blyth.</p> <p>Characteristics change between low and high tide or periods of more significant inundation.</p> <p>Distinctive timber houses near the harbour and black beach huts behind the dunes are part of the conservation area.</p> <p>Historic remnant sea defences create visual layers of activity along the harbour edge and out to sea.</p> <p>Two carparks and two bridges crossing the Dunwich River provide access to the beach and marshes.</p> <p>Views north across to Southwold and a long running rowing boat ferry crossing to Southwold.</p>	<p>Landscape formed from frequent flooding of the Dunwich River.</p>	<p>the salt marsh adjacent to the River Blyth.</p> <p>Two carparks for the village coast and estuary are in this LLCA.</p> <p>Main access point for walk to the beach, along the Dunwich River or along the Harbour of the River Blyth.</p> <p>Crabbing is popular from the two bridges and on the banks of the Dunwich River and a hut in the summer sells items for this.</p>	<p>marshes run through this LLCA, and both of the village's carparks are here.</p> <p>The area is popular with crabbers at the various bridges. A seasonal, tent only campsite is located in this area between Dunwich River and the beach, and a seasonal ice cream van is located in the main carpark.</p> <p>Some of the black timber huts and buildings are rented out to tourists and there is a seasonal beach shop located near them.</p> <p>Small fishing and recreational vessels are moored along the harbour.</p>	<p>characteristic black timber of the settlement, set against a dynamic landscape of saltmarsh and dunes, subject to frequent inundation. Active small harbour with boats and fishing paraphernalia and views across dykes to marshland. Views across to Southwold to the north and Sizewell B to the south (from the beach). This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>	<p>the presence of boats and the proximity of Southwold across the estuary. The sense of being at the end of piece of land gives a sense of remoteness and solitude where natural elements dominate. The carparks are a mild detractor from this.</p>	<p>Dunwich River. This is an important area for marine wildlife and ecology.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	<p>Very high</p> <p>A highly distinctive and scenic landscape in both built and natural form, with functional value for the local community, recreation and tourism. Ecologically important for wildlife, and connected to two river catchments, this area is under multiple designations and of very high value.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>This area is not a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, but there are multiple features and characteristics that would still be susceptible to change: the distinctive and scenic character; the intervisibility with other scenic landscapes; the popularity of the area for recreation and tourism; the sensitive ecology of the saltmarsh which is recognised in multiple designations. This LCA has designations for wildlife and falls entirely within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.</p>		<p>Very high</p> <p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.96:LLCA 19 River Blyth Harbour dunes and saltmarsh – assessment of effects

LLCA 19 River Blyth Harbour dunes and saltmarsh	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
There would be no construction activity within LLCA 19, but taller machinery including cranes, excavators and the proposed jack up barge out to sea may be perceptible on the skyline. This would result in localised intrusion of large scale infrastructure in a low key scenic and historic area dominated by wildlife related recreation and locally seasonal tourism. Activity in the harbour would be increased if Walberswick is used as the docking point for support vessels to the proposed jack-up-barge, but this would be in the context of other similar craft regularly using the harbour.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.97: LLCA 20 Walberswick coast - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario		Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 20 Walberswick coast				Both		All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area			District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Open coastal fens, Coastal dunes and shingle ridges			D2 Westwood and Dingle Marshes and SCT 03 Nearshore Waters	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme				
Defined by the Applicant			Section D Close to proposed Landfall				
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape						
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations	
LLCA 20 Walberswick dunes stretches 2.5km south from the Blyth estuary towards Dunwich. This encompasses the shingle ridge and coastal dunes and the edge of Corporation Marshes, which sit between the dunes and the Dunwich River. This area lies within the National Landscape, the Suffolk Heritage Coast, the Walberswick National Nature Reserve and other nature conservation designations.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The area falls entirely within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Ramsar, SAC (part), SPA, SSSI Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, National Nature Reserve, RSPB reserve	Coastal dunes and distinctive shingle ridges, with steep, constantly shifting pebble banks. The coastline has shifted west over time, reducing the extent of the dunes. Characteristic vegetation including marram grass and rare communities of salt tolerant plants. Important for birds and biodiversity. Under multiple designations including Ramsar. Characteristic vegetation including marram grass, and distinctive shingle ridges.	Suffolk’s coast is a nationally and regionally important Second World War historic landscape due to the history of defence along the coast.	In generally good condition though subject to coastal erosion. Some areas of the dunes have been fenced off to protect the sensitive habitats from public access.	The landscape and coastline around Walberswick has long been a popular inspiration for artists. Many have had artwork displayed in national galleries, for example Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Philip Wilson Steer.	
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional	
Shingle ridge and coastal dunes  Edge of Corporation Marshes.  Suffolk Coast Path and newly created King Charles III England Coast Path National Trail.	The beach and dunes are relatively common features along the east coast, but the relationship and visual connections with the marshes, harbour, settlement and landmarks make this a highly distinctive landscape with a strong sense of place.	The shingle dunes and beach offer high recreational value both on land and at sea for a activities including walking, angling, dog walking, play, beach and water sports. The Suffolk	The sand and shingle beach and dunes are popular with tourists.	A characterful and scenic area which changes through the day and year, weather and season. Views from the beach reach far along the coast past Southwold and Dunwich adding to a sense of belonging to a larger landscape. Sizewell nuclear power station is a prominent landmark on the skyline to the south, which can be seen as a detractor. This character area aligns closely to the Special Qualities defined for the National Landscape.	Windswept coastline with wide views of the skies, out to sea and a mosaic of visible habitats inland. The northern part close to Walberswick can be busy in	The dunes are a sensitive ecological habitat, protecting the sensitive marshes, river and fen areas behind, that support breeding birds and other coastal wildlife.	

<p>The dunes are dynamic and the pebble banks frequently shift. The vegetation along the dunes is sensitive and has protection in place in certain sections.</p> <p>Strong relationship to the North Sea with long views along to coast towards Southwold to the north and Sizewell to the south.</p> <p>Large, open skies</p>		<p>Coast path runs through this area.</p>			<p>summer, reducing its tranquillity, but the southern part is rarely crowded with a strong sense of remoteness. Rough seas add to the wild nature of this area of the coast.</p>	
<b>Valued landscape</b>	<b>Value</b>		<b>Susceptibility</b>		<b>Sensitivity</b>	
<p>This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).</p>	Very high		Very high		Very high	
	<p>There is strong evidence to support the very high value attached to this landscape across most factors, in particular the natural heritage, perceptual qualities and functional connectivity, which support nature conservation, recreation and tourism.</p>		<p>LLCA 20 is a host landscape for the proposed Onshore Scheme. This is a highly dynamic and fragile landscape. The ecology of the dunes is already threatened directly by human activity which can damage the vulnerable vegetated shingle structures. The character of the dunes, from a scenic, tranquillity, recreational and tourist perspective are susceptible to change.</p>		<p>The very high value attached to the landscape and the very high susceptibility of change, results in very high sensitivity.</p>	

Table 1.98:LLCA 20 Walberswick coast - assessment of effects

LLCA 20 Walberswick coast	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
LLCA 20 Walberswick Dunes is an area of seascape that falls between where the proposed jack up barge would be located, approximately 500m offshore, and proposed Landfall site. The proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor would run beneath LLCA 10 to the proposed Landfall Site and no construction activity is proposed within LLCA 20. Construction activity inland and offshore would disrupt the tranquillity, remoteness and scenic beauty, particularly within the Draft Order Limits for the proposed Offshore Scheme. Perception of construction activity in the north would be limited by the density of development in Walberswick and the higher ground. In the south there would be greater intervisibility due to the openness of the coastline and marshes.	The very high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
In year 1 of operation proposed planting would not yet be established and there may be some perception of gaps in hedgerows and scaring on the land where construction compounds and earthworks were located on the skyline to the north.	The very high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.99:LLCA 21 Blythburgh sandlands – baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
LLCA 21 Blythburgh sandlands				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Local	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		Estate sandlands		K2 Dunwich and Westleton Sandlands	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Defined by the Applicant			Section C3 and D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
LLCA 21 Blythburgh sandlands is an area of predominantly agricultural land on sandy soil, a mix of arable and livestock, south-east of the A12 and to the west of the B1125.	The character area falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape.	Conservation area (In northern area)	Arable fields are the primary land use. Though there is a presence of heathland at Toby's Walks. Species seen at road verges and field boundaries show evidence of the sandy soils.	Land that was previously Sandlings habitat converted to farmland over the course of the 20th century.	Managed agricultural fields, both arable and for livestock. In good condition for that context though this land would previously have been of the sandlands character as seen in the areas to the immediate north and south. Fields have been enlarged and regularised and few hedgerow boundaries remain.	Toby's Walk, an area of heathland is named after a soldier, Tobias Gill who set up camp in Blythburgh.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
This area is within the Estate sandlands typology. Most of this area consists of arable fields used for pig farming. Heathland and acid grassland is present in some areas. Generally a landscape without ancient woodland. The views in this landscape are often long and open.	Low distinctiveness, agricultural fields that were previously part of the Sandlings landscape. The pig farming on these fields is typical of this area stretching towards the east.	There is PRow access in some areas, though the overall PRow network across this area is limited.	There is no specific tourism draw, Toby's Walk, previously a picnic site is currently closed.	Agricultural fields give an open rural character and maintain wide views but lack the distinctiveness of the grazing heathland that dominates in the nearby areas and the planned nature of the landscape results in little variation in the views. Detractors can include areas of pig farming.	The often long and open views can lead to a sense of isolation.	Agriculturally functional land. The heathland provides an important habitat for biodiversity.
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		Medium		High	
	A very high overall value for an area within the National Landscape, surrounded by areas of ecologically important habitats. The detracting infrastructure of pig farming and the bordering main roads stand out against the surroundings.		LLCA 21 is a host landscape for the Proposed Onshore Scheme. Characteristics that would be susceptible to change include: wide, far reaching views; tranquil, rural character and infrequent built form; Less susceptible to change are the larger, more regularised fields. This LLCA falls entirely within the Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. The lower condition of this area in relation to its surroundings leads to a medium susceptibility to change.		The very high value attached to the landscape and the medium susceptibility of change, results in high sensitivity.	



Table 1.100: LLCA 21 Blythburgh sandlands - assessment of effects

LLCA 21 Blythburgh sandlands	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Medium	Moderate adverse ( <b>significant</b> )
The proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would run through LLCA 21, introducing the presence and operation of two construction compounds and a trenchless compound. The proposed construction compound located at the B1387 and B1125 intersection would be located in the adjacent LLCA 11, further contributing the increased levels of activity. Removal of some sections of vegetation on field boundaries would increase openness locally. The proposed construction compound south of Toby's Walk would stand out in the landscape due to the open character of the landscape. Construction activity would result in the temporary displacement of arable farmland, which is characteristic of the LLCA. The area of heathland forming Toby's Walk would remain unaffected. Tranquillity would be affected in localised areas by the noise and activity of construction, though traffic on roads already disrupt tranquility at busy times. Lighting is expected to be localised.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the medium magnitude of impact, would result in moderate adverse effects in construction, which is <b>significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 1 of operation, there would be very limited perception of change within LLCA 21. Replacement planting would not yet be established and so traces of the works would be evident with some gaps in hedgerows and potential scaring of the land where compounds and earthworks were located.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Negligible adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, proposed replacement planting along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors would have established. Restrictions on tree planting within the easement means that there may be some difference compared to the baseline, although this would be barely perceptible.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in negligible adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.101: NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
National	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Natural England			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, and D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
NCA 82 forms part of the North Sea coastline extending between Great Yarmouth in the north, and the port town of Harwich in the south. It is predominantly characterised by flat or gently rolling landform occupied by a narrow band of farmland and lowland heaths. The shoreline is defined by shingle beaches and soft sandy cliffs and is segmented by a series of river estuaries with extensive wildlife-rich intertidal areas of mudflats and salt marsh.	The character area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The area falls within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Large number of designation within the NCA due to its national scale. Multiple high-level designations including five SPAs, five SAC, four Ramsar sites, and three NNRs, covering over 9,000 hectares of SSSI.	Extensive and diverse habitat mosaic: internationally important lowland heath (nightjar, woodlark, Dartford warbler, silver-studded blue), coastal wetlands (breeding bittern, marsh harrier), five major estuaries (Blyth, Stour, Orwell, Deben, Alde/Ore) supporting wintering waterfowl and waders, ecologically rich Sandlings heath, conifer plantations, Dunwich Forest, ancient woodland incl. Staverton Park with 4,700 medieval pollard oaks.	Rich historic environment: Sutton Hoo Anglo-Saxon burial site; widespread prehistoric evidence (Palaeolithic/Mesolithic); medieval ports (e.g. Dunwich), country houses with historic parklands; military heritage from Orford Castle and Martello towers to 20th-century sites at Orford Ness and Bawdsey. Includes 13% Heritage Coast, 111 Scheduled Monuments, 2,280 Listed Buildings.	Generally good and improving condition due to habitat restoration (e.g. heathland), but pressures from major infrastructure remains. Climate change poses risks (heathland fire, coastal flooding) but also offers opportunities for landscape-scale adaptation and habitat creation.	Renowned for light, open skies, and rural tranquillity; inspired creatives like Britten (Aldeburgh Festival), authors P.D. James and Ruth Rendell, artists JMW Turner, Phillip Wilson Steer, Paul Evans and Maggi Hambling. Traditional architecture (timber-framed, Suffolk Pink, Dutch-influenced coastal towns) strengthens cultural identity and coastal heritage appeal.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
The Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA is "a predominantly low-lying landscape, with some coastal areas at or below sea level."  Gentle relief "distinguishes the Sandlings - sandy, rolling 'uplands' between estuaries" - while the dynamic coastline features long, sweeping bays,	Distinctive mixture of dynamic coast, rare habitats, and traditional settlement. Sandlings heaths form sandy 'upland' between estuaries with heather, grassland, gorse, woodland. Coastline includes sweeping bays, estuaries, soft cliffs, and major shingle features like Orford Ness. Use of red brick, thatch, and painted render reinforces regional character.	Extensive recreation infrastructure: 45% within Suffolk & Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape; 9% (7,560 ha) publicly accessible land with 1,358 km of PRowWs. Includes 3 National Nature Reserves and multiple wildlife	Thriving tourism industry rooted in landscape character and proximity to nature. Coastal towns like Southwold, Walberswick, Aldeburgh, and Felixstowe offer unspoilt charm (beach huts, Victorian seafronts). Cultural	Exceptional scenic quality from open scale, long views, and dramatic skies. Contrast between exposed coast and sheltered estuaries creates varied experiences. Seasonal salt marsh change, river wall geometry, and interplay of water, mud, and light contribute to subtle, distinctive beauty.	52% classified as 'undisturbed' by CPRE. Remote, wilderness feel from sparse settlements, large forests, heathlands, and undeveloped coast. Small villages/farms maintain tranquillity. Disturbance near Ipswich, Lowestoft,	Major economic infrastructure with key ecosystem services: Haven Ports (Felixstowe, Harwich, Ipswich) critical nationally; Felixstowe handles 40%+ UK container trade. Agriculture covers 57% land, producing cereals, vegetables, pigs.

<p>shingle beaches, soft cliffs, and sheltered estuaries.</p> <p>The region's light, free-draining soils support a mosaic of farmland, internationally important wetlands, reedbeds, fens, and fragments of rare lowland heathland, home to species like nightjar, bittern, and silver-studded blue butterfly.</p> <p>Extensive coniferous forests and ancient woodland add structure and biodiversity to the landscape.</p> <p>Agriculture is dominated by "high-value vegetable production and outdoor pig units"</p> <p>traditional settlement patterns include small villages and relatively unspoilt coastal towns.</p> <p>The area's rich archaeology, military heritage, and distinctive vernacular architecture - using soft-hued bricks, thatch, and flint - contribute to its character.</p> <p>Major ports, energy infrastructure, and transport routes coexist with a strong sense of tranquillity and wildness.</p>		<p>sites supporting nature tourism and estuary-based recreation.</p>	<p>tourism driven by Aldeburgh Festival, Sutton Hoo, and Orford Ness military heritage.</p>		<p>Felixstowe, Harwich, and along A14/A12 corridors.</p>	<p>Sandlings Forests supply timber; Sizewell nuclear supports energy security.</p>
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
No	High	NCA 82 is a varied, dynamic and distinctive character area. The expansive coast, alluvial valleys, extensive wetlands, fragments of rare heath and substantial woodlands provide character and a rich biodiversity. Public access is extensive, and both recreation and tourism are important with visitors attracted to the scenic, tranquil landscape, where settlement is sparse. The presence of large commercial ports, the Sizewell Power Station and major transport infrastructure weigh somewhat on the value, though they offer functional benefits. Overall, the value attached to NCA 82 is assessed as high.	Medium	The large extent of this NCA means that it has areas that would be less susceptible to change and others that would be more susceptible. It is a broad area, and susceptibility is more effectively considered at a smaller scale. The sensitive areas within the National Landscape are far more susceptible to change; this includes areas within the study area. Also, more susceptible to change are River valleys with historic parklands and the coastline which is already subject to erosion. Less susceptible to change are the large areas of agricultural land with regularised fields or pig farming; areas close to existing large scale infrastructure and main roads.	High	Sensitivity based on combination of high landscape value and medium susceptibility to change.

Table 1.102: NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths – assessment of effects

NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
Construction of the Proposed Scheme would extend across the centre third of the character area, between Saxmundham and Friston and Blythburgh and Walberswick. Impacts would extends across a relatively narrow corridor with the most intense activity localised at the northern end where the proposed Landfall would be located and at the southern end where the proposed Converter Station and Kiln Lane Substation would be located. Large areas of the NCA would be unaffected. Construction impacts to landscape character would include displacement of arable land; removal of vegetation disrupting ecological connectivity; presence of construction compounds, trench excavation, earthworks and movement of plant and machinery, which would affect tranquility. Most of the northern area of work (Section D) is within the National Landscape and it would take place in and around some of the most distinctive parts of this NCA. However, given the large scale of the NCA and the extent of the works, the magnitude of impact is considered to be low.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
<p>There would be no perceptible change across the majority of NCA 82 in year 1 of operation. Proposed planting would not yet be established and there would be gaps in hedgerows where vegetation was removed to facilitate construction along the route for the proposed Underground Cable Corridor. There would be evidence of scarring of the landscape relating to open cut trenches, construction compounds and haul roads. There would be no permanent physical infrastructure along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors, so the changes in these areas would be localised. The Proposed Converter Station would introduce a large new building and associated structures and infrastructure into a largely open setting. Its operation would locally reduce tranquillity and would change the character of the eastern edge and gateway to Saxmundham.</p> <p>The Amendment to Kiln Lane Substation scenario would represent a small addition to the existing energy infrastructure. For the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation proposed Full Build scenario, the addition of a permanent substation would represent a larger, albeit localised change to this character area, in the context of the existing overhead power lines.</p> <p>The scale and extent of these changes means that, overall, the magnitude of impact would be very low.</p>	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects during year 1 of operation, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 15 operation (summer)	
Very low	Minor adverse ( <b>not significant</b> )
By year 15 of operation, there would be barely any perceptible change to the character of the majority of NCA 82 as proposed replacement planting along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors would have established. Proposed planting around the proposed Converter Station and the Kiln Lane Substation would have established to assist in integrating these structures into the landscape and enhancing ecological connectivity. At this scale, the magnitude of impact would be very low.	The high sensitivity assessed against the very low magnitude of impact would result in minor adverse effects by year 15, which is <b>not significant</b> .

Table 1.103: River Blyth Estuary and Marshes (Touching The Tide) - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
River Blyth Estuary and Marshes (Touching the Tide) This is a regional scale landscape character assessment and is included for context only. An assessment of effects at this scale has not been carried out. This is explained further in PEIR <b>Appendix 13.1 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology</b> .				Both		
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
Regional	NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths		N/A		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment			Section A, B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, C2, C3, and D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
River Blyth Estuary and Marshes extends from Sole Bay in the north to the edge of Dunwich in the south, stretching inland towards the Blyth estuary. The area is predominantly characterised by a mixture of saltmarsh and intertidal flats inland, with coastal dunes, shingle ridges and open coastal fen towards the coast. Scenic views are prominent from the sandy farmland fringing the lower lying wetlands.	The character area falls within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. The area falls within the Suffolk Heritage Coast.	Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC, Minsmere-Walberswick Special Protection Area SPA, Minsmere-Walberswick Ramsar, Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI, Suffolk Coast NNR	Rich natural heritage with diverse habitats and multiple landscape, wildlife, and ecological designations. Features include shifting coastal dunes, shingle ridges, salt marsh, estuaries (Blyth, Dunwich), rare salt-tolerant plants, reedbeds, marshes, grazing marsh, and Sandlings heathland.	Key landmarks include Blythburgh Church, Southwold Lighthouse, water towers, and churches in Southwold and Walberswick. Ruins of an Augustinian priory mark the estuary’s head. Historic Blythburgh likely an Anglo-Saxon royal site and burial place of King Anna (AD 654).	A changing landscape, mosaic of drained grazing marshes, saltmarshes, and intertidal flats. Regular and irregular drainage networks, such as Dingle Marshes and Robinson’s Marshes. Breached defences at Bulcamp Marshes have reintroduced saltwater habitats inland.	Landmarks like Blythburgh Church, Southwold Lighthouse, and water towers define the skyline. Military history marked by WWII pillboxes at The Denes. Historic Walberswick port abandoned after 1328 river change. Walberswick–Southwold ferry preserves historic cross-estuary link.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
"The landscape is made up of saltmarsh and intertidal flats and coastal levels backed by estate sandlands which form the estuary valley sides and inland landscape, while on the coast there are coastal dunes and shingle ridges and to the south an extensive area of open coastal fen." "Scenic quality of heath and wetland landscapes and views across the estuary." "Within the estuary the flat valley floor comprises drained grazing marshes behind sea walls that are defined by regular... and irregular... networks of open ditches."	The Blyth Estuary features shingle ridges, dunes, lagoons, and England’s largest reedbed at Walberswick NNR. Historic drainage at Oldtown Marshes and Dingle Marshes’ decoy pond show long-term land use. Elevated sandy farmland offers wide views of channels and mudflats.	Recreation focused on Southwold’s promenade, pier, and beach huts, contrasting with Walberswick’s natural beach. Coastal path, Blythburgh tumuli, and WWII pillboxes offer scenic walks. Walberswick–Southwold foot ferry adds seasonal interest. Limited vehicle access enhances quiet exploration.	Tourism thrives on Southwold’s lighthouse, Adams brewery, and heritage architecture, alongside Walberswick’s artistic appeal. National Nature Reserves attract birdwatchers to reedbeds with bitterns. Historic sites like Blythburgh Priory and modern beach amenities offer a varied visitor experience.	This character area aligns closely to the scenic qualities defined for the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape. Scenic quality from elevated views over wetland mosaic, framed by wooded slopes and Southwold Lighthouse. Dynamic vistas from tidal shifts and old flood defences. Sandy valley sides with heath, arable fields, and birch woodland add seasonal colour and texture.	Wildness felt in remote saltmarshes and reedbeds with natural soundscapes. Dingle Marshes’ remoteness and Bulcamp’s timeless flats contrast Southwold’s summer activity. Low light pollution enhances night-time tranquillity.	The estuary supports agriculture via drained grazing marshes and managed reedbeds. Its canalised channel reflects historic goods transport. Today, land use balances grazing, wildlife conservation, and flood defence through maintained sea walls.



<p>"The sandy shallow valley sides are used for arable farming and grazing."</p> <p>"Southwold has significant Victorian architecture... reflecting its growth as a seaside resort".</p> <p>"The beach has become urbanised", while "at Walberswick the beach remains more natural."</p> <p>"Inundation and breaching of the coastal sea defences has also led to the loss of some former grazing areas and the recreation of extensive areas of saltmarshes and intertidal flats." Dingle and reedland marshes have "a mixture of sinuous and straight drains, suggesting drainage works over an extended period of time."</p> <p>"The modern landscape is dominated by cattle grazing on low intensity wet grassland and is dissected by a network of dykes with scrub growing along them in places."</p> <p>"Important remains of Roman salterns on the northern edge of the Blyth River".</p>								
Valued landscape	Value	Susceptibility		Sensitivity				
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high	High		Very high				
	The Blyth Estuary reflects cycles of human intervention and natural resilience. Combines medieval heritage, historic land reclamation, and vital habitats in a cohesive landscape. Sensitive to coastal change and community needs, requiring adaptive management.	This area is a host landscape for the Proposed Scheme, including the proposed Landfall Site, and proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor and proposed Underground Cable Corridor. Susceptibility is highest in ecologically critical zones like Walberswick's reedbeds, dunes and marshes and areas that depend on their character for tourism and recreation. Development on elevated sandy farmland risks disrupting scenic vistas, while increased tourism infrastructure could degrade the sense of remoteness. Conservation must prioritize the estuary's balance of human and natural to maintain its distinctive identity.		Sensitivity based on combination of very high landscape value and high susceptibility to change.				



Table 1.104: SCT 03: Nearshore Waters - baseline

Name				Kiln Lane Substation Scenario	Proposed Underground Cable Corridor Option	
SCT 03: Nearshore Waters				Both	All	
Hierarchy	National Character Area		County Character Area		District Character Area	
County	N/A		N/A		N/A	
Source			Part of Proposed Scheme			
Suffolk Seascape Character Assessment			Section D Proposed Landfall and Proposed Underground Cable Corridor			
Summary	Determining the value attached to the landscape					
	Landscape designations	Other relevant designations	Natural heritage	Cultural heritage	Landscape condition	Associations
SCT 03 occupies the shallower coastal waters of the Suffolk coastline, including areas defined as Heritage Coast. This is an active area of coast with rapid erosion in some sections.	The Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape boundary terminates at the mean low water mark, the Nearshore Waters SCT forms the immediate maritime setting. Suffolk Heritage Coast: Extends 1.5km offshore, overlapping with the western edges of the Nearshore Waters SCT.	Margate and Long Sands SAC, Outer Thames Estuary SPA, Greater Wash SPA, Kentish Knock East MCZ, Orford Inshore MCZ, Suffolk Coast Maritime Natural Area, part of the Sheringham to Lowestoft Maritime Natural Area, and the Southern North Sea Marine Natural Area	Extensive sandbanks, tidal ridges, and a mosaic of sandy, gravelly, and muddy substrates support a rich benthic ecology. These waters are vital to the ecological integrity of the southern North Sea, with intertidal mudflats, saltmarshes, saline lagoons, shingle structures, and subtidal habitats providing critical breeding, feeding, and nursery grounds for a wide range of species including overwintering and breeding birds, rare invertebrates. Dynamic geomorphology and active coastal processes, such as sediment transport and sandbank movement, further enhance biodiversity and support the evolving coastline.	Nearshore waters hold rich cultural heritage as historic navigation and fishing routes supporting coastal communities for centuries. Archaeological sites include the protected 16th-century Dunwich Bank Wreck. Site of naval battles (e.g., 1665 Lowestoft), Roman maritime links. Fishing remains active with commercial shellfish and fishery, sustaining traditional maritime livelihoods. The coast has WWII defence relics in many areas.	Seabed of sand, gravelly sand, and muddy sand supports diverse marine life in good ecological condition. Shipping lanes, aggregate extraction, and offshore infrastructure modify parts. Active sandbanks and tidal ridges show ongoing geomorphology, some relics from post-glacial times. Water quality and habitats support multiple conservation designations up to European level despite commercial pressures.	The coast and its waters have inspired renowned artists, writers and composers. JMW Turner, Phillip Wilson Steer, Charls Rennie Mackintosh, George Orwell and Benjamin Britten. Britten’s "Four Sea Interludes" is commemorated by Aldeburgh’s Scallop sculpture. Featured in literature like Ransome's "We Didn’t Mean to Go to Sea." Historically key in medieval maritime trade (e.g., Dunwich herring fishery) and military defence during both World Wars along Suffolk coast. In the Anglo-Saxon period, Dunwich (out of the study area) was the capital of the Kingdom of the East Angles in the Anglo Saxon period. The former harbour and town have mostly disappeared due to coastal erosion.
Key Characteristics	Distinctiveness	Recreational	Tourism	Perceptual (scenic)	Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Functional
"Sheltered or moderately sheltered coastal waters, adjacent to long curving bays backed by shingle	Nearshore Waters feature shallow marine environment with complex bathymetry of active and	Diverse recreation offer sailing, angling, wildlife watching. Key RYA boating	Tourism value stems from Nearshore Waters supporting coastal activities:	Expansive maritime views with limited coastal visibility except in clear conditions. Wide vistas showcase Suffolk bays,	Moderate to very high wildness and tranquillity, varying by location and weather.	Fishing (shellfish, herring, demersal), renewable energy (offshore wind farms out of study area and

<p>beaches, vegetated dunes, low cliffs and occasional coastal settlements."</p> <p>"Active length of coast with a fluctuating patchwork of erosion and accretion. Dynamic nature of coastline illustrated by events in history such as the inundation of coastal settlements and the creation of shingle features resulting from the movement of sediment over time."</p> <p>"Sea floor underlain by superficial sediments largely masking underlying bedrock."</p> <p>"Relatively shallow waters up to approximately 20 metres deep with sand bank systems parallel to the coastline in places."</p> <p>"Interaction of terrestrial, coastal and offshore areas important for biodiversity, evidenced by extent of national and international designations."</p> <p>"Strategically important coastline with numerous historic military sites."</p> <p>"Commercial fishing activity is relatively intense along the coast. Beached fishing boats are characteristic in some locations."</p> <p>"Popular tourist area, notably for walking and nature watching with activity focused on visitor destinations and tourist towns located along the coast."</p> <p>"Sea fishing, sailing and water-sports activity throughout, albeit centred upon destination towns and approaches to navigable rivers"</p> <p>"Strong cultural associations, notably in art"</p> <p>"Strong visual relationship with the predominantly rural coastline. Occasional coastal towns and large-scale developments including energy and military infrastructure evident in</p>	<p>relict sandbanks and tidal ridges at 10-30m depths. Transitional zone supporting unique marine life within Southern North Sea Marine Natural Area. Inland a complex mosaic of shingle ridges, marsh, salt marsh, tidal flat and reedbeds.</p>	<p>areas between Felixstowe–Bawdsey and Aldeburgh–Lowestoft. Popular angling (boat and shore), charter boats, and diving (wreck sites). Nearby coastal reserves boost wildlife viewing (seals, seabirds).</p>	<p>nature based walking and recreation along the coastline, boat trips from Southwold and Walberswick. Further south, out of the study area sees charter fishing, sailing and water sports attracting visitors to marinas and wildlife watching of seal and seabird sites. Waters enhance coastal views from piers and promenades. Tourists drawn to popular coastal resorts of Walberswick, Southwold and further south out of the study area, Aldeburgh.</p>	<p>forming low horizons offshore. Uninterrupted seascapes enhance openness and connection to marine processes. Seasonal/weather changes create dynamic scenes, from calm sandbanks to storms. Within the study area, the dome of Sizewell B and the Southwold Lighthouse are recognisable landmarks. Offshore wind farms add vertical elements, affecting seascape interest (out of study area)</p>	<p>Very high within study area Lack of structures enhances naturalness, interrupted by shipping and offshore infrastructure. Wind and waves dominate sounds, sometimes broken by vessels/industry. Marine conservation zones retain higher wildness. Shipping routes and wind farms reduce tranquillity in some spots. The absence of a coast road and widespread development imparts a rural character to the terrestrial hinterland of the character area.</p>	<p>nuclear power). Major shipping routes (outside of study area) link UK ports to Europe and beyond. Aggregate extraction disturbs seabed. Dredging maintains navigation channels. Waters act as buffer protecting coast from waves and storms. Ecological functionality for bird and aquatic life and breeding.</p>
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some views act as orientation points/navigation aids"						
"Expansive views offshore encompass largely undeveloped seascape. Offshore shipping and wind farms visible in adjacent seascape character types, subject to weather conditions".						
Valued landscape	Value		Susceptibility		Sensitivity	
This landscape meets the threshold to be considered valued landscape in the context of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 187(a).	Very high		High		High	
	High value through natural heritage, cultural identity, economic activity, and experiential qualities. Marine conservation, archaeological sites, and artistic ties boost heritage value. Support for fishing and renewables adds functional value. Recreation and tourism enhance social/economic benefits. Scenic and perceptual qualities provide strong experiential value. Multiple uses and infrastructure create conflicts, especially between industry and perception.		This area is a host landscape for the Proposed Onshore Scheme and the Proposed Offshore Scheme, where works take place near the proposed Landfall. The coastline is inherently dynamic and changing, though generally due to natural processes. The coastal waters are historically active routes. Sizewell introduced energy infrastructure to the coastal waters and this has reduced susceptibility to change, though the coastline remains sensitive in terms of geology culture, tourism and ecology.		Sensitivity based on combination of high landscape value and high susceptibility to change.	

Table 1.105: SCT 03: Nearshore Waters – assessment of effects

SCT 03: Nearshore Waters	Assessment of effects
Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Construction (winter)	
Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
This character area would be physically affected by construction in the area of the proposed Landfall Site. Approximately 500m off-shore there would be a proposed jack-up-barge and activity around it with various support vessels on the water. Beneath the water there would be drilling and cable laying. This would result in localised impacts on the character of the shoreline, with activity across the horizon off shore and across Sole Bay at Walberswick affecting the scenic quality and tranquility, wildness and remoteness.	The high sensitivity, assessed against the low magnitude of impact, would result in minor adverse effects in construction, which is <b>not significant</b> .
Year 1 operation (winter)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.
Year 15 operation (summer)	
No change	No effect
There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.	There would be no change to the baseline conditions as a result of the operation of the Proposed Scheme and therefore no effect.

Table 1.106: Preliminary assessment of impacts on the special qualities of the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape

Step 1: Review and describe the proposal		
Review and describe the proposal (including associated elements such as access tracks, borrow pits, lighting, drainage and planting), focusing on aspects relevant to potential effects on the Special Qualities.		<p>The Proposed Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a proposed multi-purpose interconnector. This comprises undersea cables between the Netherlands and the UK, with UK landfall proposed at Walberswick in Suffolk. The proposed Underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Cable Corridor would then cross the countryside to a proposed Converter Station located to the east of Saxmundham. This facility would convert the energy to alternating current (AC) which would be transmitted via the proposed Underground High Voltage AC (HVAC) Cable Corridor extending to the Kiln Lane Substation, where a connection the national grid would be provided.</p> <p>The proposed Landfall and approximately 5 km of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would be located within the Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape (hereafter the National Landscape). The proposed Underground HDVC Cable Corridor would extend from Walberswick to a point approximately 500 m west of the B1125 Dunwich Road, before turning south. It would exit the National Landscape where it would cross Butchers Lane. The remainder of the proposed Underground HDVC Cables would be within the setting of the National Landscape until Moat Road to the west of Theberton, where it would turn west towards Saxmundham.</p> <p>No permanent above ground infrastructure is proposed within the National Landscape.</p> <p>The proposed Converter Station would be located approximately 3 km to the north of the National Landscape at its closest point and not within its setting.</p> <p>The Kiln Lane Substation would be located approximately 1.7 km the north of the National Landscape at its closest point and would be located within its setting.</p> <p>Further information on the design of the Proposed Scheme is provided in <b>Chapter 2 Description of the Proposed Scheme</b>, the draft <b>Design Principles</b> that have been published as part of Statutory Consultation, and <b>Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual</b>.</p> <p>In addition to <b>Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual</b>, several other topic chapters of the PEIR have informed this assessment, and these are referred to below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Chapter 6 Agricultural Land and Soils;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 10 Health and Wellbeing;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 11 Historic Environment;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 16 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism;</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 17 Traffic and Transport; and</b></li><li>• <b>Chapter 27 Climate Change and Carbon.</b></li></ul> <p>The design of the Proposed Scheme will be controlled by the <b>Design Principles</b> that have been published as part of Statutory Consultation.</p>
Refer to relevant supporting material, e.g. design statement, Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment/Appraisal (LVIA/LVA) and/or visualisations and Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps.		
Step 2: Identify the Special Qualities that may be affected by the proposal		
Refer to the Special Qualities descriptions for the National Park or National Landscape (plus Special Qualities maps if available).		<p><b>2a: Refer to relevant information</b></p> <p>Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators for the National Landscape were developed by LDA Design as part of the Sizewell C project, but these cover the whole of the National Landscape (Ref 1). The natural beauty indicators address the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape quality;</li><li>• Scenic quality;</li></ul>
Refer to other landscape material which may provide more information or context for the Special Qualities. This may include:		






Step 2: Identify the Special Qualities that may be affected by the proposal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Landscape Character Assessment</li><li>• Management Plan</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relative wildness;</li><li>• Relative tranquillity;</li><li>• Natural heritage features; and</li><li>• Cultural heritage.</li></ul> <p>Special quality indicators comprise the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health and wellbeing;</li><li>• Community;</li><li>• Economy; and</li><li>• Ecosystem goods and services.</li></ul> <p>For each factor, example sub-factors and indicators are provided.</p> <p>The relevant landscape character assessments for the study area comprise the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Character Area Profile 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths; [Ref 7]</li><li>• National Character Area Profile 83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands; [Ref 7]</li><li>• East of England Landscape Framework, 2010; [Ref 8]</li><li>• Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, 2008; [Ref 8]</li><li>• Suffolk Seascape Character Assessment, 2018; [Ref 10]</li><li>• Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment, 2018; [Ref 11]</li><li>• Waveney District Landscape Character Assessment, 2008. [Ref 12]</li></ul> <p>Other documents referred to comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, Version 3 (2012) [Ref 3]</li><li>• Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators (2016) [Ref 1]</li><li>• Suffolk &amp; Essex Coast &amp; Heaths National Landscape Management Plan, 2023 -2028 (2023) [0]</li><li>• CPRE: The Countryside Charity, Tranquillity Map: England [Ref 5]</li><li>• CPRE: The Countryside Charity, England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies Map. [Ref 5]</li></ul>	
Identify on site the likely key Special Qualities that are relevant to and might be affected by the proposal.		<b>2b: Site visit and identify key Special Qualities</b> <p>Several periods of fieldwork have been carried out to date, which have informed the design of the Proposed Scheme and the assessment presented in this PEIR. Initial fieldwork was carried out in late May 2023 to inform the geographical extent of the study area for the LVIA and the identification of landscape and visual receptors set out in the EIA Scoping Report [Ref 6] Further fieldwork relating to the proposed Landfall was carried out in August 2024 and in February and March 2025, to verify and microsite the location of proposed representative viewpoints. This fieldwork has collectively informed the scope of the LVIA and the assessment of the quality and condition of the landscape and views and visual amenity.</p>	
Consider how the individual key Special Qualities come together and are experienced by people.	✓	All of the Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators identified above are considered to be relevant to and might be affected by the proposal. The Natural Beauty Indicators are what draw tourists to the area and are also valued by the local communities. The Special Quality Indicators are also relevant to both, but are likely to be experienced more by local people, who are integrated with and contribute to local communities and the economy.	
Consider how the Special Qualities are experienced from different parts of the National Park or National Landscape, including whilst moving through the area and from key locations (for example arrival, exit or crossing points, hill tops, or public attractions).	✓	The Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators reflect the rich variety of the landscapes within the National Landscape. There are strong physical and social connections between the coasts and heaths which give the area its name, but also distinct contrasts in form and character of the landscape and the settlements within it. The landscape is generally flat or gently undulating and so the coastal parts of the designation are generally experienced in a narrow band close to the sea where there is high scenic quality. From the coast there are long views to the east and south across Minsmere Havem towards Dunwich and Sizewell beyond. Inland the relative wildness and tranquillity of the marshes extending along the River Blyth, between Walberswick and Dunwich and between Dunwich and Sizewell are generally experienced from the immediate surrounding landscape. Dunwich Forest, which contributes strongly to the natural heritage of the area is strongly associated with the heaths and commons which extend in fragments south from the River Blyth to Westleton. These are experienced locally, for example from the B1125 Dunwich Road.	
Identify assessment points/routes for assessing potential effects on the key Special Qualities.	✓		
Consider from where the proposal would be visible in relation to the Special Qualities identified above.	✓		



Step 2: Identify the Special Qualities that may be affected by the proposal		
		<p>The Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators will be assessed with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified in the LVIA that are within the National Landscape and, where relevant, with reference to key viewpoints.</p> <p>The main part of the Proposed Scheme that would be located within the National Landscape designation and its setting would be limited to proposed Underground Cables from the proposed Landfall extending towards the proposed Converter Station. The only permanent above ground element would be a telecommunications kiosk at the proposed Landfall. Therefore, most impacts on the National Landscape would be likely to occur during construction and decommissioning, relating to the laying out of the proposed Underground Cables. The LVIA has concluded that it is unlikely there would be significant effects on views and visual amenity beyond 3 km from the Draft Order Limits. Views of the permanent above ground plant at the proposed Landfall site would be limited to the immediate surrounding area due to the small scale of the proposal.</p>
Identify the area over which the proposal is likely to have effects on the key Special Qualities.		<p><b>2c: Identify the study area</b></p> <p>The study area for this assessment of the likely effects on the Special Qualities of the National Landscape extends east from the proposed Landfall to the location of the proposed Jack Up Barge in the North Sea. It extends west from Walberswick to a point approximately 500 m west of the B1125 Dunwich Road, before turning south to where it exits the National Landscape at Butchers Lane. It also includes the part of the Proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor within the setting of the National Landscape which ends at Theberton. The study area extends along this corridor and 3 km either side measured from the Draft Order Limits. A separate study area has been defined in the south to consider the effects of the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road and the part of the Proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor that fall within the setting of the National Landscape.</p>
Produce a map of the study area showing its boundary, location of all elements of the proposal and the assessment points.		<p>The study area for the LVIA, which also shows the boundary of the National Landscape, is shown in <b>Figure 13.1 Landscape and Visual Study Area</b>.</p> <p><b>Figure 13.3 National Landscape Character Area and Marine Plan Areas, Figure 13.4 County Landscape Character Areas, Figure 13.5 District Landscape Character Areas and Figure 13.6 Local Landscape Character Areas</b>, show the landscape character baseline.</p> <p><b>Figure 13.7 Viewpoints</b> shows the viewpoints which are referred to in the LVIA. <b>Table 13.13 Summary of visual receptor sensitivity</b> in <b>Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual</b>, sets out the viewpoints which are within the National Landscape and its setting.</p>
Assess the sensitivity of the key Special Qualities identified (Step 2b) to the proposal within the study area (Step 2c).		<p><b>2d Assess the sensitivity of the key Special Qualities to the proposal</b></p> <p>The value attached to the landscape of the National Landscape and the susceptibility of its features, key characteristics and special qualities to the change proposed have been assessed as very high in <b>Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual</b>. Combining these judgements, its sensitivity is also considered to be very high, which is the highest of the five levels of sensitivity set out in <b>Appendix 13.1 LVIA Methodology</b>.</p>
Consider whether Special Qualities may be grouped based on being experienced together and having similar sensitivity to the proposal. If the Special Qualities are grouped, explain the reasons behind each of these groups.		<p>The Natural Beauty Indicators and the separate Special Quality Indicators already provide a degree of grouping which support an understanding of what makes the National Landscape important and distinctive. Within these two types of indicator there is sufficient difference between the categories to avoid the need to group them further.</p>
Discuss and agree key Special Qualities and proposed study area with relevant decision-making authority and/or consultees.		<p><b>2e Consult relevant organisations</b></p> <p>The approach to the assessment of the likely impacts and effects on the National Landscape and the design of the Proposed Scheme have been discussed in meetings with the National Landscapes team and landscape officers from East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC). It has also been informed by feedback received in response to the EIA Scoping Report [Ref 6] that was appended to the Scoping Opinion, including from Natural England. Further engagement is planned with this group as the project progresses.</p>

Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives		
3a Baseline description and design objectives in direct response to SLQs	Assessment of effects on the Special Qualities	Further mitigation, design amendment and final assessment of residual effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify design objectives in direct response to the key Special Qualities identified in Step 2 and the proposal (examples in Table 1 of the main guidance document).</li><li>Consider how the proposed design may conserve and enhance the SLQs. (Ref 1)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assess the effects of all elements of the proposal on the key Special Qualities (including cumulative effects and primary (embedded) mitigation).</li><li>Assess the significance of these effects (assigning defined levels if useful).</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify if any further mitigation/enhancement measures could be implemented to avoid, minimise and/or compensate for any predicted significant effects on key SLQs. Make changes to the design of the proposal as a consequence.</li><li>Assess the significance of residual effects of the proposal on the key Special Qualities after all mitigation has been incorporated.</li></ul>
		
Natural Beauty: Landscape quality		
<p>The quality of the landscape in the northern part of the study area is generally very high. The site of the proposed Landfall is an arable field and several fields through which the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor is proposed to cross are also arable fields or are currently used for pig farming. There are larger areas and remnants of heathland in the landscape to the west of Walberswick where scrub is common, and wetland, including marshes to the south. Woodland extends beyond, forming part of the extensive Dunwich Forest.</p> <p>The southern part of the study area associated with the site of the Kiln Lane Substation is largely arable fields bounded by hedgerows. There are some larger blocks of woodland in the area. This part of the study area falls outside of the National Landscape, but in its setting.</p>	<p>Some vegetation removal would be required on field boundaries to facilitate construction of the Proposed Underground Cable Corridor. These features are generally small in scale and commonplace and can be replaced. Sensitive features such as the heathland at East Sheep Walk to the west of the proposed Landfall would be retained by using trenchless construction techniques, preserving their intactness from a functional and ecological perspective.</p> <p>The nature of construction activity means that it would be visible from the surrounding landscape and parts of the North Sea to the east, temporarily changing the perception of the area. Effects on the intactness of the landscape during construction and decommissioning would be localised within the proposed Landfall site and within the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and at the site of the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road. Following construction, the proposed Landfall site and the proposed Underground Cable Corridor would be reinstated. Vegetation removed to facilitate construction would be replaced, restoring the intactness of the landscape such that there would be a barely perceptible change by year 15 of operation. At year 1 of operation, the landscape would have returned largely to its baseline condition. These effects would diminish over time as proposed reinstatement planting establishes, such that by year 15 of operation there would be no significant residual landscape effects.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on the intactness of the landscape will be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)</b>.</p> <p>All landscape and visual mitigation for the operational phase is embedded in the design of the Proposed Scheme and no further mitigation is proposed to address this Special Quality.</p>
	<p>Soil stripping and storage would be required at the proposed Landfall and along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor and this would persist throughout the construction period. Some existing vegetation would be removed on field boundaries. The soil stripping and storage would temporarily affect the condition and disrupt the pattern of largely arable fields during the construction period.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on the condition of the landscape will be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP</b>.</p> <p>All landscape and visual mitigation for the operational phase is embedded in the design of the Proposed Scheme and no further mitigation is proposed to address this Special Quality.</p>

Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives

	<p>The localised removal of trees and sections of hedgerow would sever field boundaries, affecting the landscape pattern and connectivity within the Draft Order Limits. There would be limited perception of this loss in the wider landscape. Embedded mitigation measures include a commitment to trenchless construction techniques to avoid vegetation loss and severance at important crossings, for example East Sheep Walk. Following completion of construction, the proposed Landfall site and the land above the proposed Underground Cable Corridor would be restored, returning the soil to its baseline condition to support its previous land use. Vegetation removed to facilitate construction would be reinstated and this would have fully established by year 15 of operation.</p>	
<p>There are few incongruous features or elements within the study area that affect the perceived natural beauty of the area. Principal features are the busy A12 trunk road to the west, which affects tranquillity, and Sizewell Nuclear Power Station, which is visible on the skyline to the south from the proposed Landfall site.</p>	<p>Construction and decommissioning would introduce temporary features into the landscape which would incongruous and affect the perceived natural beauty. This would include the proposed Jack Up Barge, which would be located within 500 m of the shoreline, tall cranes, compounds, construction plant and materials storage at the proposed Landfall and along the proposed Underground Cable Corridor. These features and elements would be removed following construction.</p> <p>In operation, the only above ground features within the National Landscape would small link box pillars, typically at every third joint bay. The Kiln Lane Substation would be located in the setting of the National Landscape in the south of the study area.</p> <p>In operation the Proposed Scheme would not introduce new incongruous features or elements within the National Landscape. In the Proposed Full Build Out of Kiln Lane Substation Proposed Full Buildscenario, the Kiln Lane Substation would add additional built form in the context of an existing large-scale substation within the setting of the National Landscape.</p>	<p>Planting is proposed around the site of the Kiln Lane substation to assist with integrating into the landscape and to provide visual screening. No additional mitigation is proposed.</p>
<p>Natural Beauty: Scenic Quality</p>		
<p>The scenic quality of the part of the National Landscape and its setting which coincides with the study area is well-documented. This supports the strong sense of place, particularly along the coast and around Walberswick, where visual interest is derived from the patterns of land cover which include dunes, marshes, heathland and woodland. Views along the coast are memorable and have often been represented in art and literature. Scenic quality in the setting of the National Landscape in the south is lower and reduced by the presence of existing overhead power lines. These conclusions are supported by the assessment of the value attached to the landscape presented in <b>Appendix 13.2 Landscape Baseline and Effects</b>, and views in <b>Appendix 13.3 Visual Baseline and Effects</b>.</p>	<p>Significant visual effects during construction and operation would extend to up to 3 km the Draft Order Limits. Construction of the Proposed Scheme would interrupt the scenic quality of the landscape within the National Landscape between Walberswick and the southern edge of Blythburgh. This would particularly effect views from the coast towards Walberswick from the south and from the western edge of Walberswick towards the coast to the east and towards East Sheep Walk. There would also be some intervisibility with the western edge of the designation within the setting as far south as Theberton, but this would be limited by dense woodland and trees. These effects would be temporary during construction and</p>	<p>Planting is proposed around the site of the Kiln Lane substation to assist with integrating into the landscape and to provide visual screening. No additional mitigation is proposed.</p>



Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives

<p>ZTVs supporting the LVIA indicate potentially wide ranging views of construction activity within the National Landscape and its setting relating to the Proposed Scheme (a series of figures will be presented in the ES). Initial fieldwork has been carried out to verify the extent of views.</p>	<p>scenic quality would largely return to the baseline situation in year 1 of operation. Following reinstatement, the landscape would gradually return to its baseline condition, such that by year 15 of operation there would be no perceptible change to the character of the landscape and views across it.</p> <p>Scenic quality in the southern part of the study area would be reduced by the construction of the Kiln Lane substation, but the sensitivity of these views is lower, reflecting the agricultural character of the landscape and the existing overhead power lines. Proposed planting would be established by year 15 of operation to mitigate views of the structures.</p>
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Natural Beauty: Relative Wildness

<p>The sense of remoteness, wildness and isolation is strongest along the beach, dunes and within the marshes to the south of Walberswick, where there is a relative lack of human influence and the landscape is open and exposed. The network of habitats contributes to connections with nature. These areas lie to the south of the proposed Landfall and Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. These perceptions decrease in the north around the settlement of Walberswick, particularly during the summer tourist season and where there is more arable farmland and less natural habitat. West of Walberswick arable land and pig farming are common. Remnants of heath and common land increase the sense of wildness but this is reduced by traffic on the B1387, which provides the only vehicular access to the village.</p> <p>The southern part of the study area is dominated by arable farmland. There is relatively little settlement, but the openness of the landscape means that it there can be a sense of remoteness.</p>	<p>The sense of relative wildness would be temporarily reduced in the area around the proposed Landfall due to the construction of the Proposed Scheme. These effects would extend east into the North Sea, extenuated by the presence of the proposed Jack Up Barge and construction vessels offshore. To the south the effects would extend across the northern part of the marshes and dunes, where noise and visual disturbance could draw attention away from the natural habitats. There would be some perception to the west of Walberswick within the edges of the heaths and commons, including East Sheep Walk and parts of Walberswick Common.</p> <p>The lack of proposed above ground infrastructure in the northern part of the study area means that there would be very little perception of changes to the sense of wildness in operation.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on the relative wildness of the landscape will be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP</b>.</p> <p>All landscape and visual mitigation for the operational phase is embedded in the design of the Proposed Scheme and no further mitigation is proposed to address this Special Quality.</p>
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Natural Beauty: Relative Tranquillity

<p>As with the sense of wildness, the strongest sense of tranquillity is felt along the beach, dunes and within the marshes to the south of Walberswick, where there is a relative lack of human influence, extensive natural habitats and large skies. These areas lie to the south of the proposed Landfall and Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. These perceptions decrease in the north around the settlement of Walberswick, particularly during the summer tourist season and where there is more arable farmland and less natural habitat. West of Walberswick tranquillity is reduced by traffic on the B1387, which provides the only vehicular access to the village.</p> <p>The southern part of the study area is dominated by arable farmland. There is relatively little settlement but some agricultural activity and detractors, including overhead power lines.</p> <p>With regards to tranquillity from a noise and vibration perspective, the results of the environmental sound survey, as presented in <b>Chapter 15</b></p>	<p>The sense of relative tranquillity would be temporarily reduced in the area around the proposed Landfall due to the construction of the Proposed Scheme. These effects would extend east into the North Sea, extenuated by the presence of the proposed Jack Up Barge and construction vessels offshore. To the south the effects would extend across the northern part of the marshes and dunes, where noise and visual disturbance could draw attention. However, the distance between the likely construction works and these receptors is sufficient that construction noise is unlikely to be perceptible, particularly when moving away from the works.</p> <p>There would be some perception to the west of Walberswick within the edges of the heaths and commons, including East Sheep Walk and parts of Walberswick Common. There may also be some reduction in tranquillity</p>	<p>Adverse effects on the relative tranquillity of the landscape will be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP</b>.</p> <p>The appointed contractor will also conduct works in line with best practicable means (BPM) as defined in the Control of Pollution Act 1974. This mechanism will ensure that noise impacts and emissions to environment are minimised.</p> <p>All landscape and visual mitigation for the operational phase is embedded in the design of the Proposed Scheme and no further mitigation is proposed to address this Special Quality.</p>
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Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives

<p><b>Noise and Vibration</b> and <b>Appendix 15.1 Environmental Sound Survey</b>, indicate that existing sound levels around the proposed Landfall site (located within the area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB)) range from approximately 41–46dBL<sub>Aeq,T</sub>. The existing sound levels within Walberswick village, particularly near the B1378 road, are higher at around 56–59dBL<sub>Aeq,T</sub>.</p> <p>The sound environment consisted of road traffic noise, seagulls, distant bleating from livestock, bird scarer, distant building works, light aircraft overflight, waves from seafront and the sea.</p> <p>As outlined in <b>Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration</b>, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) defines tranquillity as “<i>the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features and activities, free from disturbance from manmade ones</i>”. CPRE applies a ‘national relative tranquillity’ scale, which reflects a combination of positive and negative factors influencing the tranquillity character of an area. This relative scale ranges from -141 (least tranquil) to 149 (most tranquil), with an average of approximately -1 and a median value of around 1.</p> <p>Based on this national mapping, the proposed Landfall sit, within the AONB, has a tranquillity score close to the national average (i.e. ~1).</p>	<p>within the National Landscape and its setting south of Blythburgh to Theberton. These impacts would relate to construction traffic, noise and visual disturbance where there is intervisibility. In the southern part of the area the openness of the landscape and extent of proposed Access Roads and works to existing overhead power lines would mean that impacts on tranquillity would extend across a relatively wide area in and around Friston.</p> <p>The lack of proposed above ground infrastructure in the northern part of the study area means that there would be very little perception of changes to the sense of tranquillity in operation. The presence of the Kiln Lane Substation in both scenarios would introduce further large-scale infrastructure in the context of the existing overhead power lines, which would extend the influence of infrastructure across the landscape around Friston, reducing the tranquillity of the landscape within the setting of the National Landscape.</p>
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Natural Beauty: Natural Heritage Features

<p>There are several overlapping nature conservation designations of international to local importance which extend across the area to the south and west of the proposed Landfall site, including the dunes, marshes and heathland. This comprises the various designations covering the Minsmere to Walberswick area. These designations recognise the rich variety of habitats that support many rare species. <b>Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity</b> provides further detail on these features and their value.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of East Sheep Walk is predominantly arable, with some land used for pig farming. Natural heritage features are generally limited to hedgerows and roadside vegetation, which varies in condition.</p> <p>In the south, the arable landscape lacks the distinctive habitats found near the coast. Blocks of woodland including Grove Wood and Friston Wood, close to the site of the Kiln Lane substation.</p>	<p>The construction of the proposed Landfall and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would avoid the sensitive habitats to the south and west, primarily through the use of trenchless techniques for cable installation. However, some vegetation removal in field boundaries from arable land west and east of East Sheep Walk would remain, which would be minimised through restriction of the construction corridor at the field boundaries. This vegetation would be reinstated following construction and by year 15 of operation (generally much sooner for hedgerows) it would have fully established, returning the pattern of natural features to the baseline condition.</p> <p>In the south, there would be some vegetation removal to facilitate construction of the Kiln Lane Substation and the associated access road. Again, this would be primarily limited to field boundaries and vegetation loss would be minimised through restriction of the construction corridor at field boundaries and targeting of gaps between mature trees. This vegetation would be reinstated following construction and by year 15 of operation it would have fully established, to reinforce the existing pattern of natural features.</p>	<p>Planting is proposed around the site of the Kiln Lane substation to assist with integrating into the landscape and to provide visual screening. No additional mitigation is proposed.</p>
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Natural Beauty: Cultural Heritage

<p><b>Chapter 11 Historic Environment</b> provides a description of the cultural heritage baseline and a preliminary assessment of the likely effects.</p>	<p>The landscape restoration of the rural, agricultural landscape following the installation of the proposed</p>	<p>Adverse effects on cultural heritage will be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in</p>
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Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives		
<p>The history of Walberswick is closely related to its landscape and coastal setting. The etymology of Walberswick is indicative of early medieval origins, although the settlement is not recorded with Domesday. Archaeological evidence of potential early settlement has been identified to the south of the modern village.</p> <p>There is evidence of human influences across the landscape, from the coastal defences within the harbour and around the eastern edge of the village to the enclosure of heathland and its conversion to arable farming. This has shaped the landscape and the variety contributes strongly to its distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>Walberswick and its landscape setting support a thriving artistic community, and the landscape has been the inspiration for art, literature and music. Notable artists associated with Walberswick include the impressionist Philip Wilson Steer and Charles Rennie MacKintosh.</p>	<p>Landfall and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would return any temporary impacts incurred through changes in the setting of the village to the current baseline.</p> <p>Permanent impacts on the archaeological resource within the footprint of the proposed Landfall and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would result in a loss of archaeological features. However, with the application of a robust mitigation strategy of excavation and recording, this presents an opportunity to enhance understanding of the evolution of settlement and historic activity within the surrounding area.</p>	<p><b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP.</b> A Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (DAMS) will set out a scheme of archaeological excavation and/or monitoring to ensure remains that cannot be preserved <i>in situ</i> are preserved by record. The results of any archaeological recording will be combined with current understanding and historical records to enhance understanding of the National Landscape and those factors contributing to its sense of place and Special Qualities.</p> <p>All landscape and visual mitigation for the operational phase is embedded in the design of the Proposed Scheme and no further mitigation is proposed to address this Special Quality.</p>
<b>Special Qualities: Health and Wellbeing</b>		
<p><b>Chapter 10 Health and Wellbeing</b> and <b>Chapter 17 Traffic and Transport</b> are relevant to this Special Quality. <b>Chapter 10 Health and Wellbeing</b> addresses matters relating to health and wellbeing and <b>Chapter 17 Traffic and Transport</b> addresses traffic and transport, which includes an assessment of effects on the public right of way (PRoW) network.</p> <p>The proposed Landfall site and the area to the south and west of Walberswick provide extensive access to the semi-natural landscapes of the marsh, dunes and beach and heathland. Several PRoW extend south from The Street within Walberswick, including two which line the edges of the proposed Landfall site and join to cross its southern edge. The Suffolk Coast Path follows the Dunwich River through the marsh and the beach at Walberswick before following the edge of the River Blyth inland. The Sandlings Walk promoted route passes along Lodge Road to the south of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor and crosses East Sheep Walk and across Walberswick Common, both of which are open access land. PRoW of East Sheep Walk are more sparse, with the Sandlings Walk following Lodge Road and a footpath extending south from Toby’s Walk near the A12 across open farmland.</p> <p>There is also a strong network of PRoW in the south of the study area, which extend south into the National Landscape. National Cycle Route 46 follows Grove Road through the centre of the area, passing through the village of Friston. The Sandlings Walk promoted route also passes through Friston from east to west.</p>	<p>Construction activity relating to the proposed Landfall would disrupt the enjoyment of the PRoW leading south from Walberswick. These effects would extend further south into the marshes, dunes and beach, but would dissipate with distance. Trenchless construction of the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor would retain access to the open access land and Sandlings Walk across East Sheep Walk and Walberswick Common, but the enjoyment of these routes could also be affected by construction activity in proximity.</p> <p>In the south of the study area, enjoyment of the PRoW network would be disrupted during construction by the construction of the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor.</p> <p>These effects would largely cease following construction. There would still be some perception of scarring of the landscape, but this would be restored through planting, which would be fully established by year 15 of operation.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on health and wellbeing would be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP.</b></p>
<b>Special Qualities: Community</b>		
<p><b>Chapter 16 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism</b> addresses matters relating to socio-economics, recreation and tourism.</p> <p>There are strong and well-documented links between the community and the landscape which surrounds Walberswick. This includes the abundance of small cottages within the village that would have traditionally housed</p>	<p>Construction of the Proposed Scheme is likely to cause some temporary adverse effects for the community of Walberswick and disrupt their relationship with the surrounding landscape. These effects would relate to construction of the proposed Landfall, offshore activity and the construction of the proposed Underground HVDC</p>	<p>Adverse effects on communities would be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP.</b></p>



Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives

people involved in the fishing industry, to the later homes which dates from its birth as a thriving artistic community. There is also evidence of the productive use of land within the marshes, for thatch for example, and the arable land which intersperses the fragments of heathland to the west of the village. The intensity of arable use increases to the west of East Sheep Walk, where there is little settlement. Walberswick Common Lands charity, which dates to the 1800’s, is the largest landowner in the villages and manages 65 hectares (ha) of common and marshland. Annual events, such as the village fete in late August, demonstrate a close community which is proud of its place.

Friston in the southern part of the study area is a smaller community with evidence that it also values its relationship with the surrounding landscape. For example, the parish council carries out audits of its PRow and developed advice on managing the risks of field fires. There is evidence of settlement in the area from the neolithic period.

Cable Corridor. This includes enjoyment of the PRow and commons which lie to the south and west, as noted above. Disruption is less likely within the village and around the harbour, where no physical works are planned and there would be limited or no perception of construction activity due to the distance and density of intervening buildings and vegetation.

In the south, there would be similar effects for the community of Friston, affecting the enjoyment of PRow across the open countryside. These effects would relate to the construction of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor and the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road.

Following construction, the land within the Draft Order Limits would be restored and vegetation removed to facilitate construction would be reinstated and disruption to the relationships between the local communities and the surrounding landscape would cease. There would be some evidence of scarring of the landscape in year 1 of operation, but this would gradually diminish such that by year 15 of operation the proposed planting would be fully established.

Special Qualities: Economy

This Special Quality is also addressed by **Chapter 16 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism**.

Walberswick was historically a fishing village, but this aspect of the economy is now small. The village is a popular tourist destination, experiencing an influx of visitors, particularly in the summer months. There is a small camping site to the east and many of the properties in the village are second homes or holiday homes available for rent. Tourism supports the small number of pubs, restaurants and shops that are mostly located within the centre of the village. The beach to the east and the harbour, including the Walberswick ferry and the crab fishing areas around the mouth of the Dunwich River are also popular tourist destinations. The landscape to the south and west is important to the setting of Walberswick, which makes it attractive to visitors, but there are no facilities beyond the village edge.

Blythburgh to the north of the proposed construction compound for the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor south of the B1387 and Toby’s Walk is famous for its pork, supporting many pig farms in the area.

The economy around Friston remains focused on agriculture, which is the primary land use within the surrounding area. Tourism is important, with attractions locally including Snape Maltings approximately 5 km to the south-west.

Construction of the Proposed Onshore Scheme would lead to a number of construction related jobs (direct jobs) which would likely bring some benefit to the local economy. There would also be more indirect effects associated with spend from construction workforce within the wider economy which will help support sectors such as accommodation, recreation and leisure providers and food and drink.

The preliminary assessment within **Chapter 16 Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism** suggests this would lead to a beneficial effect. The ES will contain a more detailed assessment when final workforce numbers are known and will consider wider indirect and induced effects.

Tourism is recognised as an important aspect of the local economy and the assessment in **Chapter 16 Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism** recognises the potential pressure on accommodation and bedspace provision from non-local staff. Initial assessment work suggests that bedspace availability should be able to cope with the likely demand but this will be confirmed at ES stage.

N/A – a beneficial effect on the local economy is anticipated.

Special Qualities: Ecosystem Goods and Services

Step 3: Assessment of effects on Special Qualities and design objectives		
<p>The landscape within the northern part of the study area supports a wide range of ecosystem services. This includes regulating services, such as water, natural hazard, erosion and pollination regulation and cultural services such as cultural heritage, recreation and tourism and aesthetic value. Further more detailed evidence is provided in the <a href="#">NCA 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths – Analysis: Ecosystem Services</a> (Ref 7)webpage, published by Natural England.</p> <p>The southern part of the study area associated with the site of the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road and the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor is a largely arable landscape. It provides provisioning services, such as food and fibre and fuel, as well as regulating and cultural services.</p>	<p>An assessment of ecosystem goods and services has not been carried out for the Proposed Scheme. Further detail will be provided in the application for development consent.</p>	<p>Adverse effects on ecosystem goods and services would be minimised during construction through application of the measures set out in <b>Appendix 2.1 Onshore Outline CoCP</b>.</p>

Step 4: Summary of significant effects on the Special Qualities of the National Landscape	
<p>Based on the analysis in Steps 2-3, draw out the type, location, extent, pattern, duration, permanence and level of significant effects on the key Special Qualities (individual and grouped) in relation to the extent of the Special Qualities and the study area.</p>	<p>There would be intense construction activity within the northern part of the study area associated with the proposed Landfall, the proposed Jack Up Barge and construction vessels offshore and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor to the west of Walberswick. In the southern part of the study area, there would be intense construction activity associated with the Kiln Lane Substation and associated access road and the part of the proposed Underground HVAC Cable Corridor. This would result in a range of effects on the Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the National Landscape.</p> <p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Natural Beauty: Landscape quality –temporary adverse effects to perception of construction activity and the introduction of incongruous features and localised soil stripping and vegetation removal;</li><li>• Natural Beauty: Scenic quality –temporary adverse effects on views along the coast at Walberswick, the southern edge of Blythburgh and from the National Landscape north towards Friston;</li><li>• Natural Beauty: Relative wildness – temporary adverse effects on the sense of wildness south of Walberswick and on the coast relating to offshore construction activity and the proposed Landfall and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor;</li><li>• Natural Beauty: Relative tranquillity – temporary reduction in relative tranquillity in the landscape around the proposed Landfall site, along the proposed Underground Cable Corridors and around the site of the Kiln Lane Substation;</li><li>• Natural Beauty: Natural heritage features – minor loss of vegetation within the Draft Order Limits, mitigated by using trenchless construction techniques to avoid the loss of sensitive habitats;</li><li>• Natural Beauty: Cultural heritage – permanent loss of archaeological features within the footprint of the proposed Landfall and the proposed Underground HVDC Cable Corridor. excavation and recording, this presents an opportunity to enhance understanding of the evolution of settlement and historic activity within the surrounding area;</li><li>• Special Qualities: Health and wellbeing – disruption of the enjoyment of the PRoW leading south from Walberswick extending south into the marshes, dunes and beach during construction. These effects would largely cease following construction;</li><li>• Special Qualities: Community – Disruption to the relationship of local communities with the landscape during construction, returning to the baseline condition in operation;</li><li>• Special Qualities: Economy – Creation of jobs during construction would benefit the local economy, including sectors such as accommodation, recreation and leisure providers and food and drink; and</li><li>• Special Qualities: Ecosystem goods and services – Further detail will be provided in the application for development consent.</li></ul> <p>Following construction, the land within the Draft Order Limits would be restored and vegetation removed to facilitate construction would be reinstated. In year 1 of operation scarring of the landscape would still be perceptible, but impacts on scenic quality, relative wildness, relative tranquillity and the Special Quality indicators would return broadly to the</p>

Step 4: Summary of significant effects on the Special Qualities of the National Landscape

baseline condition. These effects would diminish as the proposed planting established and by year 15 of operation there would be no perceptible change to the natural beauty or special quality indicators.

# Topic Glossary

Acronym/ Phrase/ Abbreviation	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BPM	Best Practicable Means
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
DAMS	Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
ESC	East Suffolk Council
ha	Hectares
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LVA	Landscape and Visual Appraisal
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SCC	Suffolk County Council
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

# References

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- Ref 2 East Suffolk Council. (2015) Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB: Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators. [PDF] Available at: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Sizewell/AONB-special-qualities-document.pdf>
- Ref 3 Suffolk County Council (2008) The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map: Version 3. [online] Suffolk County Council. Available at: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Suffolk-Coastal-Local-Plan/Document-Library/Environment/2011-10-28SUFFOLK-HISTORIC-LANDSCAPE-CHARACTERISATION-.pdf> (Accessed: 11 June 2025)
- Ref 4 Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnership (2023) Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2023–2028. [pdf] Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnership. Available at: <https://coastandheaths-nl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-28-Management-Plan-1.pdf>
- Ref 5 CPRE The Countryside Charity, 2003. CPRE's Guide to Quiet Lanes [online]. Available at <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/cpres-guide-to-quiet-lanes/> (Accessed: 12 June 2025)
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