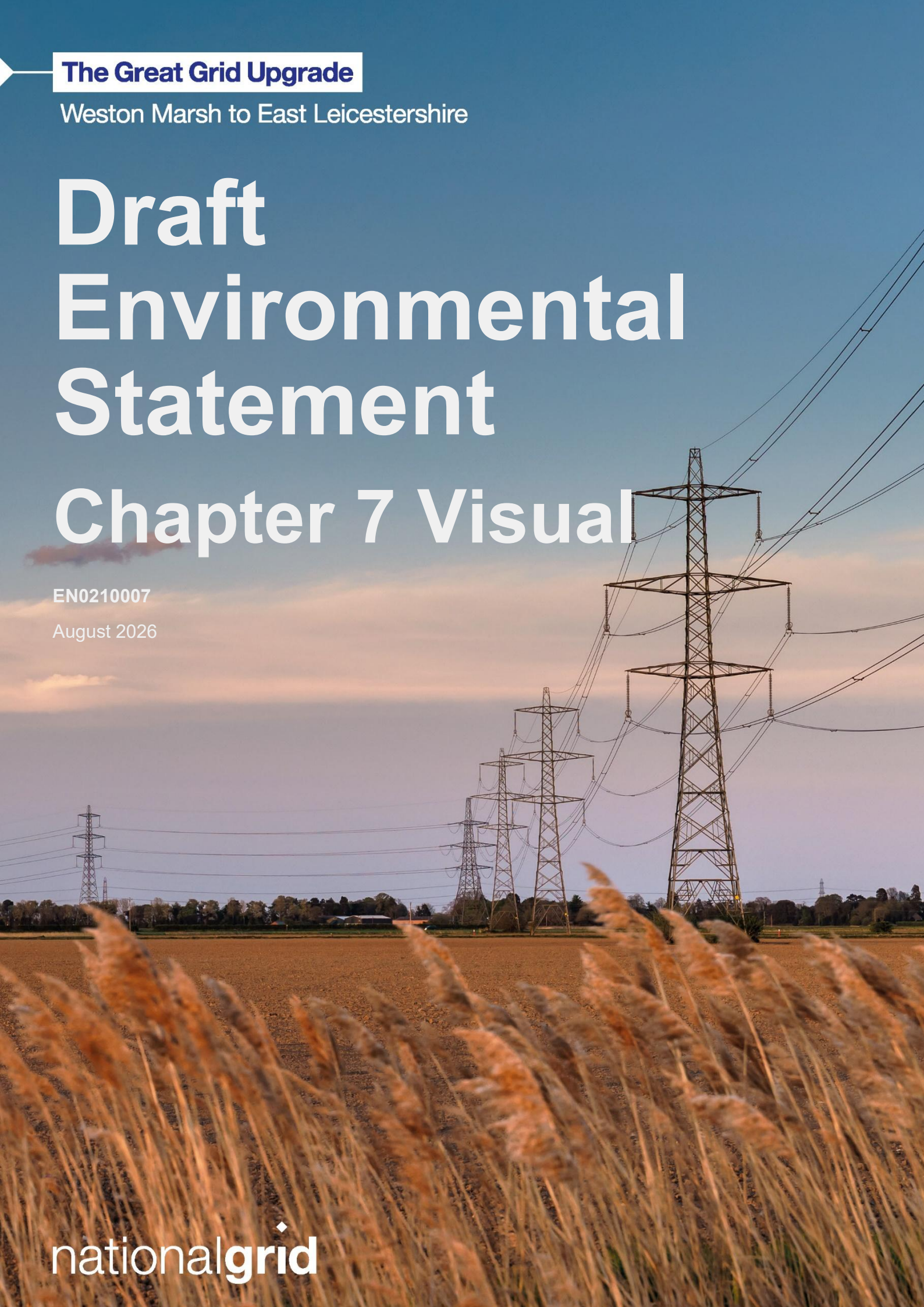




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement Chapter 7 Visual

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

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7. Visual

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter reports the preliminary assessment of the potential effects of the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire Project (the Project) on visual receptors. This chapter includes consideration of changes to visual amenity, including effects upon potential receptors (people) and viewing groups caused by changes in the appearance of the landscape during construction, operation and maintenance.
- 7.1.2 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters which provide the Project context and approach to EIA:
- **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context;**
 - **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered;**
 - **Chapter 4 Description of the Project;** and
 - **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology.**
- 7.1.3 There are interrelationships with other disciplines. Therefore, this chapter should also be read in conjunction with the following chapters:
- **Chapter 6 Landscape** includes the identification and assessment of effects on landscape designations, character and resources including effects upon the physical elements, character and/or physical and perceptual qualities of the landscape. Landscape and visual effects are closely related but assessed and reported separately.
 - **Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage** identifies heritage assets where views of the surroundings may be an important contributor to the experience or might have strong cultural associations or links to historical events, which can inform value of the view.
 - **Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport** includes consideration of changes to traffic flows on the highway network and potential temporary closure or diversion of Public Rights of Way (PROWs).
 - **Chapter 16 Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism** which includes identification and consideration of potential disruption to recreational routes and open space.
 - **Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects** includes an overview of potential cumulative effects on visual receptors.
- 7.1.4 This chapter is supported by the following figures and appendices:
- **Figure 7.1 Potential Visual Receptors and Study Area;**
 - **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations;**
 - **Figure 7.3 Preliminary Baseline Photography;**
 - **Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology;** and
 - **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment.**

7.2 Legislation, Policy Framework, and Guidance

Legislation and National Policy

- 7.2.1 Legislation and national policy relevant to the Project and this chapter are described in **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context**, and supporting appendices **Appendix 2A Key Legislation**, **Appendix 2B National and Regional Policy** and **Appendix 2C Local Policy**.

Regional and Local Policy

- 7.2.2 **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context** sets out relevant regional and local policy. Regional and local plans or policies relevant to this assessment are as follows:

- The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011 – 2036, adopted 2019 (Ref 7.1): Policy 2 Development Management;
- The South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011 – 2036, adopted 2020 (Ref 7.2): Policy SD1 The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven, Policy EN3 Green Infrastructure and Policy DE1 Promoting Good Quality Design;
- Colsterworth and District Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2017 (Ref 7.3): Policy 5 Important Views and Vistas;
- Corby Glen Neighbourhood Plan 2023 – 2036, adopted 2024 (Ref 7.4): Policy CG5 Key Views;
- Rippingale Neighbourhood Plan 2023 – 2036, adopted 2023 (Ref 7.5): Policy IV1 Important Views;
- Rutland Local Development Framework, consisting of a Core Strategy document, adopted 2011 (Ref 7.6) and Site Allocations and Policies document, adopted 2014 (Ref 7.7): Policy CS19 Promoting Good Design and Policy SP15 Design and Amenity;
- Market Overton Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2036, adopted 2022 (Ref 7.8): Policy MOP7 Natural Features and Landscape Works and Policy MOP2 Landscape Character;
- Melton Local Plan 2011 – 2036, adopted 2019 (Ref 7.9): Policy EN1 Landscape;
- Ab Kettleby Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2019 (Ref 7.10): Policy ENV 7 Safeguarding Important Views;
- Asfordby Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2023 (Ref 7.11): Policy A9 Design;
- Clawson, Hose and Harby Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2018 (Ref 7.12): Policy ENV8 Protection of Important Views;
- Broughton and Old Dalby Parish Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2018 (Ref 7.13): Policy ENV 8 Protection of Important Views;
- Scalford Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2036, adopted 2021 (Ref 7.14): Policy ENV 7 Protecting Scalford's Dark Night Sky and Policy ENV 9 Protection of Important Views;

- Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold Neighbourhood Plan 2017 – 2036, adopted 2018 (Ref 7.15): Policy ENV12 Protection of Important Views; and
- Wymondham and Edmondthorpe Neighbourhood Plan, adopted 2018 (Ref 7.16): Policy ENV7 Protection of Important Views.

Guidance

- 7.2.3 Relevant guidance, specific to visual amenity, that has informed this non-statutory Draft Environmental Statement (DES) (referred to in this document as “DES” and “non-statutory DES”) and will inform the assessment within the Environmental Statement (ES), comprises:
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 7.17);
 - Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Ref 7.18);
 - The Holford Rules, National Grid (Ref 7.19);
 - The Horlock Rules, National Grid (Ref 7.20);
 - Design Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven (Ref 7.21).
 - Planning Inspectorate Advice Note: Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Ref 7.22);
 - Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Ref 7.23); and
 - Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (currently under review) (Ref 7.24).

7.3 Scope of Assessment

- 7.3.1 The scope of the assessment has been informed by the Scoping Opinion (adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 17 December 2025) provided in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion**, and ongoing engagement with relevant technical consultees.
- 7.3.2 A full summary of all issues raised relevant to the visual effects in the Scoping Opinion and National Grid’s response is provided in **Appendix 5C Preliminary Scoping Opinion Response**. Further details of engagement undertaken to date are provided in Section 7.4.

7.4 Stakeholder Engagement

- 7.4.1 National Grid has organised several meetings with relevant consultees including the host local planning authorities and feedback was received from Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council and South Kesteven District Council. A summary of discussions and how these have influenced the Project, scope and/or the approach to the assessment is provided in **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.1 Key stakeholder engagement and National Grid's response

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
Lincolnshire County Council, South Holland District Council and South Kesteven District Council, 24 March 2026.	Initial overview of proposed visual assessment viewpoints. Stakeholders highlighted importance of including viewpoints to capture cumulative effects around Weston Marsh. Discussion on relationship between visual assessment and setting of heritage assets.	Further details on the proposed viewpoint locations and reasons for selection were provided to stakeholders, facilitating further discussions, as set out below. Additional information on the relationship and distinction between the visual assessment and heritage assessment was provided and a targeted Historic Landscape and Built Heritage stakeholder meeting held, as set out in Table 9.1 of Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage.
Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council, 30 April 2026.	Discussions focused on visual assessment viewpoints, with the following additional locations requested by stakeholders: • PRow between Surfleet Seas End and Moulton Seas End (reference LL Moul 2/1); • listed building along Cuckoo Lane (Cottage Farmhouse, entry number 1064435); • Spalding Golf Course; • Surfleet/Crossgate pinch point; • further point on Macmillan Way; • Grimsthorpe Castle Registered Park and Garden; • Restricted Byway along Colsterworth Lane (reference LL BurC 9/2); • Wykeham Chapel; and • Vernatt's Drain PRow.	The additional viewpoints listed below have been included in the preliminary assessment, as set out in Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment: • VP 1A.6 PRow near Crown Farm, Weston Marsh, located on PRow LL Moul 2/1; • VP 1B.5 Cuckoo Lane, located adjacent to Cottage Farmhouse listed building; • VP 1B.6 Spalding Golf Course; • VP 1B.7 Herdgate Lane, Crossgate, on north edge of the settlement area; • VP 1B.8 Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet; • VP 2B.7 Grimsthorpe Castle; • VP 2D.7 Colsterworth Lane, located along restricted byway LL BurC 9/2; and

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
		VP 1A.5 River Welland Embankment, The Chase is located in close proximity to Wykeham Chapel and Vernatt's Drain.
Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council, 02 June 2026.	Approach for Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping was discussed. It was agreed these would be based on 1 m LiDAR digital terrain model data, with the addition of national forest inventory and Ordnance Survey buildings data and calculated to 5 km from each proposed new overhead line tower and the proposed substations using maximum height parameters.	Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations provides ZTVs of the proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A and WMEL-B substations using the agreed approach. Details of the parameters used for the ZTV calculations are provided in Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology.
	Extent of the Study Area for the visual assessment was discussed and agreed to be based on a 3 km offset from the outer limit of the defined horizontal Limits of Deviation (LoD) of permanent infrastructure (proposed new overhead line towers and substations).	The Study Area is described in Section 7.5 and shown on Figure 7.1 Potential Visual Receptors and Study Area, and follows the agreed approach. Details of the horizontal LoD are provided in Chapter 4 Description of the Project.
	Clarification was sought on the approach to undergrounding in relation to the Project, with discussions confirming that no undergrounding is proposed for the new overhead line, although with targeted undergrounding of existing overhead lines potentially required.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project provides details of the Project, including the approach to undergrounding or diversion of existing utility infrastructure. Potential impacts of proposed works to underground existing assets as part of the Project will be considered within the landscape assessment within the ES.
	Approach to the consideration of lighting in the visual assessment was discussed and it was agreed that this aspect would be considered	The preliminary assessment in Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment considers potential temporary lighting

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
	as part of overall judgements, with no requirement for a separate night-time assessment.	related to construction and operational stage lighting at the WMEL-A and WMEL-B substations within the overall judgements of the significance of effects for each viewpoint.
	Concerns were raised regarding potential for cumulative effects of the Project in connection with other developments, particularly in the Weston Marsh area.	Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects provides initial consideration of potential cumulative visual effects of the Project in relation to other proposed and committed developments. A more detailed assessment of cumulative effects will be provided within the ES.
	Further discussions were held on the proposed viewpoints, reaching agreement on the locations set out above. A further location along the River Welland Embankment immediately north of the draft Order Limits was requested. Discussions were also held on whether any of the viewpoints within the Weston Marsh area set out in the Grimsby to Walpole Supplementary PEIR (2025) (Ref 7.25) would be suitable for including in the visual assessment for the Project.	An additional viewpoint (VP 1A.7), located along the River Welland embankment to the west of Kinder Nursery has been included in the preliminary assessment, as set out in Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment . Discussions concluded that the viewpoints included in the Grimsby to Walpole Supplementary PEIR (Ref 7.25) were generally not suitable for inclusion in the visual assessment for the Project. It was agreed that a review of the final Grimsby to Walpole viewpoints will be undertaken as part of the ES stage.

7.5 Assessment Methodology

- 7.5.1 This section describes the methodology used to establish the existing and future baseline, together with the methodology/approach used to undertake the preliminary assessment and proposed for the detailed assessment of visual impacts. Elements of the methodology deviate from the overarching approach described in **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology** and follow accepted standard methodology and guidance for visual assessment, referenced above.

Study Area

- 7.5.2 Identification of the Study Area has involved a desk-based review of mapping and aerial imagery and the maximum parameters of each element of the Project, preparation of initial ZTV mapping, targeted field survey to gain an understanding of the existing baseline, the application of professional judgement, and consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council. The ZTVs give an indication of the theoretical extent of potential visibility of the Project and help to inform identification of potential visual receptors.
- 7.5.3 In accordance with good practice guidance set out in GLVIA3 (Ref 7.17), the Study Area for the visual assessment seeks to encompass visual receptors with the potential to be significantly affected by the Project.
- 7.5.4 A Study Area extending 3 km from the outer extents of the horizontal LoD for the proposed new overhead line (75 m either side of the centre line as outlined in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**) and new substations near Corby Glen (referred to as WMEL-A) and west of Ab Kettleby (referred to as WMEL-B), has been identified for the preliminary assessment, as illustrated on **Figure 7.1 Potential Visual Receptors and Study Area**. This approach was agreed in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council and ensures that the Study Area also covers at least 1 km from the draft Order Limits and 2 km from proposed construction compounds associated with the proposed new overhead line and new WMEL-A and WMEL-B substations. The exception to this is the draft Order Limits associated with potential off-site highway works at the A1/A151 junction and A46 Six Hills junction which have not been considered as part of the preliminary assessment. This approach will be reviewed for the ES when more details of potential off-site highway works are available.
- 7.5.5 The Study Area does not take account of reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line as that element of the Project has been scoped out of the visual assessment, as confirmed in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.3).
- 7.5.6 It is acknowledged that elements of the Project may be visible beyond the defined 3 km extents. However, at locations beyond the Study Area, the separation distances will be such that potential impacts resulting from the Project are unlikely to lead to a fundamental change to the perception or experience of views and visual amenity and as such potential effects are unlikely to be significant.
- 7.5.7 The Study Area will continue to be reviewed, in light of feedback received during stakeholder engagement, Stage 2 Consultation, ongoing site surveys, and following the production of updated ZTV mapping as the Project design develops. This is to assist in capturing all potentially significant visual effects in the assessment.

Residential Visual Amenity

- 7.5.8 The requirement for a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) will be determined at the ES stage, once final details of the new proposed overhead line alignment and position of substation structures are defined. If an RVAA is required, the Study Area will be based on a 150 m offset from the outer extent of the horizontal LoD for the proposed new overhead line towers (50 m either side of the centre line as outlined in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**). This approach is in line with good practice and as recommended by TGN 2/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Ref 7.23), with properties beyond this distance unlikely to experience significant effects on residential visual amenity. Further review will be undertaken on a case by

case basis as part of determining whether an RVAA is needed. The principles of the approach to the RVAA Study Area have been agreed in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council and will be reviewed further at the ES stage.

Data Collection

Desk study

7.5.9 The identification and evaluation of the visual baseline has been informed by a desk study which has drawn on the following key information sources:

- Ordnance Survey (OS) maps at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scales;
- aerial photography, Google Earth, and Google Maps Street View;
- open-source GIS data; and
- 1 m LiDAR composite digital terrain model.

Site visits and survey

7.5.10 Field survey work was carried out during several visits between January 2025 and June 2026, and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. Field survey work included visits to the draft Order Limits, each of the representative viewpoint locations, and extensive travel around the Study Area to consider likely effects on visual amenity. Field work has been undertaken in winter, spring and summer to fully understand the effect of seasonality on the visual baseline.

Further data to be collected to inform the ES

7.5.11 Further targeted site survey in winter and summer conditions will be undertaken to inform the baseline and assessment at the ES stage.

Impact Assessment Methodology

Approach to preliminary assessment

7.5.12 The preliminary assessment provides a description of the visual baseline and an initial evaluation of potential change resulting from the Project. This follows the same principles and process as the methodology for the detailed assessment, described below. However, the preliminary assessment is undertaken at a high level, making initial predictions as to whether the identified impacts on views and visual amenity have the potential to result in significant effects or not. This is informed through an understanding of the baseline, anticipated change and application of professional judgement. All conclusions and assessments are by their nature preliminary, and the assessment has applied a precautionary principle, in that where detailed information is not currently available (in terms of the proposals for the Project), a realistic worst-case scenario is considered. Further details, including narrative and ratings for value of the view and susceptibility (components of sensitivity) will be provided within the detailed assessment in the ES.

7.5.13 The preliminary assessment considers potential sources of effects during both construction and operation. Due to their limited, localised, temporary and short-term

nature, potential maintenance activities during the operation phase have been scoped out of the ES (and therefore, this preliminary assessment), as confirmed in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.5).

- 7.5.14 No additional mitigation measures have been identified at this stage, meaning the preliminary assessment of operation phase impacts takes a worst-case approach without the addition of potential additional mitigation. The detailed landscape assessment in the ES will consider longer term operation phase effects with additional mitigation in place, where relevant.

Approach and methodology for detailed assessment

- 7.5.15 The following provides an overview of the proposed approach for the detailed visual assessment, with further details of the proposed methodology provided in **Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology**.
- 7.5.16 The assessment methodology is based upon the principles of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.17), which promotes an approach to visual amenity assessment that is proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposals and the likely effects.
- 7.5.17 Elements of the visual assessment methodology differ from the general assessment methodology presented in **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology**. For example, visual sensitivity includes consideration of both the value of the view, identified as part of the baseline, and susceptibility, which is influenced by the specific nature of the Project. The visual assessment also refers to '*magnitude of effect*' rather than '*magnitude of impact*', in accordance with GLVIA3 (Ref 7.17).
- 7.5.18 The assessment is part of an iterative process where, as potentially significant effects are identified, these inform the siting, routeing and design of the Project alongside consideration of other constraints. The assessment is carried out based on the following key steps:
- establishment of the baseline conditions, including identification and evaluation of the existing nature of views and their value;
 - appreciation of the Project, including an understanding of the location, nature, scale and maximum parameters of each element and any design, standard and additional mitigation measures; and
 - assessment of effects on views and visual amenity, with a focus on potential for significant effects.
- 7.5.19 Each of the above steps is informed by a combination of desk-based research, evaluation and site-based survey. Surveys are undertaken both during winter months and in the summer to gain an appreciation of how the landscape and views change with the seasons.
- 7.5.20 GLVIA3 (Ref 7.17) places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of visual effects. The visual assessment has been undertaken by experienced Chartered Landscape Architects and professional judgement is used in combination with structured methods and criteria to determine the significance of effect.
- 7.5.21 The detailed assessment is based on an evaluation of the sensitivity to change and the magnitude of effect for each of the identified representative viewpoints and visual receptors with potential for significant effects. The assessment considers potential impacts of all relevant aspects of the Project as a whole, including across the five

Project Section boundaries as described in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project** and shown on **Figure 1.1 Project Location Plan**, for each of the identified representative viewpoints.

- 7.5.22 **Table 7.2** is intended to provide an understanding of the key principles adopted in this assessment in identifying the significance of visual effects and is informed by professional experience and judgement.

Table 7.2 Key principles in identifying significance of visual effects

	Less Likely to Be Significant	More Likely to Be Significant
Visual amenity	The Project would integrate well and would not overly contrast with the existing composition or nature of the view or where the view is incidental and/or of limited value. The effect is typically small in scale or localised, or may be short lived and easily reversible.	The Project would cause considerable change across a large extent of a recognised and highly valued view and where attention is focused on the surroundings. The effect is large in scale, long lasting and difficult to reverse.

- 7.5.23 Details of the factors which inform the identification and categorisation of the sensitivity to change and magnitude of effect and how these are analysed and combined to indicate the level of effect and significance are set out in **Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology**.

- 7.5.24 The level and nature of effects can vary at different stages of the Project and can change over time, particularly where mitigation planting is proposed. The visual assessment therefore includes consideration of temporary effects associated with construction, and more permanent effects related to the operation phase. Where mitigation planting is proposed the detailed assessment of operation phase effects in the ES will include consideration of impacts at Year 1 (the first year of operation, after all construction activities are completed), to indicate the potential worst case, and at Year 15, to indicate the influence of mitigation planting on longer term effects. The preliminary assessment in the DES takes a worst case approach for operation phase effects, without consideration of potential mitigation planting.

Residential visual amenity

- 7.5.25 Residential visual amenity relates to the overall nature, quality and experience of views by occupants of residential properties. While related to visual impacts, residential visual amenity goes a step further to consider the potential of a development to be overbearing or overly intrusive such that it affects living conditions.
- 7.5.26 The siting and design process for the Project will seek to avoid potential impacts on residential visual amenity where practicable. However, a detailed RVAA will be undertaken at the ES stage if site survey and assessment indicates the potential for significant residential visual amenity impacts. If required, the RVAA will be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance, TGN 2/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Ref 7.23), and the final scope defined in consultation with local planning authorities.

Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

- 7.5.27 The preliminary assessment has been undertaken based on initial Project design information. This information is iterative and will be updated for the ES as the design evolves and relevant changes are accounted for in the assessment.
- 7.5.28 Several assumptions and limitations are made in relation to the information presented in this chapter. These reflect the evolving nature and preliminary stage of the Project:
- The survey and assessment work is ongoing. The preliminary assessment provides an initial indication of anticipated levels of change and effects from identified representative viewpoints and long distance recreational routes. The viewpoint locations have been agreed in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council.
 - Assumptions in relation to vegetation clearance and management are set out in Section 4.7 of **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, and include the following:
 - targeted clearance of vegetation with potential to impede construction of proposed new overhead line towers and wiring works and/or infringe on statutory clearance zones;
 - temporary removal of vegetation in construction compounds, laydown areas and along temporary access roads;
 - permanent loss of vegetation within the footprint of proposed substations and along associated permanent access roads, including bellmouths and visibility splays.
 - The preliminary assessment assumes that vegetation removed during construction would be reinstated, except where there are planting restrictions associated with requirements to maintain an overhead line safety clearance and within the footprint of permanent works (e.g. substations and permanent access roads). It is anticipated that grassland reinstatement would be achieved within up to 1–2 years, whereas hedgerow and tree planting would take longer to become established and mature and as such would not represent a direct replacement but would develop over time.
 - Field surveys to inform establishment of the baseline, capture photography and inform the assessment of effects have been undertaken from publicly accessible locations, such as from the road network and PRowS, in line with standard practice for visual assessment.
- 7.5.29 The key parameters and assumptions will be reviewed based on the design to be presented in the application for development consent and, where required, updated, or refined. The ES will present the final key parameters and assumptions used within that assessment, including any areas that may have changed from what is presented in this preliminary assessment.
- 7.5.30 The visual assessment is supported by ZTV mapping. The limitations of ZTVs and how they have been prepared and are used in the assessment process are set out in **Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology**.

7.6 Baseline Conditions

Existing Baseline

- 7.6.1 The Project has been divided into five Sections as described in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project** and shown on **Figure 1.1 Project Location Plan**. Each of the five Sections is defined by the geographical alignment of the draft Order Limits and the administrative boundaries of the local authorities. The southern part of Section 3 and the whole of Sections 4 and 5 relate to reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line. This element of the Project has been excluded from the visual assessment due to the temporary, short duration and localised nature of potential change and limited potential to influence visual amenity. The visual assessment is therefore focused on Sections 1 to 3, as indicated on **Figure 7.1 Potential Visual Receptors and Study Area**. This is in line with the agreed approach set out within **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.3).
- 7.6.2 The following provides an overview of the visual baseline within the Study Area, with descriptions of existing views from identified viewpoints provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.
- 7.6.3 Visual receptors are the people at locations within the Study Area who will potentially be affected by changes to views or visual amenity as a result of the Project. Visual receptors can be static or dynamic and include people in their home, users of recognised long distance recreational routes or defined PRoW and visitors to places of interest (e.g. tourist attractions, or specific viewpoints) and users of the road and transport network. As confirmed in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.1), the assessment is focused on residential and recreational receptors, with users of the road and rail network excluded due to no significant effects being anticipated.
- 7.6.4 To help with describing the existing baseline, visual receptors have been grouped into a series of Visual Receptor Areas (VRAs). The VRAs have been identified based on geographical location, shared landscape characteristics and/or a similarity in the nature of views. The VRAs are subdivisions of the identified Project Sections, which are referred to by Section number followed by a letter (i.e. VRAs in Section 1 are numbered 1A, 1B and 1C). A description of each of the VRAs, including the nature of the visual receptors, is provided in the corresponding sections below and the locations and extents are shown on **Figure 7.1 Potential Visual Receptors and Study Area**.
- 7.6.5 A series of representative and specific viewpoint locations as shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** have been identified in each of the VRAs and form the basis of the visual assessment. The identified viewpoints are intended to provide a cross section of different types of receptors and locations at different distances from the Project to demonstrate the likely range of visual effects. The viewpoints are numbered first by the VRA within which they are located, followed by a number to give a unique reference. In addition, long distance recreational routes have been identified and are considered as part of the preliminary assessment.
- 7.6.6 The viewpoints and identified long distance routes will also be used as the basis for the more detailed visual assessment in the ES.
- 7.6.7 The following paragraphs provide an overview of potential visual receptors and the nature of baseline views, and identify the assessment viewpoints and long distance

routes found within each section and VRA. Descriptions of the baseline views experienced from the viewpoints and routes are provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Section 1 – South Holland District

7.6.8 The landscape of Section 1, located within South Holland, is generally flat, with low or sparse vegetation cover, and fields are generally large-scale and bound by ditches or drains allowing for long-distance and open views. This Section has been subdivided into three VRAs, as described below.

1A: Weston Marsh

- 7.6.9 This VRA is located to the east of the River Welland, towards the eastern end of the Project.
- 7.6.10 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlements of Moulton Seas End, Moulton and Weston and along the A151 and B1357. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present, often aligned along minor roads that cross the fens.
- 7.6.11 A small number of PROWs are located within this VRA, with the main routes being along the embankment of the River Welland and between the River Welland and Moulton Seas End. A number of shorter routes are also present acting as links between settlements and minor roads at Weston and Moulton. Recreational watercraft may also be present along the River Welland.
- 7.6.12 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, they tend to be relatively distant across the flat fenland landscape. A range of structures are often visible, including existing overhead line towers, settlement and Spalding Power Station.
- 7.6.13 Views from watercraft on the River Welland tend to be focused along the waterway with outward lateral views limited by the adjacent embankments. Occasional structures, including road bridges and existing overhead line towers are visible from sections of the waterway.
- 7.6.14 **Table 7.3** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.1A Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.3 1A: Weston Marsh – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 1A.1	Moulton Seas End	531911, 327401	Representative of views from residential properties to the west of Moulton Seas End and recreational users on local PROWs.
VP 1A.2	Hill Gate, Weston Marsh	529684, 326083	Representative of views from scattered residential properties north

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
			of Weston and west of Loosegate and Moulton Seas End.
VP 1A.3	Weston	528725, 325117	Representative of views from residential properties to the north west of Weston.
VP 1A.4	River Welland embankment, Vernatt's Bridge	528325, 329258	Representative of views for recreational users of a section of the PRoW on the eastern embankment of the River Welland.
VP 1A.5	River Welland embankment, The Chase	527048, 326699	Representative of views for recreational users of a section of the PRoW on the eastern embankment of the River Welland.
VP 1A.6	PRoW near Crown Farm, Weston Marsh	530555, 328199	Representative of views for recreational users of the PRoW between Surfleet Seas End and Moulton Seas End.
VP 1A.7	River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery	527585, 327660	Representative of views for recreational users of a short section of the PRoW on the embankments of the River Welland and Vernatt's Drain.

1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet

- 7.6.15 This VRA is bound by the River Welland in the east and the Peterborough to Lincoln railway line in the west, and is located towards the eastern end of the Project.
- 7.6.16 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlements of Wykeham, Pinchbeck, Crossgate, Surfleet, Surfleet Seas End, and Wargate. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present, often aligned along minor roads that cross the fens.
- 7.6.17 The Macmillan Way long distance route passes through the VRA from north east alongside the River Welland to south west at Pinchbeck and passes under the proposed new overhead line corridor. A small number of PRoWs are located within this VRA, with the main routes being along the embankment of the River Welland, the River Glen, and Vernatt's Drain. A number of shorter routes are also present acting as links between settlements and minor roads. Recreational river users may also be present along the various watercourses. Members and visitors to Spalding Golf Club for outdoor sport and recreation are also notable receptors to the north east of the VRA.
- 7.6.18 Views from settlements and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, they tend to be relatively distant across the flat fenland landscape. A range of structures are often visible, including large agricultural and horticultural buildings, and settlement.

- 7.6.19 Views for recreational river users tend to be focused along the waterway with outward lateral views limited by the adjacent embankments. Occasional structures, including road bridges, the Pinchbeck water tower, and existing overhead line towers are visible from sections of the waterway. Views for members and visitors to Spalding Golf Club are partially screened by belts of woodland as part of the course.
- 7.6.20 **Table 7.4** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.1B Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.4 1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 1B.1	Surfleet Seas End	527809, 329116	Representative of views from residential properties along the southern edge of Surfleet Seas End and from the Macmillan Way.
VP 1B.2	Surfleet	525376, 327808	Representative of views from residential properties along the southern edge of Surfleet and a small number of scattered farms and individual properties.
VP 1B.3	Crossgate, Pinchbeck	524022, 326668	Representative of views from residential properties along the western edge of Crossgate, northern edge of Pinchbeck and nearby scattered farms and individual properties, and views from a section of the Macmillan Way.
VP 1B.4	Gosberton Cheal	522913, 328891	Representative of views from residential properties within and near to the ribbon settlement of Gosberton Cheal.
VP 1B.5	Cuckoo Lane	524525, 327391	Representative of views from a small number of scattered residential properties along Cuckoo Lane.
VP 1B.6	Spalding Golf Course	527005, 328020	Representative of views experienced from the golf course.
VP 1B.7	Herdgate Lane, Crossgate	525474, 327218	Representative of views from residential properties along the northern edge of Crossgate and nearby scattered properties.
VP 1B.8	Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet	524730, 327875	Representative of views from a short section of the Macmillan Way to the west of Surfleet.

7.6.21 In addition to the above viewpoint locations, the assessment also considers potential visual effects on recreational receptors along a section of the Macmillan Way long distance route between Surfleet Seas End and West Pinchbeck. The location and route of the Macmillan Way is shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** and a baseline description of views from the route is provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

1C: Pinchbeck North Fen

- 7.6.22 This VRA is bound by the Peterborough to Lincoln railway line in the east and the South Forty Foot Drain in the west, and is located along the eastern section of the Project.
- 7.6.23 Residential receptors are limited in this VRA to the linear settlements of Northgate and West Pinchbeck in the south, and Risegate, and Gosberton Clough to the north. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present, often aligned along minor roads that cross the fens.
- 7.6.24 The Macmillan Way long distance route passes through the southern part of the VRA between Pinchbeck and West Pinchbeck. There are a small number of PRowS within the VRA. PRow Pinc/1/3 runs from north to south alongside the South Forty Foot Drain but elsewhere there is limited connectivity or recreational access.
- 7.6.25 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, they tend to be relatively distant across the flat fenland landscape. A range of structures are often visible, including large agricultural and horticultural buildings, and settlement.
- 7.6.26 **Table 7.5** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.1C Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.5 1C: Pinchbeck North Fen – assessment viewpoint locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 1C.1	Northgate	520904, 326274	Representative of views from residential properties within and surrounding the linear settlements of Northgate and Pinchbeck West and from a short section of the Macmillan Way.
VP 1C.2	Gosberton Clough	519286, 329697	Representative of views from residential properties within and surrounding the settlement areas of Risegate and Gosberton Clough.
VP 1C.3	Parsons Drove	517797, 327636	Representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties between Gosberton Clough and Northgate, and recreational users of Gosb/7/1.

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 1C.4	South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove	516611, 326531	Representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties to the west of Northgate and recreational users of PRow Pinc/1/2, and Pinc/1/3.

Section 2 – South Kesteven District

- 7.6.27 The landscape in the east of this Section, located within South Kesteven, is generally flat, with low or sparse vegetation cover, and fields are generally large-scale and bound by ditches or drains allowing for long-distance and open views. The landscape in the west of this Section is gently undulating with blocks of woodland and trees along field margins which often limit the extent of distant or long-range views. This Section has been subdivided into five VRAs, as described below.

2A: Dunsby Fen

- 7.6.28 This VRA is bound by the South Forty Foot Drain to the east and the rising landform at the edge of the Fens to the west, and is located along the central/eastern part of the Project.
- 7.6.29 Residential receptors are limited to a very small number of scattered farms and individual properties. Recreational routes in this VRA are limited to a short PRow to the north (Dows/7/1), connecting to Fen Road and short sections of routes in the west connecting towards Dunsby (Dunb/4/1 and Dunb/5/1) and Morton Drove (MorS/1/1, MorS/2/1, MorS/3/1, MorS/55/3 and MorS/56/1).
- 7.6.30 Views from scattered farms and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by boundary trees and vegetation. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, they tend to be relatively distant across the flat fenland landscape with very little infrastructure or built elements in the view.
- 7.6.31 **Table 7.6** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.2A Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.6 2A: Dunsby Fen – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2A.1	Haconby Drove	513505, 325654	Representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties to the east of Dunsby, Haconby, and Morton.
VP 2A.2	Long Drove	513528, 328176	Representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties to the east of Rippingale and Dowsby.

2B: Haconby to Irnham

- 7.6.32 This VRA is bound by the rising landform at the edge of the Fens to the east and the minor road connecting the settlements of Irnham and Swinstead in the west, and is located along the central section of the proposed new overhead line.
- 7.6.33 Residential receptors are concentrated along the rising landform at the edge of the Fens within the settlements of Rippingale, Dunsby, Haconby, Morton, and Hanthorpe to the east of the VRA. Other settlements within the VRA are often aligned along minor roads and include Hawthorpe, Bulby, Kirkby Underwood, Stainfield, Elsthorpe, Grimsthorpe and Edenham. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present.
- 7.6.34 There is an extensive network of PRowS within the VRA. The majority are located to the east and focused around and between the main settlements. Grimsthorpe Castle Park and Gardens is also open to the public during the summer months (May to September) providing additional recreational opportunities.
- 7.6.35 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, the distance and extent tend to be influenced by landform and intervening vegetation. The gently rolling landform and intervening large woodland blocks and settlements often partially filter and foreshorten views. A range of structures are visible locally, including existing overhead line towers, settlement and farm buildings.
- 7.6.36 **Table 7.7** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.2B Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.7 2B: Haconby to Irnham – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2B.1	Dunsby	510828, 326633	Representative of views from the southern edge of Dunsby and the local PRow network.
VP 2B.2	Haconby	510383, 325445	Representative of views from the northern edge of Haconby and the local PRow network.
VP 2B.3	Hanthorpe	508916, 324180	Representative of views from the northern edge of Hanthorpe and Morton and the local PRow network.
VP 2B.4	Stainfield	508058, 324916	Representative of views from the eastern and southern edges of Stainfield, scattered properties to the west and from the local PRow network.

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2B.5	Elsthorpe	505910, 324064	Representative of views from residential properties in and around the small settlement of Elsthorpe.
VP 2B.6	Bulby	504719, 326004	Representative of views from the southern edge of Bulby and the local PRoW network.
VP 2B.7	Grimsthorpe Castle	504415, 322750	Representative of views experienced by visitors to Grimsthorpe Castle Registered Park and Garden.

2C: Corby Glen

- 7.6.37 This VRA is bound by the minor road connecting the settlements of Irnham and Swinstead in the east, and the East Coast Main Line railway line to the west, and is located along the central section of the Project.
- 7.6.38 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlements of Swinstead, Corby Glen, Burton-le-Coggles, and Irnham. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present.
- 7.6.39 There are a number of PRoWs within the VRA with the majority nucleating out from Corby Glen and connecting to the other smaller settlements.
- 7.6.40 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Where more open views are available, including from residential properties and recreational routes, they tend to be influenced by landform and intervening vegetation. The undulating landform and intervening woodland blocks often partially filter and foreshorten views, although with more extensive views available from more elevated locations and along the West Glen River valley. A range of structures are visible throughout most of the VRA, including existing overhead line towers, settlement and farm buildings.
- 7.6.41 **Table 7.8** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.2C Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.8 2C: Corby Glen – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2C.1	Swinstead	501283, 322619	Representative of views from Swinstead and the local PRoW network.
VP 2C.2	Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close	499884, 324561	Representative of views from the south west edge of Corby Glen and nearby PRoWs.

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2C.3	Tanners' Lane, Corby Glen (north)	499504, 325293	Representative of views from the north west of Corby Glen and local PRoW network to the north.
VP 2C.4	Camp Lane	499597, 326878	Representative of views from the local PRoW network and scattered properties in the rural area north of Corby Glen.
VP 2C.5	Burton-le-Coggles	497943, 325522	Representative of views from residential properties in the settlement of Burton-le-Coggles.

2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe

- 7.6.42 This VRA is bound by the East Coast Main Line railway line to the east and the A1 highway to the west, is located along the central section of the Project and includes the proposed WMEL-A Substation.
- 7.6.43 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlement of Swayfield with a number of scattered groups and individual properties also present, often aligned along minor roads.
- 7.6.44 A number of PRoWs are located within this VRA with the majority being located in the south but with head on views toward the Project. A long PRoW connecting Colsterworth (in 2E) with Burton-le-Coggles (in 2C) runs east to west to the north of the VRA. There are also a series of woodland paths within Twyford Wood around the former Second World War RAF base for recreational visitors.
- 7.6.45 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Undulating landform, woodland blocks of varying sizes and field boundary vegetation tend to have a relatively strong influence on the nature and extent of views. There are locally relatively distant views from open elevated locations and generally more contained or restricted views from lower lying locations or where close to woodlands. A range of structures and linear infrastructure is visible including existing overhead line towers, settlement and farm buildings, the A1 and East Coast Main Line railway. There is also a concentration of large industrial buildings along Honeypt Lane towards the west.
- 7.6.46 **Table 7.9** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.2D Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.9 2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2D.1	Swayfield	499013, 322914	Representative of views from the northern edge of Swayfield and the local PRow network.
VP 2D.2	PRow near Heath Farm	498283, 324335	Representative of views from PRow routes to the north and south and from nearby scattered properties.
VP 2D.3	Birkholme	497111, 323460	Representative of views from a small group of residential properties to the east of Birkholme.
VP 2D.4	Ling Lane	497002, 323365	Representative of views from a small group of residential properties to the west and south of Birkholme.
VP 2D.5	Honey Pot Lane	495255, 322128	Representative of views from scattered residential properties along Honey Pot Lane.
VP 2D.6	Wooley's Lane	494832, 321236	Representative of views from a cluster of properties around Lobthorpe and nearby PRows.
VP 2D.7	Colsterworth Lane	497720, 325380	Representative of views by recreational users of the restricted byway (LL BurC 9/2) west of Burton-le-Coggles.

2E: North and South Witham

- 7.6.47 This VRA is bound by the A1 highway to the east and The Drift (minor road) to the west and is located along the central/western section of the Project.
- 7.6.48 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlement of Colsterworth and South Witham and within a series of smaller settlements including North Witham, Gunby, Stainby, and Thistleton and to the east of Sewstern. Occasional scattered properties are also present along the minor roads between settlements.
- 7.6.49 Two long distance routes pass through the VRA. A very short section of the Rutland Round is at the southern edge of the VRA around Thistleton. Slightly longer sections of the Viking Way run along the western boundary of the VRA north of Thistleton and north from Sewstern. Elsewhere a network of PRow generally run from north to south connecting the settlements to one another.
- 7.6.50 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. The undulating topography has an influence on views from settlement and residential properties and recreational routes. There are relatively expansive panoramas from more elevated locations and more restricted and enclosed views from lower lying areas and in settlements. Woodland blocks including the Forty Acre woodland and Stainby Warren provide localised screening of views from PRows. Built structures are limited to

industrial units and farm buildings outside of the main settlements, with the A1 a locally notable linear feature towards the east.

- 7.6.51 **Table 7.10** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.2E Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.10 2E: North and South Witham – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 2E.1	North Witham	492588, 321618	Representative of views from the southern edges of North Witham and Gunby and nearby residential properties and from the local PRow network.
VP 2E.2	South Witham	492333, 319896	Representative of views from the northern edge of South Witham and the local PRow network.
VP 2E.3	Stainby	491031, 322966	Representative of views from residential properties at Stainby and nearby PRow.

Section 3 – Melton Borough

- 7.6.52 The landscape in this Section, located within Melton, is undulating with some blocks of woodland and vegetated field boundaries. The extent of views varies with potential long-distance views from higher elevations and more limited views where there is intervening landform and vegetation. This Section has been subdivided into four VRAs, as described below.
- 7.6.53 The southern part of Section 3 of the Project is outside of the visual assessment Study Area as it relates to reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line which has been excluded from the visual assessment, as confirmed in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.3).

3A: Buckminster and Wymondham

- 7.6.54 This VRA is bound by The Drift (minor road) to the east, and a ridgeline east of the River Eyre valley basin to the west and is located along the western section of the Project.
- 7.6.55 Residential receptors are concentrated within the settlement of Wymondham to the south, and the smaller settlements of Buckminster and Sewstern to the north. A very small number of individual residential properties are also present.
- 7.6.56 Parts of three long distance routes pass through the VRA. A very short section of the Rutland Round is located towards the southern boundary. The Viking Way runs north–south along the eastern edge of the VRA. A short section of the Mowbray Way is located towards the northern edge of the VRA, north west from Buckminster.

Elsewhere a network of PRowS connect to and between the settlements and the long-distance routes.

- 7.6.57 Views from settlement and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. From more elevated locations there tend to be open and expansive views over the undulating landform. Elsewhere views are often more restricted by landform, field boundary vegetation, small woodland blocks and/or buildings. Beyond the small settlements, there is very little built infrastructure visible within the views.
- 7.6.58 **Table 7.11** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.3A Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.11 3A: Buckminster and Wymondham – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 3A.1	Rutland Round, Thistleton Gap	490172, 318467	Representative of views experienced by recreational users on the Rutland Round and Viking Way long distance route and nearby PRowS.
VP 3A.2	Viking Way, Sewstern	488875, 321548	Representative of views from the southern edge of Sewstern and recreational users of the Viking Way and local PRow network.
VP 3A.3	Buckminster	487902, 322667	Representative of views from the southern edge of and more broadly from a section of the Mowbray Way and nearby PRowS.
VP 3A.4	Wymondham	485093, 319308	Representative of views from the northern edge of Wymondham and local PRow routes.

- 7.6.59 In addition to the above viewpoint locations, the assessment also considers potential visual effects on recreational receptors along sections of the Viking Way, Rutland Round and Mowbray Way long distance routes. The locations of the routes are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** and baseline descriptions of views from the route are provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

3B: Waltham on the Wolds

- 7.6.60 This VRA is bound by a ridgeline east of the River Eyre valley basin to the east, and the Thorpe Brook tributary of the River Eyre to the west and is located along the western section of the Project.
- 7.6.61 Residential receptors are concentrated within the small settlements of Saxby, Garthorpe, Coston, Sproxton and Stonesby, and the slightly larger settlement of

Waltham on the Wolds which are relatively evenly dispersed around the edge of the VRA.

- 7.6.62 One long distance route, the Mowbray Way, passes east–west along the north of the VRA between Sproxton, Stonesby and Waltham on the Wolds and towards Scalford further to the west. A small number of PRoWs are located within the VRA with the majority to the north, connecting to and between settlements. Melton Mowbray Golf Club is present to the south west of the VRA providing additional recreational opportunities.
- 7.6.63 Views from settlements and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation, other buildings or landform. There are expansive open views from residential properties and recreational routes at more elevated open locations. In other locations and particularly from lower lying areas and within settlements, views tend to be more restricted by landform, boundary vegetation woodland and/or surrounding buildings. The tall TV tower to the south of Waltham on the Wolds is a notable built feature and local landmark. Other built infrastructure tends to be focused on the settlements, although also includes the large research facility at Waltham Lodge, an existing overhead line in the south and communications masts and wind turbine towards the north.
- 7.6.64 **Table 7.12** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.3B Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.12 3B: Waltham on the Wolds – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 3B.1	Coston	484586, 322083	Representative of views from the small settlement of Coston and adjacent PRoW routes.
VP 3B.2	Garthorpe	483369, 321087	Representative of views from the small settlement of Garthorpe and adjacent PRoW routes.
VP 3B.3	Freeby	480173, 320245	Representative of views from the northern edge of Freeby and local PRoW routes.
VP 3B.4	Mowbray Way near Stonesby	482984, 324436	Representative of views from an elevated section of the Mowbray Way and more broadly the settlements of Sproxton and Stonesby.
VP 3B.5	Waltham on the Wolds	480442, 324841	Representative of views from the southern edge of Waltham on the Wolds and nearby recreational routes.
VP 3B.6	PRoW east of The Hindles	478028, 322870	Representative of views from the local PRoW network and nearby scattered residential properties.

- 7.6.65 In addition to the above viewpoint locations, the assessment also considers potential visual effects on recreational receptors along the Mowbray Way long distance route which runs between Buckminster and Scalford. The location and route of the Mowbray Way is shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** and a baseline descriptions of views from the route is provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

3C: Melton Mowbray north

- 7.6.66 This VRA is bound by the Thorpe Brook tributary of the River Eyre to the east, and the Welby Brook tributary of the Wreake to the west and is located along the western section of the Project.
- 7.6.67 The majority of residential receptors within the VRA are located to the south within the settlement of Melton Mowbray. Other residential receptors are located within the smaller settlements of Asfordby Hill and Thorpe Arnold in the south, and Scalford, Holwell, Chadwell, and Wycomb in the north. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present throughout the area.
- 7.6.68 There are three long distance routes within the VRA. The Mowbray Way passes to the north of the VRA connecting between Scalford and Chadwell. The Leicestershire Jubilee Way runs north from Melton Mowbray to Scalford and towards Goadby Marwood further to the north. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 64 runs along local roads north from Melton and to Scalford and beyond the Study Area to the north. There is also a relatively extensive PRow network radiating from and connecting between settlements, particularly in the north. Melton Country Park at the northern edge of Melton Mowbray provides additional opportunities for recreation.
- 7.6.69 Views from settlements and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation or other buildings. Properties in larger settlements tend to be inward facing and heavily restricted by surrounding buildings, although with some more open outward views from the settlement edge. The undulating topography, hedge and tree field boundaries and other trees and woodland provide local containment, limiting more distant views, particularly from lower lying areas and close to settlements. There are also more extensive and long distance views from more elevated locations. There is a wide range of built development and infrastructure within this VRA, including existing overhead lines and wind turbines.
- 7.6.70 **Table 7.13** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.3C Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.13 3C: Melton Mowbray north – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 3C.1	Mowbray Way west of Chadwell	477334, 324241	Representative of views from an elevated section of the Mowbray Way and the local PRow network.
VP 3C.2	Scalford, Leicestershire Jubilee Way	476276, 323634	Representative of views from the southern edge of Scalford and from part of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way and local PRow network.
VP 3C.3	PRow near Old Hills	473996, 322688	Representative of views from the local PRow network and nearby scattered residential properties.
VP 3C.4	Leicestershire Jubilee Way, Melton Country Park	476061, 321253	Representative of views from the northern edge of Melton Country Park and from a section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way.
VP 3C.5	Stapleford Heights, Melton Mowbray	475022, 321458	Representative of views from the northern edge of Melton Mowbray and nearby recreational routes.
VP 3C.6	Potter Hill	473873, 321575	Representative of views from a small group of residential properties in and around Potter Hill.

7.6.71 In addition to the above viewpoint locations, the assessment also considers potential visual effects on recreational receptors along sections of the Mowbray Way, Leicestershire Jubilee Way and NCN Route 64 long distance routes. The locations of the routes are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** and baseline descriptions of views from the routes are provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby

7.6.72 This VRA is located to the west of Melton Mowbray and the Welby Brook tributary of the Wreake, towards the western end of the Project and includes the proposed WMEL-B Substation.

7.6.73 Residential receptors are concentrated at a number of settlements including Asfordby, Grimston, Saxelbye and Shoby in the southern half of the VRA and Ab Kettleby and Wartnaby and Old Dalby/Old Dalby Queensway in the northern half. A number of scattered groups and individual properties are also present throughout the area.

7.6.74 A short section of the Midshires Way passes through the west of the VRA to the north and south of Grimston. NCN Route 48 passes through the centre of this VRA north from Asfordby to Saxelbye and Old Dalby. There is also a relatively extensive network of PRow radiating out from and connecting between settlements.

- 7.6.75 Views from settlements and residential properties are variable and often at least partially restricted by adjacent trees and vegetation, other buildings and/or landform. The undulating topography and local prevalence of trees and woodland results in a range of long distance views from elevated open locations and more restricted and enclosed views along valleys where vegetation or buildings provide containment. A range of structures and other development are visible including existing overhead lines, solar farms, settlement, farm buildings and industrial units.
- 7.6.76 **Table 7.14** provides details of the representative viewpoints identified within this VRA, the locations of which are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations**, with photography provided in **Figure 7.3.3D Preliminary Baseline Photography** and baseline descriptions provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 7.14 3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby – assessment viewpoints locations

Viewpoint	Location	Approx. Grid Ref	Reason for Selection
VP 3D.1	Holwell	473344, 323723	Representative of views from residential properties to the west of Holwell and local PRow network.
VP 3D.2	Ab Kettleby	472042, 323023	Representative of views from the edge of Ab Kettleby and local PRow network.
VP 3D.3	Wartnaby	470850, 323069	Representative of views from the western edge of Wartnaby and local PRow network.
VP 3D.4	Six Hill Lane, Stonepits	470359, 323420	Representative of views from a small group of residential properties and the adjacent PRow.
VP 3D.5	Saxelby Pastures	469785, 322074	Representative of views from a small group of residential properties at Saxelby Pastures and a section of NCN Route 48.
VP 3D.6	Grimston	468870, 321715	Representative of views from the eastern edge of Grimston and more broadly a section of the Midshires Way and local PRow network.
VP 3D.7	Saxelbye	470365, 321152	Representative of views from the northern edge of Saxelbye and local PRow network.
VP 3D.8	Glebe Farm	470809, 321266	Representative of views from a small number of scattered residential properties east of Saxelbye.

- 7.6.77 In addition to the above viewpoint locations, the assessment also considers potential visual effects on recreational receptors along sections of the Midshires Way and NCN

Route 48 long distance routes. The locations of the routes are shown on **Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations** and baseline descriptions of views from the routes are provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**.

Section 4 - Harborough District and Section 5 – Northamptonshire

- 7.6.78 As set out above, these two Sections of the Project relate to the reconductoring of the existing ZA overhead line which has been excluded from the visual assessment due to the temporary, short duration and localised nature of potential change and limited potential to influence visual amenity. This is in line with the agreed approach set out in **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (Paragraph 3.3.3).

Future Baseline

- 7.6.79 The future baseline relates to anticipated changes to the current baseline in the future which are predicted to occur in the absence of the Project. Relevant factors in defining the future baseline and considered in this DES are described here and will be considered in more detail in the ES.
- 7.6.80 Landscapes, and therefore views, change and evolve over time through both natural process and as a result of human influence through changes in land use, management or development and climate change.
- 7.6.81 The detailed visual assessment will make predictions relating to potential change to the baseline, informed by known development pressures, local development plan allocations, local policy and observations in the field. In addition, the future baseline will consider proposed and committed developments that would be complete before this Project commences, including renewable energy schemes and other National Grid infrastructure projects, that may influence visual amenity and views. The future baseline seeks to highlight potential changes in the baseline that may influence the assessment outcomes.
- 7.6.82 There are a range of development pressures within parts of the Study Area, including settlement expansion and energy related development, such as solar farms and transmission and distribution infrastructure. It is likely that these pressures will continue at least in the short term, with potential to result in changes to baseline views and visual amenity. Other developments with the potential to result in cumulative visual effects are considered as part of the preliminary cumulative assessment presented in **Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects**. A full cumulative assessment will be presented in the ES.
- 7.6.83 A number of pests and diseases that can negatively affect trees and woodland, including ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), are present in many areas of England. These diseases can cause leaf and crown reduction and loss of trees which can have an influence on views and visual amenity. Within woodland settings it is likely that gaps created by loss of individual trees would be filled by other trees over time and overall levels of vegetation are likely to remain broadly similar to existing.

7.7 Design, Standard, and Additional Mitigation Measures

- 7.7.1 Mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, manage, or control potential impacts and resulting effects of the Project are typically described and considered in assessment in three groups or types as defined in **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology** of this DES. Each measure considered in this preliminary assessment is described in the relevant section below.

Design Measures

- 7.7.2 Visual assessment is an iterative process with progressive levels of survey and appraisal informing detailed siting and routeing, and refinement of the design of the Project. Visual constraints and potential impacts have informed the initial siting and routeing process and the identification and refinement of the draft Order Limits.
- 7.7.3 The Project and draft Order Limits have been designed to avoid siting close to residential settlement as far as practicable. This is in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 7.19) applicable to routeing of the proposed new overhead line and the Horlock Rules (Ref 7.20) which apply to the design and siting of substations.
- 7.7.4 Key design mitigation measures relevant to views and visual amenity include:
- sensitive routeing of the proposed new overhead line to avoid settlements and key views where possible;
 - routeing of the proposed new overhead line to relate to underlying topography, following dips in the landform and avoiding running along ridgetops, where possible;
 - making use of existing features such as topography, trees and woodland to guide siting and routeing and provide local screening and/or an opaque background to reduce the apparent height or prominence of structures;
 - considered siting of temporary haul roads, construction compounds and laydown areas to minimise loss of existing trees, hedgerows and other features contributing to views; and
 - reinstatement of vegetation along field and ditch/watercourse margins and roadsides at earliest opportunity, which is expected to be within the next available sowing season (March to May or August to October) after construction of each section is completed and temporary haul roads, compounds and laydown areas are removed.
- 7.7.5 The iterative design and assessment process will continue at the ES stage and will include evaluation of the detailed alignment and locations of individual overhead line towers, positioning and design of the substations, and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures to minimise potential residual effects.

Standard Measures

- 7.7.6 Standard measures are those that would be implemented on a project of this scale and nature regardless of being subject to statutory assessment. As such, it can be assumed these measures will be applied in the assessment.
- 7.7.7 A range of standard measures for the Project will be adopted throughout the duration of the construction phase. A draft Outline Code of Construction Practice is provided

in **Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice**. Measures relevant to the control and management of impacts that could affect visual amenity are (refer to **Appendix 4A** for the full description of each measure):

- GG07 – on the Environmental Control Plans to be prepared prior to construction, including a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (described in Paragraph 7.7.8 below);
- GG09 – on reinstatement of land used temporarily;
- GG10 – on protection of retained sensitive features;
- GG12 – on siting of activity and equipment relative to residential properties;
- GG13 – on design of construction sites relative to residential properties;
- GG20 and AS01 – on earthworks and soil storage and protection;
- GG22 and LV04 – on design and position of construction lighting;
- GG26 – on fencing of working areas;
- LV01 – on retention and replacement of vegetation;
- LV02 – on tree protection measures; and
- LV03 – on aftercare and establishment period.

7.7.8 An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) will be provided with the application for development consent and secured through appropriate requirements in the development consent order. This will set out the details of proposed landscape and habitat reinstatement, mitigation and/or enhancement measures and associated maintenance, management and monitoring requirements. The Outline LEMP will include design and standard mitigation measures applicable to the Project and can be used to secure potential additional mitigation measures, where identified as a result of the detailed assessment. A draft of this plan is provided as **Appendix 6C Draft Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan**, of this DES.

Additional Mitigation Measures

- 7.7.9 Additional mitigation measures are those identified through assessment to reduce likely significant adverse environmental effects which may still occur despite the inclusion of the embedded design and standard measures described above.
- 7.7.10 No additional mitigation measures have been identified based on the preliminary assessment within this DES. Potential for additional measures will continue to be considered and reviewed as part of the ongoing assessment and design process and any measures identified will be reported in the ES. In some cases additional measures will be further refined and secured through requirements of the development consent.

7.8 Preliminary Assessment of Effects

- 7.8.1 A summary of potential impacts and mitigation measures identified in this preliminary assessment, and likely significance of the resulting effect with that mitigation in place, is provided in **Table 7.15**. Where appropriate for likely significant or notable effects, further explanation is provided in the following sections on construction, and operation effects. More details on the baseline conditions, nature of anticipated change and resulting effects on each of the identified viewpoints/visual receptors are provided in **Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment**. It is important to note that although receptors are presented by Project Section, the assessment of impacts on each viewpoint/receptor considers all relevant aspects of the Project as a whole, including across Section boundaries.

Section 1: South Holland District

Construction

- 7.8.2 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to construction of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at 10 of the representative viewpoints within Section 1 and the Macmillan Way long distance route are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse which is **not significant**. This is largely as a result of potential change being relatively limited and localised, often due to the separation distance and/or screening from vegetation or landform, and the nature of construction which would be temporary and of a short duration. However, greater change and significant effects are anticipated in relation to the following nine viewpoints:
- VP 1A.5: River Welland embankment, The Chase;
 - VP 1A.7: River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery;
 - VP 1B.2: Surfleet;
 - VP 1B.5: Cuckoo Lane;
 - VP 1B.6: Spalding Golf Course;
 - VP 1B.7: Herdgate Lane, Crossgate;
 - VP 1B.8: Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet;
 - VP 1C.3: Parsons Drove; and
 - VP 1C.4: South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove.
- 7.8.3 With regards to VP 1B.2, 1B.8, 1C.3 and 1C.4 there would be close range views of construction activity across a wide extent of the views, with an anticipated high magnitude of change and a major adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly reduced change and moderate adverse effects, which is **significant**, are anticipated for the remaining five viewpoints.
- 7.8.4 In each case the preliminary assessment takes a precautionary approach focused on the potential worst case, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints likely to experience lower effects than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Operation

- 7.8.5 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to operation of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at seven of the representative viewpoints within Section 1 and the Macmillan Way long distance route are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse which is **not significant**. However, greater change and potential for significant effects is anticipated in relation to the following viewpoints:
- VP 1A.5: River Welland embankment, The Chase;
 - VP 1A.7: River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery;
 - VP 1B.2: Surfleet;
 - VP 1B.3: Crossgate, Pinchbeck;
 - VP 1B.4: Gosberton Cheal;
 - VP 1B.5: Cuckoo Lane;
 - VP 1B.6: Spalding Golf Course;
 - VP 1B.7: Herdgate Lane, Crossgate;
 - VP 1B.8: Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet;
 - VP 1C.1: Northgate;
 - VP 1C.3: Parsons Drove; and
 - VP 1C.4: South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove.
- 7.8.6 The Project would be within the foreground and lead to substantial change to views from the viewpoints and/or small number of receptors in relation to VP 1B.2, VP 1B.8, VP 1C.3 and VP 1C.4. In each case the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be very high, leading to a major adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly reduced change and a high magnitude of effect and major adverse effect, which is **significant** is anticipated for VP 1B.5 and 1B.7 where the Project would occupy a relatively wide extent and/or more restricted but close range part of the view. A medium or high magnitude of effect and moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated for the remaining six viewpoints due to increased separation and/or slightly more limited visibility of the Project.
- 7.8.7 As with construction, the reported effects focus on the anticipated worst case and tend to be limited to a small number of locations, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints likely to experience reduced levels of effect than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Section 2: South Kesteven District

Construction

- 7.8.8 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to construction of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at the majority of the representative viewpoints within Section 2 are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse which is **not significant**. This is largely as a result of potential change being relatively limited and localised, often due to the separation distance and/or screening from vegetation or landform, and the nature of construction which would be

temporary and of a short duration. However, greater change and significant effects are anticipated in relation to the following viewpoints:

- VP 2A.1: Haconby Drove;
- VP 2B.2: Haconby;
- VP 2B.4: Stainfield;
- VP 2C.2: Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close;
- VP 2C.5: Burton-le-Coggles;
- VP 2D.2: PRow near Heath Farm;
- VP 2D.4: Ling Lane, Birkholme;
- VP 2D.5: Honey Pot Lane;
- VP 2D.6: Wooley's Lane;
- VP 2D.7: Colsterworth Lane; and
- VP 2E.1: North Witham.

7.8.9 For seven of the above viewpoints construction would notably increase the level of movement and activity within relative close proximity, with an anticipated medium magnitude of effect and a moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly greater change and a high magnitude of effect and moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated in relation to VP 2D.2 and VP 2D.7 and a high magnitude and major adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated in relation to the remaining two viewpoints (VP 2B.2 and VP 2B.4). In each case construction activity, including a temporary compound, would be within the foreground and/or occupy a wide extent of views.

7.8.10 In each case the preliminary assessment takes a precautionary approach focused on the potential worst case, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints likely to experience lower effects than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Operation

7.8.11 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to operation of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at six of the representative viewpoints within Section 2 are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse, which is **not significant**. However, greater change and potential for significant effects is anticipated in relation to the following viewpoints:

- VP 2A.1: Haconby Drove;
- VP 2B.1: Dunsby;
- VP 2B.2: Haconby;
- VP 2B.3: Hanthorpe;
- VP 2B.4: Stainfield;
- VP 2B.5: Elsthorpe;
- VP 2C.2: Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close;

- VP 2C.3: Tanners' Lane, Corby Glen (north);
- VP 2C.5: Burton-le-Coggles;
- VP 2D.1: Swayfield;
- VP 2D.2: PRow near Heath Farm;
- VP 2D.3: Birkholme;
- VP 2D.4: Ling Lane, Birkholme;
- VP 2D.5: Honey Pot Lane;
- VP 2D.6: Wooley's Lane;
- VP 2D.7: Colsterworth Lane;
- VP 2E.1: North Witham; and
- VP 2E.2: South Witham.

- 7.8.12 The Project would be within the foreground and is anticipated to lead to substantial change to views from the viewpoints and/or small number of receptors in relation to VP 2B.4, VP 2D.2, VP 2D.6 and VP 2D.7. In each case the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be very high, leading to a major adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly reduced change and a high magnitude of effect and major adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated in relation to VP 2A.1, VP 2B.2, 2C.5 and 2E.1. A medium or high magnitude of effect and moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated for the remaining viewpoints listed above due to increased separation and/or slightly more limited visibility of the Project.
- 7.8.13 As with construction, the reported effects focus on the anticipated worst case and tend to be limited to a small number of locations, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints likely to experience reduced levels of effect than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Section 3: Melton Borough

Construction

- 7.8.14 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to construction of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at the majority of the representative viewpoints and long distance routes within Section 3 are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse which is **not significant**. This is largely as a result of potential change being relatively limited and localised, often due to the separation distance and/or screening from vegetation or landform, and the nature of construction which would be temporary and of a short duration. However, greater change and significant effects are anticipated in relation to the following viewpoints:
- VP 3B.6: PRow east of The Hindles;
 - VP 3C.6: Potter Hill;
 - VP 3D.3: Wartnaby;
 - VP 3D.4: Six Hill Lane, Stonepits;

- VP 3D.5: Saxelby Pastures;
- VP 3D.7: Saxelbye; and
- VP 3D.8: Glebe Farm.

7.8.15 For the majority of the above viewpoints, construction would notably increase the level of movement and activity within relative close proximity, with an anticipated medium magnitude of effect and a moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly greater change and a high magnitude of effect and moderate adverse effect is anticipated in relation to viewpoints VP 3D.3 and 3D.5 which are located in close proximity to the draft Order Limits and WMEL-B substation site. A high magnitude of effect is also anticipated to be experienced in relation to VP 3C.6, due to the close proximity of construction activity, resulting in a major adverse effect, which is **significant**.

7.8.16 As with Sections 1 and 2, in each of the above cases the preliminary assessment takes a precautionary approach focused on the potential worst case, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints likely to experience lower effects than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Operation

7.8.17 The preliminary assessment (**Appendix 7B**) has identified that effects relating to operation of the Project on views and visual amenity of receptors at the majority of representative viewpoints and each of the long distance routes within Section 3 are likely to be negligible adverse or minor adverse which is **not significant**. However, greater change and potential for significant effects is anticipated in relation to the following viewpoints:

- VP 3A.2: Viking Way, Sewstern;
- VP 3B.1: Coston;
- VP 3B.2: Garthorpe;
- VP 3B.6: PRoW east of The Hindles;
- VP 3C.3: PRoW near Old Hills;
- VP 3C.5: Stapleford Heights, Melton Mowbray;
- VP 3C.6: Potter Hill;
- VP 3D.3: Wartnaby;
- VP 3D.4: Six Hill Lane, Stonepits;
- VP 3D.5: Saxelby Pastures;
- VP 3D.7: Saxelbye; and
- VP 3D.8: Glebe Farm.

7.8.18 The Project would be within the foreground and is anticipated to lead to substantial change to views from viewpoint 3C.6, VP 3D.3 and VP 3D.5. In each case the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be very high, leading to a major adverse effect, which is **significant**. Slightly reduced change and high magnitude of effect and major adverse effect, which is **significant** is anticipated for VP 3D.4 due to partial

screening by existing woodland. A medium or high magnitude of effect and moderate adverse effect, which is **significant**, is anticipated for the remaining eight viewpoints listed above due to increased separation and/or slightly more limited visibility of the Project.

- 7.8.19 As with construction, the reported effects focus on the anticipated worst case and tend to be limited to a small number of locations, with many of the receptors represented by the viewpoints set out above likely to experience reduced levels of effect than identified due to a range of factors including increased distance or screening by vegetation, buildings and/or local landform.

Table 7.15 Preliminary summary of visual effects

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
Project Section 1 – Construction					
VP 1A.1 Moulton Seas End	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of eastern extent of proposed new overhead line, distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.2 Hill Gate, Weston Marsh	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of eastern extent of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.3 Weston	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of eastern extent of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.4 River Welland embankment, Vernatt's Bridge	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of	Construction of eastern extent of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	temporary compounds.				
VP 1A.5 River Welland embankment, The Chase	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1A.6 PRoW near Crown Farm, Weston Marsh	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of eastern extent of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.7 River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.1 Surfleet Seas End	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of	Construction of short section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, temporary and	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	temporary compounds.	of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.			
VP 1B.2 Surfleet	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.3 Crossgate, Pinchbeck	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1B.4 Gosberton Cheal	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1B.5 Cuckoo Lane	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, within close range, although limited to short section of route,	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	careful siting of temporary compounds.	temporary and of short duration. Notable change to views.			
VP 1B.6 Spalding Golf Course	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, within close range, although limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to views.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.7 Herdgate Lane, Crossgate	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, within close range, although limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to views.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.8 Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
Macmillan Way	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, within close range, although	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to views.			
VP 1C.1 Northgate	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1C.2 Gosberton Clough	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1C.3 Parsons Drove and VP 1C.4 South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove	Minimise duration of construction and temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
Project Section 1 – Operation					
VP 1A.1 Moulton Seas End	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Likely very limited visibility of small section of proposed new overhead line. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.2 Hill Gate, Weston Marsh	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of a short section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.3 Weston	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Likely very limited visibility of small section of proposed new overhead line. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.4 River Welland embankment, Vernatt's Bridge	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of a short section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1A.5 River Welland embankment, The Chase	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line, resulting in a pronounced change to the view from short section of the route.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1A.6	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Likely very limited visibility of small section of proposed new	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
PRoW near Crown Farm, Weston Marsh		overhead line. Little or no discernible change to views.			
VP 1A.7 River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line, resulting in a pronounced change to the view from short section of the route.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.1 Surfleet Seas End	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Limited and relatively distant visibility of short section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1B.2 Surfleet	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and careful siting of towers and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.3 Crossgate, Pinchbeck	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively distant visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.4 Gosberton Cheal	Alignment of proposed new	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.			
VP 1B.5 Cuckoo Lane	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across part of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.6 Spalding Golf Course	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.7 Herdgate Lane, Crossgate	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 1B.8 Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
Macmillan Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of the Project would be variable and result in locally notable change, over a short section of the wider route. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1C.1 Northgate	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 1C.2 Gosberton Clough	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 1C.3 Parsons Drove and VP 1C.4 South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and careful siting of towers and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
Project Section 2 – Construction					
VP 2A.1 Haconby Drove	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2A.2 Long Drove	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.1 Dunsby	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.2 Haconby	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 2B.3 Hanthorpe	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.4 Stainfield	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2B.5 Elsthorpe	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of short section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.6 Bulby	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, predominantly screened and distant with very little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.7 Grimsthorpe Castle	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, predominantly screened and	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		distant with very little or no discernible change to views.			
VP 2C.1 Swinstead PRoW	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2C.2 Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line in relative close proximity with more distant visibility of construction of WMEL-A Substation, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2C.3 Tanners' Lane, Corby Glen (north)	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, relatively distant and partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2C.4 Camp Lane	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation,	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		relatively distant and partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.			
VP 2C.5 Burton-le-Coggles	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.1 Swayfield	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2D.2 PRoW near Heath Farm	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 2D.3 Birkholme	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2D.4 Ling Lane	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.5 Honey Pot Lane	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.6 Wooley's Lane	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 2D.7 Colsterworth Lane	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2E.1 North Witham	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2E.2 South Witham	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2E.3 Stainby	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant and predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Very little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
Project Section 2 – Operation					
VP 2A.1 Haconby Drove	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2A.2 Long Drove	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.1 Dunsby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2B.2 Haconby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2B.3 Hanthorpe	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	reinstatement of vegetation.	of the view, resulting in notable change.			
VP 2B.4 Stainfield	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2B.5 Elsthorpe	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2B.6 Bulby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant and limited visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2B.7 Grimsthorpe Castle	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant and limited visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2C.1 Swinstead PRow	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	reinstatement of vegetation.	overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.			
VP 2C.2 Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-A Substation and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2C.3 Tanners' Lane, Corby Glen (north)	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-A Substation and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2C.4 Camp Lane	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and siting of WMEL-A Substation.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 2C.5 Burton-le-Coggles	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-A Substation and reinstatement of	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation across a relatively wide extent of the view,	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	resulting in a pronounced change.			
VP 2D.1 Swayfield	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-A Substation and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line within an important part of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.2 PRoW near Heath Farm	Siting and design of WMEL-A Substation and potential to include additional planting.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	Medium	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.3 Birkholme	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-A Substation and reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation, resulting in notable change.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 2D.4 Ling Lane	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.5 Honey Pot Lane	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Close range and partially restricted visibility of a short section of proposed new overhead line, resulting in pronounced change.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.6 Wooley's Lane	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and careful siting of towers and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2D.7 Colsterworth Lane	Siting and design of WMEL-A Substation and potential to include additional planting.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line and WMEL-A Substation within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	Medium	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 2E.1 North Witham	Alignment of proposed new	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.			
VP 2E.2 South Witham	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 2E.3 Stainby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
Project Section 3 – Construction					
VP 3A.1 Rutland Round, Thistleton Gap	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3A.2 Viking Way, Sewstern	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	temporary compounds.				
VP 3A.3 Buckminster	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant and predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Very little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3A.4 Wymondham	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant and predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Very little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
Viking Way	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, although close range, visibility limited to relatively short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
Rutland Round	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant and partially screened, limited to very short section of route, temporary and of short	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		duration. Little or no discernible change to views.			
Mowbray Way	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant and partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.1 Coston	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.2 Garthorpe	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.3 Freeby	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		Little or no discernible change to views.			
VP 3B.4 Mowbray Way near Stonesby and VP 3B.5 Waltham on the Wolds	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.6 PRoW east of The Hindles	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3C.1 Mowbray Way west of Chadwell	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.2 Scalford, Leicestershire Jubilee Way	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, relatively distant, predominantly screened, temporary and of	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	temporary compounds.	short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.			
VP 3C.3 PRoW near Old Hills	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.4 Leicestershire Jubilee Way, Melton Country Park	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.5 Stapleford Heights, Melton Mowbray	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.6 Potter Hill	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	careful siting of temporary compounds.	duration. Pronounced change to the view.			
Leicestershire Jubilee Way	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, although close range, visibility limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
NCN Route 64	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, although close range, visibility limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to views.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.1 Holwell	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, distant, partially screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.2 Ab Kettleby	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, predominantly screened,	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	careful siting of temporary compounds.	temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.			
VP 3D.3 Wartnaby	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.4 Six Hill Lane, Stonepits	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, in close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.5 Saxelby Pastures	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line, in immediate foreground, temporary and of a short duration. Pronounced change to the view.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 3D.6 Grimston	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration. Little or no discernible change to views.	Very low	Medium	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.7 Saxelbye	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, in close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.8 Glebe Farm	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, in relative close proximity, temporary and of short duration. Notable change to the view.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
Midshires Way	Minimise duration of construction.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, predominantly screened, temporary and of short duration.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		Little or no discernible change to views.			
NCN Route 48	Minimise duration of construction and extent of temporary vegetation loss, and careful siting of temporary compounds.	Construction of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, although close range, visibility limited to short section of route, temporary and of short duration. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to views.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
Project Section 3 – Operation					
VP 3A.1 Rutland Round, Thistleton Gap	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3A.2 Viking Way, Sewstern	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Partial visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3A.3 Buckminster	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 3A.4 Wymondham	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
Viking Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Although with close range visibility of section of proposed new overhead line, this will be from a very short part of the overall route. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
Rutland Round	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Likely very limited and distant visibility of proposed new overhead line from very short section of the route. Little or no discernible change to the overall impression of views.	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .
Mowbray Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of proposed new overhead line from several parts of this route. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.1 Coston	Alignment of overhead line and	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across part of the	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
	reinstatement of vegetation.	view, resulting in notable change.			
VP 3B.2 Garthorpe	Alignment of overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Partially restricted visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across part of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3B.3 Freeby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Distant and/or restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.4 Mowbray Way near Stonesby, and VP 3B.5 Waltham on the Wolds	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Distant and/or restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3B.6 PRoW east of The Hindles	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3C.1 Mowbray Way west of Chadwell	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant visibility of section of proposed new	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.			
VP 3C.2 Scalford, Leicestershire Jubilee Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant and restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.3 PRoW near Old Hills	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3C.4 Leicestershire Jubilee Way, Melton Country Park	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant and restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3C.5 Stapleford Heights, Melton Mowbray	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in notable change.	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3C.6 Potter Hill	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line within the immediate	Very high	High	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		foreground, resulting in a substantial change.			
Leicestershire Jubilee Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Although with close range visibility of section of proposed new overhead line, this will be from a very short part of the overall routes. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
NCN Route 64	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and reinstatement of vegetation.	Although with close range visibility of section of proposed new overhead line, this will be from a very short part of the overall routes. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.1 Holwell	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Relatively distant and partially restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.2 Ab Kettleby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and siting of WMEL-B Substation.	Relatively distant and partially restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	High	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 3D.3 Wartnaby	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	Medium	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.4 Six Hill Lane, Stonepits	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Relatively close range visibility of WMEL-B Substation and elements of the proposed new overhead line within an important part of the view, resulting in a pronounced change.	High	High	Major adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.5 Saxelby Pastures	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Visibility of a section of the proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation within the immediate foreground, resulting in a substantial change.	Very high	Medium	Major adverse, which is significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
VP 3D.6 Grimston	Alignment of proposed new overhead line and siting of WMEL-B Substation.	Relatively distant and partially restricted visibility of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the view.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .
VP 3D.7 Saxelbye	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and part of the WMEL-B Substation across, resulting in a notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
VP 3D.8 Glebe Farm	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Relatively close range visibility of a section of proposed new overhead line and more distant visibility of WMEL-B Substation across a relatively wide extent of the view, resulting in a notable change.	Medium	High	Moderate adverse, which is significant .
Midshires Way	Alignment of proposed new overhead line.	Likely very limited and distant visibility of proposed new overhead line from very short	Very low	High	Negligible adverse, which is not significant .

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Effect	Sensitivity	Likely Significance of Effect
		section of the route. Little or no discernible change to views.			
NCN Route 48	Alignment of proposed new overhead line, siting of WMEL-B Substation, reinstatement of vegetation and potential to include additional planting.	Although with close range visibility of section of proposed new overhead line and WMEL-B Substation, this will be from very short parts of the overall route. Limited and/or unobtrusive change to the overall impression of views.	Low	Medium	Minor adverse, which is not significant .

7.9 Alternative Scenarios

- 7.9.1 As described in Section 4.4 of **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, there are elements of the Project which have not been fixed at this stage. Therefore, flexibility needs to be considered in this DES. Two alternative scenarios are outlined in **Table 4.3** and are assessed in **Table 7.16**.
- 7.9.2 This assessment considers each scenario, together with the assumptions and mitigation measures described in this chapter. It provides a qualitative appraisal of the potential changes to the preliminary conclusions reported in this section, should these scenarios occur.
- 7.9.3 **Table 7.16** presents the conclusions of this appraisal, supported by appropriate qualitative justification, to ensure that any potentially significant effects are identified in this DES. If these alternative scenarios remain under consideration in the application for development consent, they will be appropriately assessed in the ES.

Table 7.16 Preliminary assessment of alternative scenarios

Scenario	Potential Change in Impacts	Potential Change in Effects
1. No or reduced haul roads	This scenario could change the spatial extent and nature of impacts on views and visual amenity experienced by residential and recreational receptors. The use of existing agricultural access points with temporary trackways in place of constructed haul roads would reduce the visible extent of ground disturbance, earthworks alteration, and temporary vegetation clearance associated with construction of the Project. There would also be a reduction in the levels of activity and movement apparent within views relating to installation and subsequent removal and reinstatement of haul roads. This would also reduce the apparent duration and extent of change experienced by receptors. There is also potential for a further reduction in operation phase impacts through increased retention of existing trees, limiting change to existing features and potentially providing an element of screening of the Project.	This scenario is likely to result in a reduction in significant visual effects relating to construction as it would remove the need for temporary vegetation clearance, earthworks and operations and activity associated with installation and subsequent removal and reinstatement of haul roads. Increased retention of existing vegetation may also provide partial screening of construction activities which could further reduce the extent and overall impression of change. This scenario may also result in a localised reduction of the significance of effects relating to the operation phase, if it results in retention of additional existing trees which may otherwise be required to be removed to accommodate haul roads and associated visibility splays.
2. Off-site construction compound near Melton Mowbray	This scenario could change the distribution of impacts on views and visual amenity experienced by residential and recreational receptors.	This scenario is likely to result in at least a localised reduction in significant visual effects relating to construction, as a result of removing the need for multiple construction

Scenario	Potential Change in Impacts	Potential Change in Effects
	Removing the requirement for several construction compounds along the proposed new overhead line would locally reduce visual impacts relating to temporary vegetation clearance and earthworks, and the presence of temporary structures and activity to construct and subsequently remove the structures and infrastructure. The potential location for the off-site compound is within the Asfordby Business Park and is largely surrounded by mature vegetation and other development which would limit potential visual impacts relating to the temporary structures. There is potential for a local increase in impacts associated with movement of vehicles to and from the compound.	compounds and visible structures and activity along the proposed new overhead line. Mature vegetation, landform and other development surround the identified off-site construction compound area such that it would be predominantly screened and with little or no visibility from nearby visual receptors. Where visible, the off-site construction compound would be seen within the context of existing development, reducing any sense of change. Little or no difference to operation phase effects are anticipated between the two scenarios.

7.10 Monitoring

- 7.10.1 As set out in **Appendix 6C Draft Outline LEMP**, it is anticipated that monitoring of reinstated vegetation and proposed mitigation planting would be required. The purpose of monitoring would be to ensure successful establishment, determine that the desired functions are being achieved and/or identify whether any remedial management action may be required. Further details of monitoring and management, tailored to specific reinstatement measures and approaches to proposed mitigation planting will be set out in the Outline LEMP as part of the ES.

7.11 Further Assessment

- 7.11.1 The ES will present a full detailed assessment based on the principles of GLVIA3 (Ref 7.17) and other relevant good practice guidance and the methodology set out in **Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology**. The assessment will include an evaluation and classification of the value, susceptibility and resulting sensitivity, the magnitude of effect and the level and significance of anticipated effects for each of the identified representative viewpoints and receptors. Descriptive text will be included to provide an explanation and justification for the judgements reached.
- 7.11.2 The ES will provide final details of design, standard, and additional mitigation measures which will be informed by the findings of the DES and Stage 2 Consultation. The assessment of operation phase effects in the ES will include consideration of potential impacts at Year 1 of operation, to represent the anticipated worst case, and where relevant the potential impacts at Year 15 of operation, to demonstrate the influence of proposed planting included as part of mitigation design.
- 7.11.3 As set out above, the requirement for a RVAA will be determined at the ES stage, once final details of the new proposed overhead line alignment and position of substation structures are defined. If required, the RVAA will be undertaken in accordance with Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Ref 7.23).

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