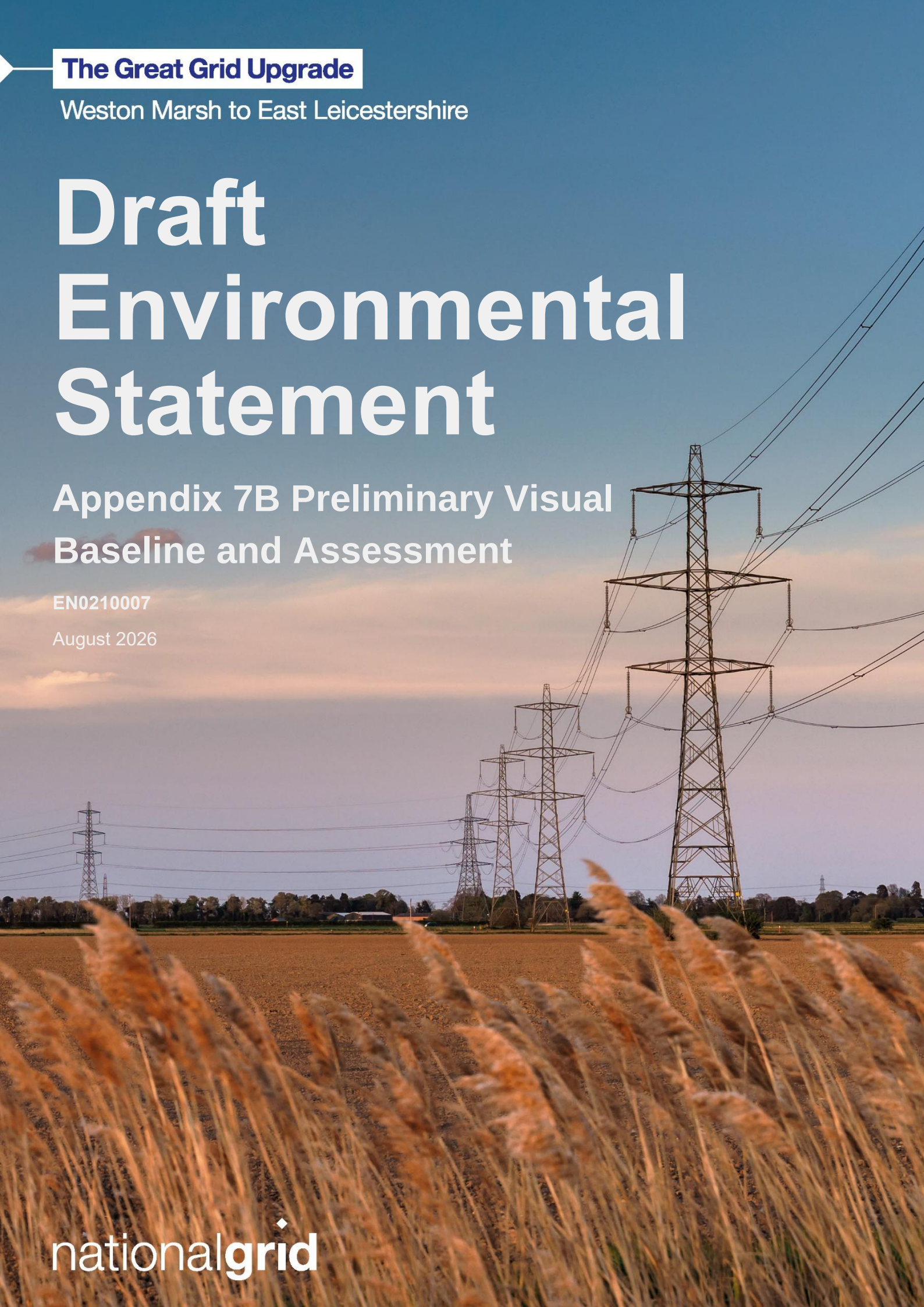




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 7B Preliminary Visual
Baseline and Assessment

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

Contents

7B.	Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment	7B-1
7B.1	Introduction	7B-1
7B.2	Key Visual Receptors and Representative Viewpoints	7B-1
7B.3	Baseline Description and Preliminary Assessment	7B-2

Table 7B.1	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1A: Weston Marsh)	7B-3
Table 7B.2	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet)	7B-12
Table 7B.3	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1C: Pinchbeck North Fen)	7B-26
Table 7B.4	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2A: Dunsby Fen)	7B-33
Table 7B.5	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2B: Haconby to Irnham)	7B-37
Table 7B.6	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2C: Corby Glen)	7B-49
Table 7B.7	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe)	7B-58
Table 7B.8	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2E: North and South Witham)	7B-69
Table 7B.9	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3A: Buckminster and Wymondham)	7B-75
Table 7B.10	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA: 3B Waltham on the Wolds)	7B-86
Table 7B.11	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3C: Melton Mowbray north)	7B-98
Table 7B.12	Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby)	7B-112

References	7B-129
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7B. Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment

7B. Preliminary Visual Baseline and Assessment

7B.1 Introduction

- 7B.1.1 This appendix provides an overview of the range of viewpoint locations and receptors considered as part of the visual assessment for the Project. The preliminary assessment includes a description of the baseline views from each viewpoint and associated receptor(s), followed by an appraisal of potential effects relating to construction and/or operation of the Project. The preliminary assessment of operational impacts takes a worst-case approach without inclusion of potential additional mitigation. The detailed landscape assessment in the Environmental Statement (ES) will consider longer term operational effects with additional mitigation in place, where relevant.
- 7B.1.2 Potential effects relating to maintenance of the Project during the operational phase have been scoped out of the assessment, as confirmed in the **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion** (paragraph 3.3.5). This is due to the limited, localised, temporary and short duration of potential change associated with maintenance activities.
- 7B.1.3 As detailed in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, the decommissioning of the Project has been scoped out of the environmental assessment.

7B.2 Key Visual Receptors and Representative Viewpoints

- 7B.2.1 Potential visual receptors considered within this assessment include:
- Residents of communities, including views from isolated properties, scattered communities, or defined settlements;
 - Those engaged in recreational activities (e.g. users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and long-distance footpaths or cycle routes) or engaged in outdoor sport and recreation.
- 7B.2.2 The visual assessment is based on a series of 67 representative viewpoint locations and 8 long distance recreational routes. Viewpoints have been agreed in consultation with Lincolnshire County Council and South Holland District Council and provide a representative cross section of different receptor types and locations and at different distances from the Project.
- 7B.2.3 The viewpoints are primarily from publicly accessible locations as advocated by Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 7.1) and include:
- Locations selected to represent the experience of different types of receptor.
 - Locations at different distances to provide a representative range of viewing angles and distances (i.e., short, medium, and long distance views).

- Locations which may assist in illustrating key 'cumulative' interactions with other existing developments.
- Locations which represent a range of viewing experiences (i.e., static views and points along routes).

7B.3 Baseline Description and Preliminary Assessment

7B.3.1 The following paragraphs and tables provide an initial description of the baseline view from each of the identified representative viewpoints and long-distance routes identified within each Project Section and Visual Receptor Area (VRA).

Section 1

1A: Weston Marsh

- 7B.3.2 This VRA is located towards the eastern end of the Project and to the east of the River Welland.
- 7B.3.3 A series of seven viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing a range of views experienced from residential receptors, settlements and from local Public Rights of Way (PRoW). No long distance recreational routes have been identified within this VRA. **Table 7B.1** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 1A: Weston Marsh. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.1A Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.1 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1A: Weston Marsh)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1A.1 Moulton Seas End (531911, 327401)	This viewpoint is located at the western edge of Moulton Seas End and is representative of views from the settlement and recreational users on the local PRoW. From the viewpoint and settlement edge there are relatively short range views to the west across an open agricultural field. Linear tree belts along the field boundary heavily restrict and limit more distant views of the surrounding flat agricultural land. Overhead line towers are a feature of views to the west and south, influencing the impression of the baseline. From the wider settlement there are a range of heavily enclosed and more open views to the north, east and south across flat and expansive agricultural land. Occasional trees and agricultural buildings provide elements of local containment.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> The majority of construction, and particularly ground level activity, is likely to be screened from the viewpoint and settlement as a result of intervening vegetation along field boundaries. There is potential for partial visibility of taller equipment used to install overhead line towers, although this would be very distant and limited to a very small part of the view. Overall, magnitude of effect during construction is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be predominantly screened from the viewpoint and settlement such that there would be little or no impression of change. If locally visible, the Project will be a very distant feature which would be seen in the context of existing closer and more notable electrical infrastructure. Overall, considering the distant and very limited nature of potential visibility and the existing context, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant).
VP 1A.2 Hall gate, Weston Marsh (529684, 326083)	This viewpoint is located along Hall Gate and is representative of views from scattered residential properties north of Weston and west of Loosegate and Moulton Seas End. From the viewpoint location, there are open, expansive and long range views across large-scale and flat agricultural fields in most directions. Small blocks of trees and occasional farm buildings locally restrict more distant views, including to the north. Overhead lines cross the mid-ground and extend into the distance to the north, west and east, with the Spalding Power Station adding further energy infrastructure to the west. Views from nearby scattered residential properties are more variable and often at least partially restricted by foreground vegetation and/or other buildings.	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the background of the view to the northwest of the viewpoint location. Farm buildings and small woodland blocks would provide partial screening of ground level activity. Taller equipment used to install overhead line towers and gantries are likely to be more apparent, although distant and localised in nature. Overall, construction would occupy a relatively limited part of the view to the northwest and would be temporary and of a short duration, with little influence on the overall impression of the view. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the tops of the gantries at the connection with the Weston Marsh B substation (substation itself subject to separate application) and a small number of proposed overhead line towers would potentially be visible within the distance to the northwest from the viewpoint location. Intervening trees along field boundaries and landform along the River Welland would screen lower parts of structures, further limiting the sense of change. Overall, the Project would occupy a small and distant part of the view to the northwest, appearing as a relatively minor feature and locally adding to the impression of electrical infrastructure. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 1A.3 Weston (528725, 325117)	This viewpoint is located along the A151 (High Road) adjacent to Weston and is representative of views from residential properties along the northwest edge of the settlement. From the viewpoint location there are relatively expansive and long distance views across flat, large scale agricultural fields to the north and west. Small blocks of trees and occasional farm buildings locally	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the background of the view to the northwest of the viewpoint location. Farm buildings and small woodland blocks would provide screening of much of the lower level activity, largely limiting visibility to taller equipment and activity. Construction would occupy a very limited and relatively distant part of the

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	restrict more distant views. An overhead line and series of towers cross the mid-ground of the view to the north and west, connecting to Spalding Power Station further to the west. The A151 and associated traffic are notable features in the foreground, influencing the impression of the view. Linear tree belts alongside the road and buildings within Weston limit views to the south and east. From the settlement of Weston, views to the north and west are typically more restricted than from the viewpoint due to partial screening and containment by linear strips of trees along the A151. Vegetation in the immediate foreground of the newly constructed residential properties at The Maples and Rose Gardens housing developments is limited. Whereas mature vegetation within gardens and along the western boundary of older residential properties to the north of the settlement further restricts outward views to the north and west. Similarly the buildings and structures within the Baytree Garden Centre restrict views north from properties within the west of the settlement. There are typically more open views southwards from parts of the settlement.	view and would be temporary and of a short duration, resulting in little or no discernible change to the overall impression of the view. Visibility of construction activity is likely to be more restricted from the majority of locations within the settlement of Weston, limiting the impression of change. Overall, magnitude of effect during construction is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the tops of the gantries at the connection with the Weston Marsh B substation (substation itself subject to separate application) and a small number of proposed overhead line towers would potentially be visible within the distance to the northwest from the viewpoint location. Intervening buildings and woodland blocks would further limit visibility of the Project, restricting change to a small part of the view. Visibility from properties and locations within the majority of Weston would be more limited than experienced at the viewpoint. Where visible, the Project would be seen in the context of, and at a greater distance than the existing overhead line, adding marginally to the impression of electrical infrastructure within a limited part of the view. Overall, the Project is anticipated to result in little or no discernible change and a Very Low magnitude of effect during operation. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant).
VP 1A.4 River Welland embankment, Vernatt's Bridge (528325, 329258)	This viewpoint is located along the eastern bank of the River Welland to the east of Surfleet Seas End and is representative of views for recreational users on the local path network. From the viewpoint location and the PRoW along the River Welland there are slightly elevated and open views across large scale agricultural fields in most directions. Views from the PRoW to the east are at lower elevation and therefore slightly more restricted in nature. Field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but generally do not restrict views. Large agricultural buildings and individual properties, often with associated groups of trees provide an element of local containment. The settlement of Surfleet Seas End and mature trees within Spalding golf course somewhat limit views to the west and southwest. Existing energy development, including the Spalding Power Station to the south and overhead lines to the north, east and south are relatively notable features within the view. Views from recreational watercraft along the River Welland are generally restricted by the river embankments such that they are focused along the watercourse, with very limited or no outward views.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the midground of the view to the southwest along and adjacent to the River Welland corridor. Farm buildings and associated trees are likely to provide an element of localised screening of lower height activity to the south, with buildings in Surfleet Seas End and mature trees within Spalding golf course limiting visibility of construction further to the west. Lower height construction activity would be broadly similar to agricultural operations, although more concentrated within a narrow corridor and with potential for temporary soil storage bunds to be apparent. Taller equipment used to install towers and the overhead lines is likely to be more apparent, although localised in nature. Construction would occupy a relatively limited part of the view to the southwest and would be temporary and of a short duration, with little influence on the overall impression of the view. Greater visibility of construction is anticipated from a short section of PRoW Wstn/6/1 where in close proximity to and crossing through the draft Order Limits. These impacts are considered under VP 1A.5 and VP 1A.7, below. Overall, construction activity would be limited to a relatively small part of the overall view and would be relatively distant, temporary and of a short duration and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, a relatively small number of overhead line towers are likely to be visible from the viewpoint and western parts of PRoW Wstn/8/1. The Project would add slightly to the existing influence of electrical infrastructure from these locations although would have a relatively limited influence on the overall impression of the view. There would be greater visibility of the Project from a section of PRoW Wstn/6/1 to the south of the viewpoint where in closer proximity to and crossing the draft Order Limits. These impacts are considered under VP 1A.5 and VP 1A.7, below. Overall, although the Project would add further electrical infrastructure into views from the viewpoint and PRoW to the east, considering the separation distance and partial screening by buildings, vegetation and/or landform, change would be largely unobtrusive. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1A.5 River Welland embankment, The Chase (527048, 326699) and VP 1A.7 River Welland embankment, Kinder Nursery (527585, 327660)	These viewpoints are located on the eastern bank of the River Welland between Spalding and Surfleet Seas End and are representative of views from a section of the PRowWs on the embankments of the River Welland and Vernatt's Drain. From the viewpoint locations and a short section of the PRow there are slightly elevated open views across large scale agricultural fields in most directions. Field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but generally do not restrict views. Large agricultural buildings and individual properties, often with associated groups of trees, provide an element of local containment. Existing energy development, including the Spalding Power Station to the south and overhead lines to the east and south, and other large industrial buildings on the northern edge of Spalding to the south have an influence on baseline views. Views from nearby scattered properties, including Wykeham Farm, Wykeham Chapel and properties at Kinder Nursery are at lower elevation and often more restricted by foreground trees and/or farm buildings.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> There are likely to be relatively open views of construction activity to the east and west from a short section of the PRow. From more distant sections, lower height construction activity would be partially screened and appear broadly similar to existing occasional agricultural operations, although more concentrated within a narrow corridor. There are likely to be views across the limited extent of construction to the east and along the more extensive construction corridor to the west, adding to the movement and activity within the existing view. Haul roads and localised vegetation clearance and earthworks are also likely to be apparent, both to the east and extending into the distance to the west. This increased visibility would be limited to a relatively short section of the overall route. Overall, taking a worst case approach considering the closer range views from a short section of the PRowWs where they cross the draft Order Limits, the magnitude of effect from construction is anticipated to be High. The influence of construction on views and the resulting magnitude of effect from the nearby properties to the east of the Welland River, including Wykeham, is anticipated to be less than described above. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, a small number of overhead line towers and the gantries at the eastern tie-in of the Project would be visible to the northeast or southeast of the viewpoint locations. A greater number of towers would be visible to the west of the River Welland and extending into the distance. The level of change experienced would vary along the PRow. The Project would add to the existing electrical infrastructure and development, extending into additional parts of the view. Overall, taking a precautionary approach, considering the worst case scenario, magnitude of effect on views from a short section of the PRow immediately adjacent to the Project is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 1A.6 PRow near Crown Farm, Weston Marsh (530555, 328199)	This viewpoint is located along the PRow between Surfleet Seas End and Moulton Seas End and is representative of recreational users on the PRow route and from nearby scattered properties. From the viewpoint location and wider PRow route, there are relatively open, expansive and long range views across large-scale and flat agricultural fields in most directions. Small blocks and linear belts of trees and occasional farm buildings locally restrict more distant views. Overhead lines cross the foreground and mid-ground to the east and extend into the distance to	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the background of the view to the southwest of the viewpoint location and from sections of the PRow. A linear belt of trees to the east of the viewpoint and other small woodland blocks and landform along the River Welland would screen the majority of the ground level activity. Taller equipment used to install overhead line towers and gantries are likely to be more apparent, although relatively distant and limited to small parts of the view at any one time.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	the north and south, influencing the impression of the baseline. Views from nearby scattered residential properties are more variable and often at least partially restricted by foreground vegetation and/or other buildings.	Overall, construction would occupy a relatively limited part of the view to the southwest and would be temporary and of a short duration, with little influence on the overall impression of the view. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the tops of the gantries at the eastern tie-in of the Project and a small number of proposed overhead line towers would potentially be visible within the distance to the southwest from parts of the PRoW. Intervening trees along field boundaries and landform along the River Welland would screen lower parts of structures, limiting the sense of change. Overall, the Project would occupy a very small and distant part of the view, appearing as a minor feature, marginally adding to the impression of electrical infrastructure which is an existing notable feature in the view. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant).

1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet

- 7B.3.4 This VRA is located toward the eastern end of the Project and is bound by the River Welland in the east and the Peterborough to Lincoln railway line in the west.
- 7B.3.5 A series of eight viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from both long distance recreational routes (the Macmillan Way) and local PRoWs. A description and evaluation of views from the longer section of the Macmillan Way found within the Study Area is also provided. **Table 7B.2** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to each of the viewpoints and the long distance route within VRA 1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.1B Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.2 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1B: Pinchbeck and Surfleet)

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1B.1 Surfleet Seas End (527809, 329116)	This viewpoint is located along Reservoir Road, Surfleet Seas End and is representative of views from residential properties along the southern edge of the settlement and from the Macmillan Way long distance route. From the viewpoint location and a short section of the Macmillan Way there are open views across large scale agricultural fields to the south and southeast. The embankments along Vernatt's Drain and the River Welland partially limit more distant views, although taller structures including overhead line towers and Spalding Power Station are apparent across much of this part of the view. In other directions views tend to be more restricted and limited by foreground vegetation and buildings. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation or other buildings. A number of properties gain relatively open	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the distance to the south and southeast from the viewpoint, short section of the Macmillan Way and small number of nearby residential receptors on the edge of Surfleet Seas End. Most activity is likely to appear broadly similar to existing agricultural operations, reducing the impression of change. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although likely to be limited to small parts of the views at any one time. The majority of construction activity to the west of the River Welland is likely to be screened by the embankments alongside the river. However, movement of taller equipment such as cranes may be visible, occupying a small part of the view.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	views to the south, similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location. However, views from the majority of properties west of the A16 tend to be more restricted by other buildings or trees and woodland within the adjacent golf course and/or are focused to the north over the surrounding fenland farmland. Views from boats along this section of the River Glen are also restricted by vegetation, buildings and landform such that they are largely focused along the river corridor. A description of baseline views from the longer section of the Macmillan Way within the Study Area is provided at the end of this table.	While there is potential for visibility of construction activity in views to the south, change is likely to be relatively limited, temporary in nature and of a short duration such that the magnitude of effects of construction is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, a small number of overhead line towers are likely to be visible from the viewpoint, short section of the Macmillan Way and small number of nearby residential receptors. The overhead line towers are likely to be located approximately 2 km to the south and southwest, introducing additional structures into the distance and adding to the existing context of electrical infrastructure within the view. Overall, although the Project would introduce new structures into part of the view, change is likely to be relatively limited and distant such that the magnitude of effect during operation is anticipated to be Low. The majority of receptors within the wider settlement are likely to experience more limited visibility of the Project and a reduced level of change. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1B.2 Surfleet (525376, 327808)	This viewpoint is located along Wood Lane, Surfleet and is representative of views from residential properties along the southern edge of the settlement and a small number of nearby scattered farms and individual properties. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open views across flat, large scale agricultural fields to the east, south and west. Scattered farms and associated trees and larger farm buildings, greenhouses and polytunnels provide local containment and combine to limit more distant views. Traffic on Surfleet Road, the A16 and the local road network and agricultural operations introduce movement and activity into views. Settlements and larger agricultural buildings and other development, including the Spalding power station and more distant overhead lines to the east have an influence on the impression of existing views. Views from Surfleet and scattered residential properties are variable, ranging from open views similar to the viewpoint, to more restricted or enclosed views due to foreground screening by trees and/or other buildings. Outward views from the village are generally limited, except for properties along the settlement edge, as represented by the viewpoint.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the south of the viewpoint, the southern edge of Surfleet and nearby scattered properties. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a wide extent of views, considerably adding to movement and activity within the baseline. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in close proximity to the south of the viewpoint and Surfleet and extending across the view to the southeast and southwest. The overhead line towers would also appear in the foreground or midground of views from a number of scattered properties to the south of Surfleet, including along White Cross Lane and Surfleet Road. Visibility of the Project from

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1B.3 Crossgate, Pinchbeck (524022, 326668)	This viewpoint is located along Langhole Drove, Pinchbeck and is 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 the Macmillan Way and PRoW Pinc/5/3. From the viewpoint location and a short section of the Macmillan Way there are open views across medium to large scale agricultural fields to the north and west, with views to the south and east limited by settlement. Field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but generally do not restrict views. Scattered farms, trees and woodlands, including at Gosberton Cheal, provide local containment and	properties within the centre of Surfleet would be considerably reduced due to screening by other buildings and vegetation. Overall, taking a precautionary approach focused on the likely worst case where the Project would be in the immediate foreground, it would potentially represent a substantial change to the composition and nature of the view such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. This level of impact is likely to be limited to a small number of properties with reduced impacts on many of the nearby properties and majority of Surfleet due to increased screening and/or distance. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the midground and distance to the north and northwest from the viewpoint, settlement edge and the adjacent section of the Macmillan Way and PRoW. The level nature of the landscape would limit visibility of the haul roads and as such the main change would be a result of movement of vehicles and machinery along the draft Order Limits. Much of this activity is likely to appear broadly similar to existing agricultural operations, slightly reducing the impression of change. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	combine to restrict more distant views. Limited riparian vegetation along the western bank of the River Glen provides localised filtering of views from the Macmillan Way. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation or other buildings. A number of properties gain relatively open views to the north and northwest, similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location.	apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although there is potential for visibility of construction activity across part of the view, change would be relatively limited and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect of construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible across part of the view to the north and northwest from the viewpoint, location on the settlement edge and the adjacent section of the Macmillan Way. The overhead line would be visible on the skyline, although with partial backclothing of the lower sections of the towers by trees and woodland. The separation distance would somewhat reduce the prominence and impression of change. However, the towers would contrast with the otherwise agricultural and horizontal nature of the view, with limited existing context of electrical infrastructure. Overall, although the Project would affect a relatively limited part of the views available from the viewpoint and adjacent receptors, taking a precautionary and worst case approach the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 1B.4 Gosberton Cheal (522913, 328891)	This viewpoint is located along Cheal Road and is representative of views from residential properties within and near to the ribbon settlement of Gosberton Cheal. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open, middle distance views to the south across medium and large-scale agricultural fields. Several small woodland blocks in the middle ground form a wooded horizon and limit longer distance views. Trees and woodland and buildings in the foreground restrict views in other directions from this location. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation or other buildings. Properties tend to be orientated towards the south, although often with views available in other directions. Where views are open, the foreground is generally composed of medium to large scale agricultural fields with low vegetation and occasional individual trees along boundaries. Trains travelling along the Peterborough to Lincoln railway line at grade are occasionally visible, adding to movement from traffic on the local road network and agricultural operations across the landscape. Existing electrical infrastructure in the view is limited to wood pole lines.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground to the south and potentially also in the distance to the southwest from the viewpoint location and adjacent properties. Trees and woodland blocks are likely to limit visibility of much of the construction activity, limiting change to relatively small parts of the view and appearing broadly similar to agricultural operations. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There are likely to be more open and closer range views of construction activity from properties to the south and southeast of the viewpoint where tree cover is reduced. From these locations a temporary compound and movement of vehicles along parts of the draft Order Limits is likely to be apparent. Overall, although there is potential for visibility of construction activity across localised parts of the view, change would be relatively limited and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect of construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible across parts of the view to the south and southwest from the viewpoint. The overhead line towers would be partially screened by trees and woodland blocks across much of the view, somewhat limiting the sense of change. There is potential for greater visibility of the Project from a small number of scattered residential properties, particularly to the southeast of the viewpoint. From these locations the Project is likely to appear as a relatively notable feature within views that contain little or no existing electrical infrastructure. Overall, potential visibility of the Project is variable, relative to the extent and nature of tree and woodland cover, which locally influences the magnitude of effect. Taking a precautionary and worst case approach, based on properties to the southeast of the viewpoint, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. A reduced level of change is anticipated from the viewpoint and adjacent residential properties. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 1B.5 Cuckoo Lane (524525, 327391)	This viewpoint is located along Cuckoo Lane adjacent to Cottage Farmhouse listed building and is	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	representative of views from a small number of scattered residential properties along Cuckoo Lane. From the viewpoint location there are relatively expansive views across open agricultural fields to the west. Occasional small woodland blocks and riparian trees along the River Glen provide local containment in otherwise long distance views to the north and west. Trees and other vegetation and buildings in the middle ground limit more distant views to the south, while foreground vegetation screens views to the east. From the nearby properties, views are typically more restricted as a result of screening by foreground vegetation or other buildings. The two northern properties are orientated to the west, while the southern properties are orientated to the south.	Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the foreground to the north and extending towards the west from the viewpoint. The level nature of the landscape would limit visibility of the haul roads and as such the main change would be a result of movement of vehicles and machinery along the draft Order Limits. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent and locally prominent where in the foreground, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, considering the close proximity of construction and extent of the view potentially affected alongside the temporary nature and short duration, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. Visibility of construction and the level of impact experienced from the nearby properties would generally be lower than described above due to increased screening from foreground vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible across part of the view to the north and extending into the distance to the west from the viewpoint. The Project would introduce a series of new structures into part of the view, altering the existing composition. There may also be requirement for removal of a number of trees along the River Glen, further altering the view.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1B.6 Spalding Golf Course (527005, 328020)	This viewpoint is located on the southern edge of Spalding golf course and is representative of views experienced from parts of the course. From the viewpoint location there are open views across medium to large scale agricultural fields to the south, east and west. Landform along the River Welland partially restricts views to the east and trees along the A16 partially limits more distant views to the west. Views to the north are heavily restricted by mature trees within the golf course. The tops of overhead lines are visible across the view to the east and in the distance to the south, alongside the Spalding Power Station and range of other industrial buildings on the northern edge of Spalding. Traffic along the A16 to the west introduces movement and activity into the baseline view. From much of the golf course views are often more restricted than those from the viewpoint as a result of partial screening provided by mature trees within and surrounding the golf course.	Overall, the Project would be in relative close proximity and extend across part of the view to the north and west, representing a pronounced change to the view from the viewpoint. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
		<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in relative close proximity to the south from the viewpoint location. Ground level construction activity to the east is likely to be screened by landform along the River Welland and to the west by vegetation along the A16, somewhat reducing the impression of change. The main change is likely to be focused along a short section to the south, with movement and activity seen in the context of existing traffic along the A16 and wider road network. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Visibility of construction from the majority of the golf course would be more limited due to screening by vegetation. Overall, considering the relative close proximity of construction and extent of the view potentially affected alongside the temporary nature and short duration, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible across part of the view to the south, with visibility of a small number of overhead line towers. The tops of a few additional towers are also likely to be partially visible further to the east and west, slightly extending the impression of change. The Project would be seen in the context of existing electrical infrastructure, although would be in closer proximity and locally extend the influence to an additional part of the view. Overall, the Project would be in relative close proximity and extend across part of the view to the south, adding to the influence of existing infrastructure, with the potential to result in a pronounced change to the view from the viewpoint. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. More limited visibility and lower level of change and impact is likely to be experienced from the majority of the golf course. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 1B.7 Herdgate Lane, Crossgate (525474, 327218)	This viewpoint is located along Herdgate Lane and is representative of views from nearby residential properties to the north of Crossgate.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and nearby properties.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location there are relatively open views across flat, large scale agricultural fields to the north. Scattered farms and associated trees provide local containment and combine with buildings and vegetation within Surfleet to limit more distant views. Frames for polytunnels are also present in the foreground to the west and when covered would further restrict and alter views. Traffic on the local road network and agricultural operations introduce occasional movement and activity into views. Views from nearby residential properties are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and/or other buildings. Where outward views are possible, they are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint.	Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of the view, considerably adding to movement and activity within the baseline. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced, haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a small number of overhead line towers in close proximity to the north of the viewpoint. Trees along field boundaries would provide an element of screening from the viewpoint, with foreground vegetation and/or other buildings often locally reducing visibility from the nearby properties. Overall, taking a precautionary approach focused on the likely worst case where the Project would be in the foreground, it would represent a substantial change to the composition and nature of the view such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 1B.8 Macmillan Way, west of Surfleet (524730, 327875)	This viewpoint is located along the Macmillan Way long distance route to the west of Surfleet and is representative of views from a short section of the route. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open and expansive views across flat, large scale agricultural fields to the north, south and west. The northern extent of Crossgate along with scattered farms, larger farm buildings and trees and woodland belts combine to limit more distant views south. The northern extent of Spalding, including Spalding Power Station is visible in the distance to the southeast. Views to the east are more limited due to buildings and vegetation within Surfleet.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the south of the viewpoint and short section of the Macmillan Way west of Surfleet. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of views, considerably adding to movement and activity within the baseline. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced, haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in relative close proximity to the south of the viewpoint

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		and extending across the view to the southeast and southwest. Overall, taking a precautionary approach focused on the likely worst case where the Project would be in the immediate foreground, it would represent a substantial change to the composition and nature of the view such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
Macmillan Way	The Macmillan Way is a long distance (470 km) route between Boston, Lincolnshire and Abbotsbury, Dorset, passing through a wide range of different landscapes. A relatively short section (approximately 11.5 km) of the route is found within the Study Area, between Surfleet Seas End and West Pinchbeck, generally alongside the River Glen. Views from the route vary considerably, from open and elevated long distance views available from the most northerly section along the top of the River Welland embankment, to enclosed views where the route passes along the north of Spalding Golf Club and through Surfleet. Where open views are possible, they tend to be relatively long distance across flat agricultural fields and include a range of settlement and development, both within the foreground and distance (as indicated by Viewpoint 1B.3). Existing overhead lines are a feature of views from more eastern sections	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible at a range of distances from different parts of the route, with close range and relatively open views anticipated from a short section between the north of Pinchbeck and the southwest of Surfleet. From other sections views of construction are likely to be more distant and often partially screened or limited and/or occupying a relatively small part of the view. The more distant activity may also appear similar to existing agricultural operations and/or movement of traffic on the local road network, somewhat limiting the sense of change. Although variable and potentially locally notable or pronounced, the overall sense of change is likely to be relatively limited, experienced from a very short part of the wider route and would be both temporary and of a short

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	of the route to the north and south of Surfleet Seas End (as indicated by Viewpoint 1B.1).	duration, such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction on users of the Macmillan Way is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> A number of the overhead line towers are likely to be visible from sections of the route, adding to the range of settlement and development apparent within views. The greatest change to views is likely to occur where the Project crosses the Macmillan Way from which overhead line towers would appear in the foreground and extending into the distance. The sense of change is likely to be more limited from the sections to the west of Pinchbeck and east of Surfleet, which are more distant from, and with more limited visibility of, the Project. Overall, visibility of the Project would be variable and although there may be locally pronounced or substantial change, this is likely to occur over a short section and would not alter the overall impression or visual experience of the wider route. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of the Project on users of the Macmillan Way is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant) during operation.

1C: Pinchbeck North Fen

- 7B.3.6 This VRA is located toward the eastern end of the Project and is bound by the Peterborough to Lincoln railway line in the east and the South Forty Foot Drain in the west.
- 7B.3.7 A series of four viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from linear settlements and scattered rural properties and from the local PRow network. A short section of the Macmillan Way is also located within this VRA. However, the baseline description and preliminary assessment is provided under VRA 1B, above. **Table 7B.3** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 1C: Pinchbeck North Fen. Photography from each of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.1C Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.3 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 1C: Pinchbeck North Fen)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1C.1 Northgate (520904, 326274)	This viewpoint is located along Northgate and is representative of views from residential properties within and surrounding the linear settlements of Northgate and more broadly from Pinchbeck West further to the south. From the viewpoint location there are long distance, open views across large scale agricultural fields to the north and south. Field boundaries are marked by field drains with low vegetation contributing to the sense of a flat open landscape and expansive views. Occasional trees and woodlands combine over distance to form a backdrop and varied horizon. Views to the east and west are more restricted by settlement and associated trees. There are no notable tall structures within the view except for the occasional large agricultural building. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be along the	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible as a relatively distant element in views to the north from the viewpoint and properties along Northgate. At a distance of over 1 km, potential impacts would primarily relate to increased movement of vehicles and machinery which would appear broadly similar to existing agricultural operations and/or traffic on the local road network. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There would be no change within the primary views from the majority of properties which are typically orientated to the south, east and west. Overall, although construction activity is likely to be apparent in views north from many locations, it would have a limited influence on the impression of the view and would be

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	roads, with those along Northgate typically orientated to the south and those along Six House Bank orientated to the east and west, with more limited views to the north and south. Views from the settlement of West Pinchbeck and the short section of the Macmillan Way are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint albeit from further south and with the intervening buildings around Northgate partially filtering longer distance views to the north.	temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect from construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible in the middle ground across much of the view north from the viewpoint location. There would often be slightly more restricted visibility from the nearby residential properties, with localised screening provided by foreground buildings and/or vegetation. Where outward open views are possible, the overhead line would be visible on the skyline, although with an element of partial backclothing of the lower sections of the towers by distant trees and woodland. The separation distance would somewhat reduce the prominence. However, the towers would contrast with the otherwise agricultural and horizontal nature of the view, with limited existing context of electrical infrastructure. Overall, although the Project would affect a relatively limited part of the views available from the viewpoint and would not affect the principal south facing views from adjacent residential receptors, taking a precautionary and worst case approach the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 1C.2 Gosberton Clough (519286, 329697)	This viewpoint is located along Clough Road and is representative of views from residential properties within the settlement areas of Risegate and Gosberton Clough. From the viewpoint location there are wide and open views across large scale agricultural fields to the east and south. Farm buildings and dwellings and associated trees provide an element of local containment, partially restricting more distant views. This is more pronounced to the west and north of the viewpoint, where foreground buildings and vegetations provide visual containment. Traffic on the adjacent B1397 and wider road network and agricultural operations within the surrounding fields introduced movement and activity into the views. Wood pole overhead lines and telecoms wires tend to follow road corridors adding further linear features into the landscape and views. Spalding Power Station and associated stacks are a distant feature in the view to the southeast. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be orientated to the south and therefore those on the north side of the B1397 and Risegate Eau are often more restricted and screened by those to the south which tend to gain more open views.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction of the Project would be approximately 1.8 km to the south of the viewpoint location and nearby settlement. Potential impacts would therefore primarily relate to increased movement of vehicles and machinery which if apparent would appear broadly similar to existing agricultural operations and/or traffic on the local road network. Trees and farm buildings would provide at least partial screening of the construction activity from many of the receptors. While taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent it is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect from construction is therefore anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be largely screened by intervening trees and woodland and farm buildings. The partial screening would often be greater in views from

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		residential properties and settlement due to increased foreground buildings and vegetation. The overhead line would contrast with the largely agricultural nature of the view, adding an additional linear feature. However, the separation distance of approximately 1.8 km would reduce the prominence of the towers and line. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect of the Project during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 1C.3 Parsons Drove (517797, 327636)	This viewpoint is located along Parsons Drove and is representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties between Gosberton Clough and Northgate, and recreational users of Gosb/7/1. From the viewpoint location there are wide and open views across large scale agricultural fields in most directions, with the exception of the northwest where boundary vegetation and buildings provides local containment. Generally, field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but do not restrict views. Farm buildings and dwellings and associated trees occasionally provide an element of local containment, partially restricting more distant views in certain directions. Low level overhead lines on wood poles are present in the foreground along	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the southeast of the viewpoint and at a range of distances and directions relative to the scattered properties between Gosberton Clough and Northgate. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of views, notably adding to movement and activity within the baseline. Occasional temporary compounds or laydown/ storage areas are also likely to be visible from a small number of properties adding low level structures into views.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	Parsons drove and extending northwards, otherwise there are few notable features with the views. Traffic on the local road network and agricultural operations within the surrounding fields introduce occasional movement and activity across the landscape. Views from the scattered residential properties tend to be more varied and are often at least partially restricted or contained by adjacent outbuildings, trees and hedges and other garden vegetation.	Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and relatively wide extent of views affected from the viewpoint and small number of properties, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers. There would be close range views of the towers from the viewpoint and from a small number of properties, with slightly more distant and/or more restricted views from many of the scattered properties. Overall, taking a worst case approach based on the viewpoint location, the Project would be in close proximity and result in a substantial change across a relatively wide extent of the view, indicating a Very High magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 1C.4	This viewpoint is located along the eastern edge of South Forty Foot Drain at the junction with Star Lode	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
South Forty Foot Drain, Star Lode Drove (516611, 326531)	Drove and is 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. From the viewpoint location and PRowS there are 360 degree panoramic open views across an expanse of large scale and predominantly flat agricultural fields. There is no particular focal point or direction from the viewpoint location, with views from the PRow typically focused in the direction of travel. Occasional scattered properties and associated boundary vegetation and trees provide an element of localised containment of longer distance views. Wood pole overhead lines run parallel to the South Forty Foot Drain and Star Lode Drove and are therefore a foreground feature of views from the viewpoint and PRowS. Occasional traffic on the local road network and agricultural operations within the surrounding fields introduce movement and activity across the landscape. Views from the nearby scattered farms and individual properties are more variable and often partially restricted by outbuildings and foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be orientated north and south towards Star Lode Drove, although often also include views to the east and/or west.	Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and at a range of distances from the nearby scattered properties. There would also be close range views of construction from a short section of the PRowS along South Forty Foot Drain which cross perpendicular to the draft Order Limits. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of views, notably adding to movement and activity. A temporary compound and laydown/ storage area are also likely to be visible from a small number of properties adding low level structures into views. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and relatively wide extent of views affected from the viewpoint, short section of the PRow and small number of properties, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers. There would be close range views of the towers from the viewpoint, short section of PRowS and from a small number of properties, with slightly more restricted and/or more distant views from many of the scattered properties.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Overall, taking a worst case approach based on the viewpoint location with unrestricted close range views, the Project would potentially result in a substantial change across a relatively wide extent of the view, indicating a Very High magnitude of effect. Impacts on the nearby scattered properties are likely to be somewhat reduced due to partial screening and views typically being orientated to the south, away from the Project. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).

Section 2

2A: Dunsby Fen

- 7B.3.8 This VRA is located to the centre of the Project and is bound by South Forty Foot Drain to the east and the rising landform at the edge of the Fens to the west.
- 7B.3.9 There are relatively few visual receptors within this VRA. Two viewpoints have been identified, representing views experienced from scattered rural properties at different distances. No long distance recreational routes have been identified within this VRA. **Table 7B.4** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 2A: Dunsby Fen. Photography from both of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.2A Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.4 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2A: Dunsby Fen)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2A.1 Haconby Drove (513505, 325654)	This viewpoint is located along Haconby Drove and is representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties to the east of Dunsby, Haconby, and Morton. From the viewpoint location, there are 360 degree panoramic open views across large scale agricultural fields. Generally, field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but do not restrict views. Occasional large agricultural buildings, individual properties, and fragmented woodland belts are visible in the middle ground of the view partially filtering and restricting views beyond. Agricultural buildings and individual properties along with woodland blocks and belts form the horizon in the distance. With the exception of wooden telegraph poles that traverse both north to south and east to west along local roads and field drains (including those in the immediate	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and at varying distances from the nearby scattered properties. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of views, notably adding to movement and activity. A temporary compound may also be visible from certain locations, adding low level structures into views. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and relatively wide extent of views affected from the viewpoint the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be Medium. Views from nearby residential properties are likely to be more restricted, locally reducing the sense of change. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	foreground along Haconby Drove) there are no other notable taller elements in the view. Views from scattered farms and individual properties are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be orientated to the south, with views north often restricted by farm buildings and boundary vegetation.	Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers. The Project would be visible in close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and at varying distances from the small number of nearby scattered properties. It would extend across a wide extent of the view to the north from the viewpoint, with more restricted visibility from the majority of properties which are typically orientated to the south and with buildings and/or vegetation immediately north. Overall, taking a precautionary and worst case approach based on the viewpoint location from which there are open views, the Project would result in a notable change across a relatively wide extent of the view, indicating a High magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 2A.2 Long Drove (513528, 328176)	This viewpoint is located along Long Drove and is representative of views from scattered farms and individual properties to the east of Ripplingale and Dowsby.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible as a relatively distant element in views to the south from the viewpoint and

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location, there are open and expansive, 360 degree views across large scale agricultural fields. Generally, field boundaries are apparent by the low vegetation along the field drains but do not restrict views. Occasional large agricultural buildings, individual properties, woodland belts and individual field boundary trees are visible in the middle ground of the view, partially filtering views beyond. Agricultural buildings and individual properties along with woodland blocks and belts form the horizon in the distance. With the exception of wooden telegraph poles that traverse both north to south and east to west along local roads and field drains (including those in the immediate foreground along Long Drove) there are no other notable taller elements in the view. Views from scattered farms and individual properties are more variable and often partially restricted by farm buildings and foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties are typically orientated to the south with trees and/or hedges partially restricting views, particularly from the lower storey.	nearby scattered properties along Long Drove. At a distance of over 1.5 km, potential change would primarily relate to increased movement of vehicles and machinery which would appear broadly similar to existing agricultural operations and/or occasional traffic on the local road network. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Where visible, construction would be seen within the main views south from properties, although would often be at least partially screened or restricted by foreground vegetation. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have limited influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect from construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible towards the background of the view to the south from the viewpoint and nearby scattered properties. The overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south and would contrast with the largely agricultural nature of the view, adding an additional linear feature. Occasional blocks of woodland and foreground vegetation would locally restrict visibility of the Project, somewhat reducing the sense of change from many

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		receptors. The separation distance of would further reduce the apparent prominence of the overhead line towers. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect of the Project during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

2B: Haconby to Irnham

- 7B.3.10 This VRA is located to the centre of the Project and is bound by the rising landform at the edge of the Fens to the east and the highway running from north to south connecting the settlements of Irnham and Swinstead to the west.
- 7B.3.11 A series of seven viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and the local PRow network. No long distance recreational routes have been identified within this VRA. **Table 7B.5** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 2B: Haconby to Irnham. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.2B Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.5 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2B: Haconby to Irnham)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2B.1 Dunsby (510828, 326633)	This viewpoint is located near the intersection of two PRow (Dunb/6/2 and Dunb/7/1) at the southern edge of Dunsby and is representative of views from the settlement and local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are open and partially restricted views to the south across flat, medium sized pastoral fields bound by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. A narrow woodland block in the middle ground further restricts views to the south. To the north a range of buildings and vegetation limits views. Views from the wider PRow network to the south of Dunsby are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, with partially restricted middle distance views across flat agricultural land. These views include the settlements of Dunsby to the north and Haconby to the south and movement of vehicles on the road network. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be aligned	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible within the middle ground of views to the south from the viewpoint location and small number of properties on the southern edge of Dunsby. Much of the ground level construction activities would be screened by the intervening vegetation. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There would be more limited visibility from many of the properties in Dunsby due to screening by buildings and/or vegetation. Users of the PRow network are likely to experience more varied views, including closer range, less restricted views where the routes cross the draft Order Limits and adjacent to the laydown area. The impression of change would vary along the routes and with the direction of travel, with close range views generally limited to short sections.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	towards the adjacent roads, with no consistent orientation.	Overall, although there is potential for visibility of construction activity across part of the view, change would be relatively limited and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect of construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line may occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be largely screened by intervening trees and hedgerows. The partial screening would often be greater in views from residential properties due to increased foreground buildings and boundary vegetation. The overhead line would contrast with the largely agricultural nature of the view, adding an additional linear feature. The separation distance of approximately 750 m from the nearest tower and intervening vegetation would somewhat reduce the prominence. Users of the PRoW are likely to experience a range of views, often broadly similar to those from the viewpoint location but also including closer range views from short sections that are crossed by the Project. Overall, considering the relatively wide extent of the views potentially affected and contrast with the baseline, together with the separation distance and partial screening by

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		intervening vegetation, the magnitude of effect during operation is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2B.2 Haconby (510383, 325445)	This viewpoint is located at the northern edge of Haconby along PRow Haco/4/1 and is representative of views from the settlement and local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open middle range views to the north and west across a flat, medium sized pastoral field. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries and roadsides and larger blocks of woodland locally restrict views and combine to form the horizon. Views to the south and east are largely contained by buildings and vegetation. Views from the local PRow network to the north of Haconby are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location, with partially restricted middle distance views across flat agricultural land. The settlements of Dunsby to the north and Haconby to the south and movement of vehicles on the road network locally influence views. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. There are relatively open views similar to the viewpoint from parts of the settlement edge, with views from the majority of the properties	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity, including within a laydown area, is likely to be visible in close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and northern edge of the settlement. Ground level construction activities are likely to be partially screened locally. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There is likely to be little or no visibility from the majority of properties within the interior of the settlement due to screening from adjacent buildings and vegetation. Users of the PRow network are likely to experience more varied views, including closer range, less restricted views where the routes cross the draft Order Limits and adjacent to the laydown area. The impression of change would vary along the routes and with the direction of travel, with close range views generally limited to short sections. Overall, considering the relative close proximity of construction activity across much of the view to the north from the viewpoint, settlement edge and parts of the PRow, together with the temporary nature and short duration of

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	within the interior of the settlement heavily restricted by surrounding buildings.	change, magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced, haul roads removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in relative close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and Haconby and the PRow network. Visibility of the Project from properties within the centre of Haconby would be considerably reduced due to screening by other buildings and vegetation. Overall, the Project would result in a pronounced change across a relatively wide extent of views and although locally restricted by vegetation, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 2B.3 Hanthorpe (508916, 324180)	This viewpoint is located on the northern edge of Hanthorpe, along PRow MorS/26/1 and is representative of views from Hanthorpe and Morton and the local PRow network.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground of views to the north and northwest from the viewpoint and adjacent properties. Field boundary vegetation

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location there are open views to the north and west across gently sloping, medium sized fields. Hedges and trees along field boundaries locally restrict views and Dunsby Wood forms a distant backdrop and horizon. A wood pole overhead line crosses the foreground, with no tall structures apparent in the view. Vegetation and buildings screen view to the south and east. Views from the local PRow network are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location, with partially restricted middle distance views across gently undulating agricultural land. The settlements of Hanthorpe and Morton and movement of vehicles on the road network locally influence views. From the settlements, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Properties tend to be inward focused with views typically contained by adjacent buildings and/or vegetation.	would locally restrict views of lower height movement and activity and haul roads, reducing the impression of change. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of the PRow network are likely to experience more varied views, including closer range, less restricted views where the routes cross the draft Order Limits and adjacent to the laydown area. The impression of change would vary along the routes and with the direction of travel, with close range views generally limited to short sections. Overall, although there is potential for visibility of construction activity across parts of the view, change would be relatively limited and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect of construction is therefore anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view to the north from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. The overhead line would contrast with the largely agricultural nature of the view, adding an additional linear feature and occupying a relatively wide extent of the view. However, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be largely screened by intervening trees and hedgerows and the separation distance of approximately 900 m from the nearest tower and the backdrop of Dunsby Wood

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		would somewhat reduce the prominence. There would often be greater screening of the Project from nearby residential properties due to increased foreground vegetation. There would be little or no visibility from the majority of Hanthorpe and Morton due to screening by buildings along the northern edges of the settlements. Users of the PRow are likely to experience a range of views, often broadly similar to those from the viewpoint location but also including closer range views from short sections that are crossed by the Project. Overall, potential visibility of the Project is variable, relative to the extent and nature of tree and vegetation cover, which locally influences the magnitude of effect. Taking a precautionary and worst case approach, based on the viewpoint location and open sections of PRow, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2B.4 Stainfield (508058, 324916)	This viewpoint is located along Hanthorpe Road, Stainfield and is representative of views from the settlement, scattered properties to the east and the local PRow network, including PRow Haco/15/1. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open views across the undulating agricultural landscape to the east and south. Fragmented hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees provide local containment and combine with larger blocks of woodland to form a backdrop and distant horizon. Views to the north and	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in relative close proximity to the south and east of the viewpoint and settlement and from sections of the PRow network. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers is likely to be apparent across a relatively wide extent of views, notably adding to movement and activity within the baseline. A construction

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	west are predominantly screened by buildings and vegetation. Views from the local PRoW network are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location, with middle distance and partially restricted views in most directions. The settlement and large agricultural buildings locally influence the impression of views. From the settlement and scattered properties along Hangman's Lane to the west, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation or by large agricultural buildings, particularly to the east. Although variable, many of the properties, including those on Hangman's Lane, are orientated to the south.	compound to the east would introduce temporary structures into the view. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. Change from many of the properties within the settlement would be slightly lower due to increased distance and partial screening by buildings and vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads and construction compound would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in close proximity to the south and east of the viewpoint and settlement edge and extending to the northeast and southwest. There would also be close range views from short sections of the nearby PRoWs. Visibility of the Project from many of the properties within the north and west of the settlement would be reduced due to screening by buildings and vegetation. Overall, the Project would potentially result in a substantial change across a relatively wide extent of views, indicating a Very High magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 2B.5 Elsthorpe (505910, 324064)	This viewpoint is located along Elsthorpe Road to the west of Brook Farm and is representative of views from residential properties at the small settlement of Elsthorpe including a small number of scattered farms and individual properties in the area. From the viewpoint location there are partially restricted views to the north and west over rolling landform along the East Glen River. Vegetation along field boundaries and the river provide partial containment although with filtered views to more distant rising ground and woodland which form the backdrop and horizon. Views to the south and east are screened by adjacent buildings and vegetation. From the properties in Elsthorpe, views are more variable and often at least partially restricted by foreground vegetation and a range of farm buildings. Properties tend to be orientated towards the west or south, with views to the north and east typically more limited.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground of views north from the viewpoint location and include construction of, and movement along, a section of haul road and at a small number of overhead line towers. A construction compound and laydown area may also be partially visible, adding temporary structures into the view. Construction would be limited to a relatively small part of the overall views. There would be little or no visibility of construction from the majority of properties within the small settlement due to screening by buildings and vegetation. Overall, taking a worst case approach based on the viewpoint location, construction activities would largely be considered an unobtrusive change in parts of the view to the north and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads and construction compound removed and returned to agricultural use, limiting the sense of

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		change. A relatively short section of overhead line and small number of towers would be partially visible to the north. Two of the towers would be located on slightly elevated ground, increasing the visibility, while the remaining slightly more distant towers would be partially screened by vegetation and landform reducing the influence on the view. There would be little or no visibility of the Project from the majority of nearby dwellings due to screening by buildings and vegetation. Overall, the Project would introduce a small number of towers into a relatively limited part of the view in the middle ground and distance. Taking a precautionary approach based on the viewpoint, the Project would potentially result in a notable change to part of the view and therefore the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2B.6 Bulby (504719, 326004)	This viewpoint is located to west of the small settlement of Bulby and is representative of views from the settlement and nearby scattered properties and local PRow network, including routes Irnh/4/2, Irnh/6a/1, and Irnh/7/1. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open but short range views south across gently sloping pastoral fields along the shallow valley of the East Glen River. Trees and hedgerows along the river and field boundaries, a woodland block and rising landform provide local containment and limit more distant views. With the exception of wooden telegraph poles there are	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be predominantly screened from the viewpoint, adjacent settlement and much of the local PRow network by landform, buildings and/or vegetation. Where visibility is possible from short sections of PRowS it is likely to be limited to taller equipment and activity, occupying a very small part of the view at any one time and representing a barely perceptible change towards the background of the view.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	no other notable taller elements in the view. Vegetation and landform limit views in other directions and particularly to the east towards the settlement. The adjacent settlement is located within a dip in the landform and as such views are generally more enclosed and restricted by foreground vegetation and rising landform. Large woodland belts and the parkland at Bulby Hall further restrict outward views to the south. Views from the PRoW are also largely restricted by landform and vegetation, although with more distant views from short sections on more elevated and open ground to the north of Bulby.	Overall, construction activity would be barely perceptible or screened from the viewpoint and nearby receptors and would be temporarily and of a short duration, and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, there is likely to be little or no visibility of the Project from the viewpoint and settlement due to intervening topography and vegetation. However, there is potential for upper parts of a relatively small number of towers to be visible to the south from a small number of nearby properties and short elevated sections of the nearby PRoWs. Intervening landform and vegetation would screen lower parts of the towers and increase the sense of separation, reducing the impression of change. Overall, it is anticipated that the Project would represent a largely unobtrusive change to part of the view from a limited number of receptors, indicating a Low magnitude of effect. Impacts on views from the viewpoint location and main settlement are likely to be less due to increased screening by landform and vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2B.7 Grimsthorpe Castle (504415, 322750)	This viewpoint is located on the west lawn within the grounds of the Grimsthorpe Castle (a Registered Park and Garden). From the viewpoint there are slightly elevated, open and expansive views to the west and south, across an area of parkland, the lake and woodlands beyond. Rising landform and woodland belts in the middle ground largely limit more distant views beyond the castle grounds. Views to the north are restricted by mature woodland and to the east by the castle. There are broadly similar views from the castle to the west, with a framed view along a designed access to the north, slightly elevated views over parkland and undulating agricultural land beyond to the east and restricted views south. There is potential for slightly more distance views beyond the boundary woodland from upper storey of the castle.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction, and particularly ground level activity, is likely to be predominantly screened from the viewpoint, castle and RPG due to intervening landform and woodland, limiting the sense of change. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although is likely to be distant and limited to very small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, construction activity would be barely perceptible or screened from the viewpoint and nearby receptors and would be temporarily and of a short duration, and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, there is likely to be little or no visibility of the Project from the viewpoint and majority of the castle grounds due to intervening topography and vegetation. However, there is potential for upper parts of a relatively small number of towers to be partially visible in the distance to the north from the upper storey of the castle. If visible, the Project would be seen in the context of and at a greater distance than an existing overhead line to the north and east of the castle and RPG. Overall, taking a precautionary approach, it is anticipated that the Project would represent a limited and largely unobtrusive

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		change to small parts of the view from the upper storey of the castle, indicating a Low magnitude of effect. Impacts on views from the viewpoint location and majority of the RPG are likely to be less due to increased screening by landform and vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

2C: Corby Glen

- 7B.3.12 This VRA is located to the centre of the Project and is bound by the highway running from north to south connecting the settlements of Irnham and Swinstead in the east, and the East Coast Mainline railway line to the west.
- 7B.3.13 A series of five viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from the local PRoW network. No long distance recreational routes have been identified within this VRA. **Table 7B.6** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 2C: Corby Glen. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.2C Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.6 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2C: Corby Glen)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2C.1 Swinstead PRoW (501283, 322619)	This viewpoint is located on slightly elevated ground to the west of Swinstead, along PRoW Swtd/2/1 and is representative of views from the settlement and local PRoW. From the viewpoint location and a short section of PRoW Swtd/2/1 there are open views to the northwest, north and east across undulating agricultural fields. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries and at settlements and blocks of woodland provide local containment of views and combine with larger woodlands to form the distant backdrop. Existing overhead lines are visible in the distance to the north and west. Views to the south are contained by rising landform. Views from the wider PRoW network to the north and east of Swinstead are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location with middle distance views across flat, agricultural fields bound by hedgerows with hedgerow trees that partially filter views beyond.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible towards the north and northwest from the viewpoint and parts of the PRoW network. Ground level activities are likely to be predominantly screened by intervening landform and where visible would be relatively distant and experienced in the context of agricultural operations and traffic on the road network. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Views from residential receptors are likely to be further screened by intervening buildings and boundary vegetation. Overall, much of the construction activity would be screened and where visible would occupy a small part of the view, would be temporary in nature and of a short duration resulting in little or no discernible change. The magnitude of effect from construction is therefore anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the settlement of Swinstead, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage. Large agricultural buildings and gently rising landform also restrict longer distant views.	Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would occupy a relatively wide extent towards the background of the view to the north and northwest from the viewpoint and PRoW. Topography and woodland would provide partial screening of the overhead line towers emphasising the sense of separation and reducing the impression of change. There would be more limited and more restricted views from the settlement due to increased screening by buildings and vegetation. Overall, the Project would add further electrical infrastructure into the view and although would be partially visible across a wide extent, the sense of change would be moderated by distance and as such the magnitude of effect during operation is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 2C.2 Corby Glen, west of Mussons Close (499884, 324561)	This viewpoint is located immediately west of the southern part of Corby Glen and is representative of views from the settlement and local PRoWs. From the viewpoint location there are slightly elevated, open and relatively expansive views to the west across the West Glen River valley. The composition is largely defined by rolling agricultural land, with medium to	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity would be partially visible from the viewpoint location occupying a relatively wide part of the view to the west. The main activity would be construction of and movement along the haul roads and construction compound within the foreground and middle ground to the west, with

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	large scale fields divided by hedgerows and occasional trees. The field boundaries combine with a series of woodland blocks and rising topography to form the distant horizon. An overhead line runs across the view to the west and extending into the distance to the north and south. Communications masts and overhead wires along the East Coast Mainline railway are also apparent to the west, with the railway adding frequent movement in parts of the view. Rising landform, buildings and vegetation screen views to the east. From the nearby settlement edge, properties gain similar views west to those experienced from the viewpoint, although are often partially restricted or filtered by foreground boundary vegetation. Views to the north, south and east from the properties tend to be more limited and largely screened by adjacent buildings. Beyond the initial line of properties, views are considerably more restricted and more inward facing.	potential for partial visibility of activity associated with construction of overhead lines west of the railway and at WMEL-A substation further to the northwest. Much of this slightly more distant activity would be partially screened and filtered by topography and vegetation. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent, although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although construction activity would be temporary and of a short duration, considering the relative close proximity and extent of the view affected, construction is anticipated to result in notable change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. There is likely to be slightly reduced change and impact experienced from nearby properties to the east due to increased screening by foreground vegetation and landform. Visibility and impacts on the majority of the settlement is likely to be further reduced by screening from other buildings. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation the Project is likely to be partially visible across the view to the southwest, west and northwest from the viewpoint and parts of the settlement edge. The overhead line would introduce a series of additional towers crossing the valley to the southwest and across the view to the west. This would add to and increase the influence of electrical infrastructure across this part of the view. The WMEL-A

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		substation may also be partially visible in the distance to the northwest, although the majority of the structures are likely to be at least partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The increased number and concentration of overhead line towers adjacent to the substation would be more apparent, although lower sections of structures would be screened and/or backclothed by woodland and landform. Overall, although many elements of the Project would be partially screened, the overhead line, and to a lesser extent the substation, would introduce additional electrical infrastructure across a relatively wide extent of the view, representing a notable change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. Visibility of the Project from much of the settlement would be considerably more restricted, with a lower magnitude of effect anticipated. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2C.3 Tanners' Lane, Corby Glen (north) (499504, 325293)	This viewpoint is located at the northwest edge of Corby Glen along PRow Corb/5/3 and is representative of views from the northern part of the settlement and the local PRow network to the north. From the viewpoint location and sections of the PRow network there are open views to the west across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows with intermittent hedgerow trees. Rising topography, trees and woodland provide containment and limit more distant views. Existing overhead lines are visible across the view to the west and to the northeast. Views to the	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High Magnitude of effect (Construction): Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in parts of the view to the west of the viewpoint location and local PRow routes. Landform and trees along field boundaries, roads and the railway would screen or heavily filter much of the ground level activity. Where visible, movement and activity would be seen in the context of traffic on the local road network and railway. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers and substation elements may be more apparent

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	south and east are more restricted and limited by buildings and vegetation in the foreground. From the settlement of Corby Glen, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation within the boundary curtilage and the rising landform and associated vegetation to the field boundaries. There is no consistent orientation of properties, with many inward facing and with restricted views. There are more open mid-range outward facing views from parts of the settlement edge, including to the north, west and south.	although this is likely to be limited to relatively small parts of the view at any one time. Views of construction activity from many of the residential receptors within the northern parts of Corby Glen are likely to be more restricted due to intervening buildings and boundary vegetation. However, there may be more open views, similar to the viewpoint, from parts of the settlement edge. Overall, although construction is likely to be visible to the west and southwest it would often be at least partially screened by topography and vegetation and would be temporary and of a short duration, resulting in a largely unobtrusive change. Magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation the WMEL-A substation may be partially visible towards the background of the view to the west. The majority of structures are likely to be at least partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation, with only the tops of taller elements potentially visible. The Project would also introduce additional overhead line towers adjacent to the substation, increasing the number and concentration of structures within a limited part of the view. There is also likely to be partial visibility of a section of the new overhead line to the southwest where it would cross the ridgeline and into the West Glen River valley. The lower parts of many of the towers are likely to be screened, reinforcing the sense of separation and somewhat reducing the impression of change.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Overall, although many elements of the Project would be partially screened, the substation and overhead line would introduce additional electrical infrastructure across a relatively wide extent of the view, locally increasing the prominence, albeit at a distance of over 1.5 km. Taking a precautionary approach based on the potential worst case, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. Visibility of the Project from much of the settlement would be considerably more restricted, with a lower magnitude of effect anticipated. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2C.4 Camp Lane (499597, 326878)	This viewpoint is located along Camp Lane, approximately 1.5 km north of Corby Glen and is representative of views from the local PRow network (including PRow BurC/2/1 - 3, BurC/3/1 & 2, and BurC/4/1&2) and nearby scattered residential properties. From the viewpoint location and adjacent residential properties and PRowS there are relatively open views in all directions across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows with intermittent hedgerow trees. Views from the residential property are orientated to the south. Field boundary vegetation and blocks of woodland locally restrict views which otherwise extend into the distance, particularly to the west. The large sheds at the adjacent farm are notable features in the foreground, with two overhead lines crossing the view to the south, west and northwest. The overhead lines	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible across a relatively limited part of the view to the southwest from these receptors. Much of the ground level activity would be at least partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation and where visible would be distant with little influence on the impression of the view. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers and substation elements may be perceptible although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one-time. Whilst construction activity is likely to be partially visible in a limited part of the view it would be distant and with little influence on the overall impression of views and would be temporary and of a short duration such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	are more apparent and have a stronger influence on views from parts of the PRow network where in closer proximity.	<u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would occupy a relatively limited extent of the expansive views available from this location and adjacent property and PRowS. The WMEL-A substation is likely to be largely screened by intervening landform and trees, although with the tops of taller structures potentially visible in the distance to the southwest. A section of the overhead line would also be visible to the southwest, adding further electrical infrastructure towards the background of the view, with an increased concentration adjacent to the substation. Overall, although the Project would introduce additional overhead lines and other structures into part of the view to the southwest, the limited extent, separation distance and partial screening would limit the impression of change. The magnitude of effect during operation is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 2C.5 Burton-le-Coggles (497943, 325522)	This viewpoint is located on the southern edge of Burton-le-Coggles and is representative of views from the settlement.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity would be partially visible to the southwest from the viewpoint location. The main activity would be

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location, there are relatively limited and enclosed views to adjacent agricultural fields to the west. Rising landform and the embankments of the East Coast Mainline railway largely restrict more distant views to the west, north and south, with buildings, landform and vegetation screening views east. The tops of a number of overhead line towers are visible across the view to the west, adding to the influence of the railway and associated overhead wires and structures. From the settlement of Burton-le-Coggles, views are variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and a range of buildings. There is no consistent orientation of the properties which tend to be aligned along and facing the minor roads through the settlement. From more elevated locations there are more open views over the surrounding rolling agricultural landscape, with the existing overhead line and railway notable to the west.	construction of and movement along the haul road immediately to the southwest, with partial visibility of activity associated with the WMEL-A substation and overhead line towers beyond the railway to the west and southwest. Much of this slightly more distant activity would be at least partially screened and filtered by topography and vegetation. Although views are variable, there is potential for greater visibility of construction activity from parts of the settlement, both in the foreground and beyond the railway line to the southwest. Ground level activity would be partially screened by the railway embankments, viaduct and boundary vegetation. Overall, although construction activity would be temporary and of a short duration, taking a precautionary approach based on the potential worst case, and considering the relative close proximity, construction is anticipated to result in notable change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the movement and activity associated with the project would be considerably reduced and temporary haul roads removed. The tops of a number of overhead line towers are likely to be visible from the viewpoint location, partially screened by topography and vegetation. There is potential for greater visibility of the Project from parts of the settlement with more open views to the southwest. From these locations the main change will be a notable increase in the number of

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		overhead line towers and other structures, adding to the existing overhead line and increasing the influence of electrical infrastructure. The lower parts of towers and the WMEL-A substation would be partially screened by topography and vegetation, slightly increasing the sense of separation. Overall, taking a worst case approach based on open visibility from more elevated locations in the settlement, the magnitude of effect during operation is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).

2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe

- 7B.3.14 The VRA is located in the centre of the Project and is bound by the East Coast Mainline railway line to the east and the A1 highway to the west.
- 7B.3.15 A series of seven viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from the local PRow network. No long distance recreational routes have been identified within this VRA. **Table 7B.7** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.2D Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.7 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2D: Swayfield and Lobthorpe)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2D.1 Swayfield (499013, 322914)	This viewpoint is located on the northern edge of Swayfield, along PRow Sway/6/1, and is representative of views from the settlement of Swayfield and the local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are slightly elevated and partially enclosed views north across rolling agricultural land to the rear of Swayfield Village Hall. Woodland belts and trees along field boundaries and rising landform in the middle ground restricts longer distance views. Blocks and belts of trees (including those alongside the East Coast Mainline railway line) form a largely wooded horizon. An existing overhead line passes to the west of the settlement from north to south and a second more distant line is locally visible to the northeast. Views to the south and west are largely contained by buildings and vegetation. From the settlement of Swayfield, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and other buildings. The orientation of properties varies and are often inward facing, with less	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in relative close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and parts of the northern edge of the settlement. Much of the ground level movement and activity would be at least partially screened by intervening topography and vegetation, limiting the impression of change. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of parts of the PRow network are likely to experience variable views of construction, with ground level activity often screened except from short sections of the routes where adjacent to or crossing the draft Order Limits. Overall, although construction would be locally notable from short sections of PRow, change from the majority of the routes and from the settlement and viewpoint would be more limited and would be temporary and of a short duration.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	restricted views from the settlement edge, similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location. Views from the local PRoW to the immediate north of Swayfield are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location with the degree of openness and extent heavily influenced by topography and vegetation.	Magnitude of effect relating to construction is anticipated to be Low. The majority of properties within the settlement would experience little or no visibility and a reduced sense of change relative to the viewpoint location. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in views north from the viewpoint and parts of the northern edge of the settlement. A small number of towers would be in relative close proximity, crossing the ridgeline and extending the influence of electrical infrastructure across a greater part of the view. The tops of a number of towers would also be partially visible towards the background of the view. Foreground vegetation would limit and filter visibility of the project, slightly reducing the impression of change. There would be more variable visibility of the Project from the local PRoW network, with vegetation and topography providing differing levels of screening. The Project would appear in the immediate foreground of views from parts of the route, notably increasing the influence of electrical infrastructure. Overall, the Project would be a notable feature across parts of the views from the viewpoint, properties along the north of the settlement and the local PRoWs, adding to the existing influence of electrical infrastructure and as such is anticipated to result in a Medium magnitude of effect.

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.2 PRoW near Heath Farm (498283, 324335)	This viewpoint is located along the PRoW running between the A151 in the south and Burton-le-Coggles to the north and is representative of views from recreational users of the PRoW (BurC/10/1, Corb/10/1 and Corb/10/2) and from nearby residential properties. From the viewpoint location there are open and slightly elevated views north across undulating, agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Occasional trees, linear tree belts and larger woodlands combine to form a largely wooded horizon. An overhead line is an existing notable feature across part of the view to the west and northwest, with the East Coast Mainline railway and associated overhead wires visible to the northeast. Views to the south and east are largely contained by mature vegetation and rising topography. Views from the PRoW are more variable and influenced by topography, with relatively open and expansive views from more elevated locations and short range enclosed views from low lying areas. Views from the nearby residential properties are typically more restricted than those at the viewpoint, with local enclosure provided by a combination of landform, vegetation and other buildings and structures.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity associated with the new overhead lines and WMEL-A substation would be visible in the foreground to the north and west of the viewpoint and from much of the PRoW. Construction would introduce increased movement of vehicles, temporary earthworks, haul roads, compounds and associated lighting and would represent a pronounced change to views from the viewpoint and along the PRoW. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. Change from the nearby properties is likely to be slightly lower due to at least partial screening by buildings and vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and temporary compounds and haul roads removed and reinstated. However, a number of new overhead line towers and the WMEL-A substation

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		would be present within the foreground of views to the north and west and at slightly greater distance to the south. These elements would considerably add to the influence of the existing overhead line across a relatively wide part of the view, representing a substantial change. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Very High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.3 Birkholme (497111, 323460)	This viewpoint is located along the A151 and is representative of views from residential properties east of Birkholme. From the viewpoint location there are short to medium range views, limited by vegetation and landform. Hedgerows and other planting along the roadside restrict views to the north and west, with slightly more open views along the road corridor to the east and across rolling agricultural fields to a wooded ridgeline to the south. The tops of existing overhead line towers are a feature of views to the east. From the adjacent properties, views are heavily restricted by mature hedgerows and trees, particularly from the lower storey. Where outward views are possible, they are similar to those from the viewpoint, ranging in distance and including existing overhead line towers to the east.	<u>Sensitivity: Medium</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground of views from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Much of the ground level activity is likely to be screened by foreground vegetation, limiting the impression of change. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers and substation elements may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to relatively small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, construction activity would be temporarily and of a short duration and limited in extent, representing an unobtrusive change and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, elements of the Project are likely to be visible to the northeast from the viewpoint and adjacent property. Hedgerows and mature vegetation are likely to screen much of the Project, particularly from ground level. There is potential for filtered and partially screened views of elements of the WMEL-A substation and tops of the overhead line towers. This change would be experienced in the context of the existing overhead line which would be altered, with towers repositioned slightly further from the viewpoint and receptors. There is also potential for partial visibility of a small number of overhead line towers to the northwest from one property. Overall, taking a precautionary approach, based on potential for partial visibility of WMEL-A and addition of a number of additional towers, the Project is anticipated to result in a notable change and a Medium magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.4 Ling Lane (497002, 323365)	This viewpoint is located along Ling Lane and is representative of views from nearby residential properties including Birkholme and those along Ling Lane. From the viewpoint location there are partially restricted views to the west and south, beyond foreground vegetation to undulating agricultural fields and woodland in the middle ground and distance. Traffic on the A151 is a feature of these views to the west which	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground of views to the southwest from the viewpoint and nearby properties. Landform and mature vegetation would screen much of the ground level construction activities, although the construction compound may be partially visible to the west. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	otherwise contain few structures. Views to the north and east are contained by vegetation and buildings. From the nearby properties views are broadly similar to those at the viewpoint, although often slightly more restricted by foreground vegetation. The properties tend to be orientated towards the west, with views in other directions largely limited by trees and other buildings.	likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There is also potential for heavily filtered views of aspects of construction of the Project to the northeast, locally adding to the sense of change. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on potential worst case visibility, and considering the temporary nature and short duration of construction, magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and the construction compound removed and reinstated. The Project is likely to be partially visible across the main views to the southwest from the viewpoint and nearby properties. Mature vegetation and landform would provide elements of screening and slightly reduce the impression of change. There is potential for partially filtered views of the Project to the northeast from the properties, altering or adding to the influence of existing electrical infrastructure. Woodland and other vegetation would screen the Project to the north. Overall, taking a precautionary approach, it is anticipated that the Project would result in a notable change to parts of the view from the viewpoint and small number of adjacent properties, and as such the magnitude of effect would be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.5 Honey Pot Lane (495255, 322128)	This viewpoint is located along Honey Pot Lane and is representative of views from a small number of nearby isolated properties. From the viewpoint location there are short distance views to the north and west across sloping agricultural land to Twyford Wood. There are slightly more distant but partially screened and filtered views to the east, while views south are contained by foreground buildings and tall vegetation. Large buildings within the Honey Pot Lane Industrial Estate are notable to the west. Views from the small number of nearby properties are also typically enclosed by a combination of foreground vegetation, topography and other buildings. Where outward views are possible, they tend to be short range and influenced by foreground vegetation and nearby woodland blocks.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be visible in close proximity to the north and west of the viewpoint, with potential for visibility of sections of the haul roads a construction compound and movement of vehicles along the draft Order Limits. Landform and vegetation would limit the extent of the view potentially affected, while existing buildings in the nearby industrial estate would provide context for views towards the compound area. There would be considerably more restricted or no visibility of construction from the nearby residential properties due to screening by mature vegetation, buildings and landform. However, there is potential for partial visibility of construction activity within north facing views from select locations. Ground level activity is likely to be partially screened from these locations, reducing the impression of change. Overall, considering the close range visibility from the viewpoint, context of nearby industrial estate and the temporary nature and short duration of construction, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and the haul roads and construction compound removed and reinstated. Potential change would be as a result of close range visibility of a small number of overhead line towers to the north of the viewpoint. There would be more variable and often restricted visibility of the Project from the nearby residential properties, although with locally more open, oblique and side on views from select properties. Overall, the Project may represent a pronounced change to parts of the views from these receptors and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.6 Wooley's Lane (494832, 321236)	This viewpoint is located along Woolley's Lane and is representative of views from a small number of nearby properties within the scattered settlement of Lobthorpe and the local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open views across flat agricultural fields to the west and north, with views to the east and south more restricted by trees and woodland blocks. Large buildings within Honey Pot Lane Industrial Estate are notable features to the north, with a communications mast and traffic on the A1 present to the west.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities are likely to be visible in close proximity to the north and west of the viewpoint location and adjacent property. Ground level construction activities are likely to be partially screened from many of the nearby properties due to foreground buildings and boundary vegetation. Construction would introduce additional movement and activity and associated lights, temporary earthworks and haul roads. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers would also be apparent, although focused on a small part of the view at any one time. Construction activities would be

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the nearby scattered properties, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and/or buildings and nearby woodland blocks. The large buildings within Honey Pot Lane Industrial Estate, water tower, nearby mast and traffic on the A1 are features of views to the west and north from some properties. Views from nearby PRoW routes are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, although the nature and direction of enclosure is more variable. From sections of the routes there are more open expansive views to the east and south across undulating agricultural land.	seen in the context of the large industrial units at the Honey Pot Lane Industrial Estate in an otherwise agricultural context. Users of PRoW are likely to experience similar views, particularly when heading north and approaching Woolley's Lane. Overall, construction is likely to be visible in close proximity and across a relatively wide extent of the view, although would often be partially screened and would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in close proximity to the north of the viewpoint and extending across the view to the west. Visibility from nearby properties would be more variable and often at least partially screened by vegetation and/or buildings. Overall, taking a precautionary approach focused on the likely worst case where the Project would be in the immediate foreground, it would represent a substantial change to the composition and nature of the view such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. This level of impact is likely to be limited to the viewpoint and small number of nearby properties, with reduced impacts experienced from

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		many of the properties due to increased screening and/or distance. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
VP 2D.7 Colsterworth Lane (497720, 325380)	The viewpoint is located along Colsterworth Lane, a restricted byway (LL BurC 9/2) west of Burton-le-Coggles and is representative of views from recreational users of a section of the longer route. From the viewpoint and local section of the route there are relatively open views to the west along a shallow valley landform within the rolling agricultural land. Rising landform to the north and south and blocks of woodland to the northwest and southwest restrict more lateral views such that the focus is largely to the west along the route. A viaduct and embankments of the East Coast Mainline railway restricts views to the east. An existing overhead line is a notable feature in the foreground of views to the west and extending to the north and south. Views from the recreational route are broadly similar to those experienced from the viewpoint and are generally focused in the direction of travel (east or west). The overhead line and East Coast Mainline railway and associated overhead wires are notable features in the views.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in close proximity to the south and west of the viewpoint and short section of the PRoW. Construction of, and activity along, temporary haul roads and at a series of overhead line towers and associated with the WMEL-A substation is likely to be apparent across a wide extent of views, considerably adding to movement and activity. Overall, considering the temporary nature of change and the short duration, with the close proximity and extent of views affected, the magnitude of effect of construction is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced and haul roads would be removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a number of additional

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		overhead line towers and the WMEL-A substation in close proximity to the viewpoint and short section of the PRoW. The Project would be seen in the context of the existing overhead line in the foreground, altering this feature and adding to the influence of electrical infrastructure. Overall, considering the close proximity and increase in the number and concentration of structures, the Project has the potential to result in a substantial change to the view from the viewpoint and short section of the PRoW. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).

2E: North and South Witham

- 7B.3.16 This VRA is located to the west of the Project with the A1 highway to the east, and the Drift to the west.
- 7B.3.17 Three viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from the local PRoW network. A short section of the Rutland Round and Viking Way is located within this VRA. However, the baseline description and preliminary assessment for this route is provided under VRA 3A. **Table 7B.8** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints within VRA 2E: North and South Witham. Photography from each of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.2E Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.8 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 2E: North and South Witham)

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2E.1 North Witham (492588, 321618)	This viewpoint is located at the southwest edge of North Witham and is representative of views from the settlement and nearby residential properties and the local PRow network. From the viewpoint location, there are open views to the south across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows with occasional trees. The undulating landform influences the extent of views, providing local containment and forming the horizon in the middle ground and distance. Views to the north and west are largely limited by vegetation, buildings and rising topography. A number of low level overhead lines cross parts of the view and a taller mast and traffic on the A1 are features on the horizon to the southeast. From the settlement of North Witham, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and other buildings. Much of the settlement is within a shallow dip in the landscape along the River Witham, further restricting outward views. There are more open views similar to those experienced from the viewpoint from the more elevated west of the settlement and from the property south of the village. There is no consistent orientation of properties and therefore the focus and nature of views differs, although with large agricultural buildings and gently rising landform often restricting more distant views. Views from the PRow to the south and east of North Witham vary depending on elevation, although are often broadly similar to those at the viewpoint location.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the middle ground to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are likely to be at least partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation limiting the sense of change. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There are likely to be more open views of construction activity from the property to the south of the village and located on a local high point. Users of the PRow are likely to experience close range views of construction activity from parts of the routes, adding to the influence of traffic on the A1 to the east. Low hedgerows and occasional trees along field boundaries would provide some localised screening, but elevated terrain in this area would also increase the extent of views for these receptors. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on locations with more open visibility, construction would occur across a relatively wide extent, although would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be partially screened by landform, intervening trees and hedgerows. The partial screening would often be greater in views from residential properties due to increased foreground buildings and boundary vegetation and greater influence from intervening landform. Users of the PRoW are likely to experience close range views from parts of the routes, the extent of which would vary depending on the direction of travel. Local topography and vegetation along field boundaries would provide elements of local screening from parts of the routes, although with more open and extensive visibility from elevated locations. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on locations with more open visibility and in closer proximity, the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent and may lead to a notable or pronounced change to the composition of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be High. More limited visibility and impression of change is likely from the majority of properties within North Witham and Gunby to the west due to increased screening by topography, buildings and vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 2E.2 South Witham (492333, 319896)	This viewpoint is located along Moor Lane on the northern edge of South Witham and is representative of views from the settlement and local PRowWs. From the viewpoint location, there are partially restricted, although locally expansive, and slightly elevated views to the north beyond foreground vegetation and across gently undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Blocks of woodland combine to form a wooded horizon in the distance. Views from the properties on the northern edge of South Witham are similar to the viewpoint location, although with varying degrees of foreground vegetation. From the majority of the settlement, views are more restricted and screened by surrounding buildings and vegetation, although with more open views to the east, south and west from certain locations. Views from the PRowW to the immediate north and east of South Witham remain similar to the viewpoint location albeit with localised changes to landform that partially restrict views from limited sections of the PRowW.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the middle ground of views to the north from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties along the northern edge of the settlement. Ground level construction activities are likely to be partially screened by the intervening landform and vegetation. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of the PRowW are likely to experience variable visibility of construction, locally influenced by topography and the direction of travel. The greatest change would be experienced from a short section of the route where immediately adjacent to and passing through the draft Order Limits. Hedgerows and occasional trees along field boundaries would provide some localised screening, although with greater visibility from more elevated open locations. Traffic on the A1 is an existing feature of views from PRowWs to the east of the settlement. Overall, construction activity would be relatively distant and partially screened from the viewpoint and settlement edge and although there would be closer range views from part of a PRowW, change would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. There would be considerably more limited visibility and reduced sense of change from the majority of the settlement due to screening by foreground buildings. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view to the north from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. The overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view although with lower parts of towers partially screened by landform and/or vegetation, increasing the sense of separation. There would be more limited or no visibility from the majority of residential properties set back from the northern edge of the settlement due to increased screening by buildings in the foreground. Users of the PRow are likely to experience close range views from parts of the routes, the extent of which would vary depending on the direction of travel. Local topography and vegetation along field boundaries would provide elements of local screening from parts of the routes, although with more open visibility from elevated locations. Overall, the Project would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the view and although often partially screened may lead to a notable change to the composition of the view. It is anticipated that the magnitude of effect of would be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 2E.3 Stainby (491031, 322966)	This viewpoint is located on the eastern edge of Stainby and is representative of views from the settlement and nearby PRow routes.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location, there are slightly elevated, open and relatively expansive views south across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Many of the hedgerows include occasional trees that partially restrict views. Localised landform changes and larger woodland blocks partially restrict longer distance views to the south. Views to the west, east and north are restricted by a combination of rising landform, vegetation and buildings within Stainby. There are few structures within the view beyond the village, although with a mast apparent on the distant horizon to the southeast. Views from properties within the settlement tend to be more variable and often more restricted by topography, other buildings and mature vegetation. Where outward views are possible, they are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, although generally of a more limited extent. Views from the PRoW to the immediate south and east of Stainby remain similar to the viewpoint location albeit with localised changes to landform and presence of woodland and buildings that partially restrict views from limited sections of the routes.	Construction of the Project would occur in the distance to the south of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are unlikely to be visible due to screening by intervening landform. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers is likely to be barely perceptible due to the distance and landform and it is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is therefore anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south, much of the towers are likely to be screened by intervening trees and woodland and landform. There is likely to be greater screening from nearby properties due to increased foreground vegetation and other buildings. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression

Viewpoint	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Section 3

3A: Buckminster and Wymondham

- 7B.3.18 This VRA is located to the west of the Project and is bound by The Drift to the east, and the River Eyre valley basin to the west.
- 7B.3.19 A series of four viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from both long distance recreational routes (Viking Way and Rutland Round) and local PRoWs. Descriptions and evaluation of views from the sections of the Viking Way and Rutland Round found within the Study Area are also provided below. Although a section of the Mowbray Way is also located within this VRA, the baseline description and preliminary assessment for this route are provided under VRA 3B, within which a greater length of the route is located. **Table 7B.9** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints and long distance routes within VRA 3A: Buckminster and Wymondham. Photography from each of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.3A Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.9 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3A: Buckminster and Wymondham)

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3A.1 Rutland Round, Thistleton Gap (490172, 318467)	This viewpoint is located along the Rutland Round long distance route at its northernmost point and is representative of views for recreational users. From the viewpoint location there are middle to long distance views north across a mosaic of undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Many of the hedgerows have intermittent hedgerow trees that partially restrict views. The landform falls down in the fore to middle ground to either side of the River Witham with localised variations from the heavily vegetated embanked sections of the dismantled railway line. The landform rises back in the middle ground and into the distance where agricultural fields bound by hedgerows prevail. Woodland blocks and	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction of the Project would be distant to the north of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are unlikely to be visible due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible although would be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Intervening boundary vegetation is likely to further reduce views for residential receptors. Users of the promoted route in this area would experience largely similar views. There would be some variation in the extent of visibility as the route moves further north and closer to the construction

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	hedgerows form a wooded horizon. Views in other directions are more variable and partially limited by landform and vegetation. Views from the sections of the promoted route within the Study Area remain similar to the viewpoint location albeit with localised changes to landform that partially restrict or partially open up views from limited sections. A description of baseline views from the section of the Rutland Round within the Study Area is provided at the end of this table.	works. However, landform and field boundary vegetation including the woodland strips along the disused railway line and quarry would reduce the extent of views. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is therefore anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the north from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view north, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. There would be some variation in the extent of visibility from the recreational routes as they moves further north and closer to the Project. However, landform and field boundary vegetation including the woodland strips along the disused railway line and quarry reduce the extent of visibility. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Low.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3A.2 Viking Way, Sewstern (488875, 321548)	This viewpoint is located on the southern edge of Sewstern and along a section of the Viking Way long distance route and is representative of views from the settlement and nearby recreational routes. From the viewpoint location there are open and expansive views south across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are sparse but tall where established, and most notable surrounding the local minor road network. From the southern edge of the settlement, views are similar to the viewpoint location, focused to the south across the adjacent countryside. Elsewhere within the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and other intervening buildings. Views from this section of the Viking Way and other PRoW to the south and west of Sewstern are similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location. A description of baseline views from the longer section of the Viking Way within the Study Area is provided towards the end of this table.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the middle ground to the south of the viewpoint and at a range of distances from the nearby residential properties to the south of Sewstern. Ground level construction activities and a temporary compound are likely to be at least partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible although would be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of the PRoW network and the promoted route are likely to experience variable visibility of construction, with the greatest change from short sections immediately adjacent to and crossing the draft Order Limits. Overall, construction activity would be relatively distant and partially screened from the viewpoint and settlement edge and although there would be closer range views from part of a PRoW, change would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible in the middle ground to the south of the viewpoint and at a range of distances from the nearby residential properties. The overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view although with partial screening by landform and/or vegetation, somewhat reducing the impression of change. There would often be more limited visibility from properties within the settlement due to increased screening by buildings and vegetation in the foreground. Users of the PRow and Viking Way are likely to experience close range views from parts of the routes, the extent of which would vary depending on the direction of travel. Local topography and vegetation along field boundaries would provide elements of local screening from parts of the routes. Overall, the Project would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the view and although often partially screened may lead to a notable change to the composition of the view. It is anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 3A.3 Buckminster	This viewpoint is located on the southern edge of Buckminster and is representative of views from the	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
(487902, 322667)	settlement of Buckminster and more broadly users of a section of the Mowbray Way and PRowS to the north. From the viewpoint location there are heavily filtered and partially screened views south across gently undulating agricultural land divided by hedgerows and occasional trees. The field boundaries combine with small woodland blocks to create a distant wooded horizon. Views in other directions are more limited and contained by mature vegetation and buildings. From the settlement of Buckminster, views are more variable and often more restricted than from the viewpoint due to increased screening by foreground vegetation and other buildings. There is no consistent orientation of properties, although with many facing north towards Buckminster Park. From parts of the southern edge of the property there are filtered and/or slightly more open views across agricultural fields to the south. From the nearby section of the Mowbray Way and PRow E57/1 views are variable and often restricted or filtered by vegetation and buildings within the foreground. There are more open views across the surrounding agricultural landscape in most directions from PRow E58/3 which follows a low ridge. Blocks of woodland and field boundary vegetation provide elements of local containment, particularly to the north and east.	Construction of the Project would occur in the distance to the south of the viewpoint location, nearby residential properties and section of the Mowbray Way. Ground level construction activities are unlikely to be visible due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible although would be limited to small parts of the view at any one time and often partially screened, limiting the sense of change. There is potential for slightly greater visibility of construction activity from a short section of PRow E58/3 to the west of Buckminster. The intervening distance and local screening provided by topography and vegetation would limit the sense of change. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is therefore anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the south from the viewpoint, nearby residential properties and section of the Mowbray Way. Although the overhead line has potential to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view south, screening and

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		filtering by vegetation and/or buildings and the distance would reduce the impression of change. There is potential for more open visibility of the Project from a short section of PRoW E58/3. The intervening distance and local screening provided by topography and vegetation would limit the sense of change. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3A.4 Wymondham (485093, 319308)	This viewpoint is located at the northern extent of Wymondham and is representative of views from the settlement and nearby PRoW. From the viewpoint location there are partially restricted views to the north and east beyond foreground vegetation to undulating agricultural fields often bound by a low hedgerows. The rising landform and field boundary vegetation limits more distant views. Mature vegetation and buildings limits views to the east, south and west from this location. From the settlement of Wymondham views become increasingly more truncated than the viewpoint due to intervening landform and the long linear woodland	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be relatively distant to the north of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are unlikely to be visible due to screening by landform and intervening vegetation. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be partially visible although is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of the PRoW to the north and east of Wymondham are likely to experience varying views of construction activities based upon the extent of views available but these are likely to be limited to taller machinery and activities to

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	strip running along the route of the dismantled railway line. This forms a woodland corridor to the north which heavily restricts views from the residential properties.	install the overhead line towers. The extent of views would be further limited by localised screening vegetation, undulating landform, and the direction of travel along the routes. Overall, although construction activity may be partially visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project may be partially visible towards the background of the view to the north and northeast from the viewpoint and nearby PRow. Although the overhead line would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the view from short sections of the PRow, from most locations the towers are likely to be largely screened by intervening landform and/or vegetation. There would be very little or no visibility of the Project from the majority of the settlement which sits in a dip in the landscape. Overall, although the Project would potentially occupy a wide extent of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the influence on the overall impression of the view. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect would be Low. There are likely to be reduced or no impacts on the majority of properties within Wymondham.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
Viking Way	The Viking Way is a long distance (237 km) route through Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland passing through a wide range of different landscapes. A relatively short section (approximately 8.75 km) of the route is found within the Study Area, between Thistleton and to the northeast of Buckminster. Views from the route vary considerably and are strongly influenced by the undulating landform of dips and slopes. Views from more elevated locations are generally open and expansive across agricultural fields with differing degrees of boundary vegetation (as indicated by Viewpoint 3A.1 and 3A.2). Small woodland blocks and belts provide partial screening along sections of the route, particularly to the north around Buckminster where views are more enclosed. Views tend to be medium to long distance across gently undulating agricultural fields and are predominantly rural in character. Where settlements are visible, they are often set within or surrounded by trees and other mature vegetation.	<u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of the section of the Viking Way within the Study Area are likely to experience varying views of construction activity. Ground level construction activities are likely to be at least partially screened from much of the route, although with increased and close range visibility when adjacent to or crossing the draft Order Limits. From this short section there are likely to be views along haul roads and to activity to construct a number of the overhead line towers and a laydown area to the east. This would represent a very short part of the route, with more limited change experienced from remaining sections. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent from a number of sections of the route although are likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Although variable and potentially locally notable, the overall sense of change is likely to be relatively limited across the majority of the part of the route within the Study Area and would be both temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, there are likely to be variable views of the Project, depending on the direction of travel and level of screening provided by landform and vegetation. The greatest level of change is likely to be experienced where the route is in close proximity to and crosses the Project, with close range views of overhead line towers representing a pronounced change. This would occur from a very short section of the route with the level of change decreasing with greater distance and where partially screened by landform and vegetation. The overhead line would run perpendicular to the route, reducing the length from which the Project would influence views. Overall, visibility of the Project would be variable and although there may be localised pronounced or notable change, this is likely to occur over a relatively short section, with little influence on the overall impression or visual experience of the wider route. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
Rutland Round	The Rutland Round is a circular walk of approximately 104 km around the county of Rutland.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	A short section (approximately 4.75 km) of the route is found within the Study Area, between Thistleton and the north of Market Overton. Views from the section of the route within the Study Area are variable and often partially restricted or filtered by foreground vegetation. From more open elevated locations (as indicated by Viewpoint 3A.1) there are relatively expansive views in most directions over the surrounding undulating and rolling rural landscape. Views to the north are often partially screened by trees along field boundaries and the former railway line at Cribbs Meadow.	<u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of the Rutland Round in this section of the Study Area are likely to experience varying views of construction activity. A very small section of the route passes through the Study Area and the direction of the route means that views are predominantly indirect. Ground level construction activities are unlikely to be visible from the majority of the route due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible although would be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although construction activity may be partially visible in the distance, it would be limited to a very short section and have little or no influence on the impression of views and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible towards the background of the view to the north. Although potentially occupying a relatively wide extent of the view, at least the lower parts of the towers are likely to be screened by intervening landform and vegetation, reducing the impression of change. The more elevated sections of the

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		route largely travel east to west and as such views of the Project would often be side on to the direction of travel. Overall, potential visibility of the Project would be limited to a relatively short section of the route and would be distant and although potentially occupying a wide extent from select locations is likely to result in little or no change to the impression of views. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant).

3B: Waltham on the Wolds

- 7B.3.21 This VRA is located to the west of the Project and is bound by the River Eyre valley basin to the east, and the Thorpe Brook tributary of the River Eyre to the west.
- 7B.3.22 A series of six viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from settlements and scattered rural properties and from both long distance recreational routes (the Mowbray Way) and local PRowWs. A description and evaluation of views from the sections of the Mowbray Way found within the Study Area is also provided below. **Table 7B.10** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints and long distance routes within VRA 3B: Waltham on the Wolds. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.3B Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.10 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA: 3B Waltham on the Wolds)

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3B.1 Coston (484586, 322083)	This viewpoint is located to the southeast of the small settlement of Coston and is representative of views from the nearby residential properties and the local PRowWs. From the viewpoint location, there are open views to the south across and along the shallow valley of the River Eye. Blocks of riparian woodland mark the course of the river with individual trees set back from the river bank. The landform rises on both sides of the river valley, leading to undulating agricultural land divided by low hedgerows which are fragmented in places. Trees become more prevalent in the hedgerows on higher ground but remain sparse. Hedgerows along the horizon mark the change in landform which limit longer distance views. Views to the northeast and northwest are more limited due to screening by rising landform, buildings and vegetation.	<u>Sensitivity: High</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the middle ground of views to the south and west from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties with ground level construction activities being partially screened by the intervening landform and vegetation. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Users of the PRow network to the northwest and southeast are likely to experience open views with localised screening from field boundary hedgerows. Whilst there would be some closer range and head on views, the majority are likely to be at an angle to the main view. Overall, construction activity would be partially screened from the viewpoint and settlement and although there would be closer range views from part of a PRow, change would be

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the settlement of Coston, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and other buildings. From more elevated locations views are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location. From the PRow in the immediate vicinity of the settlement, views remain similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location within the river valley, only starting to become more open and expansive from higher ground around Hall Farm in the southeast, or from the broad ridge to the west near Honey Pot Plantation.	temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the middle ground of the view to the south and west from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. The overhead line is likely to occupy a relatively wide extent of the view in these directions. There would be partial screening to the lower parts of the towers due to intervening trees and low hedgerows and landform. The partial screening would often be greater in views from residential properties due to increased foreground buildings and boundary vegetation. Users of the PRow network to the northwest and southeast are likely to experience relatively open views of the Project, although with localised screening from field boundary hedgerows. Landform may also provide some screening in places along the route although the upper sections of towers are likely to remain visible. Whilst there would be some head on views, the majority are likely to be at an angle to the direction of travel. Overall, the Project would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the view and lead to a notable change and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 3B.2 Garthorpe (483369, 321087)	This viewpoint is located at the eastern edge of Garthorpe and is representative of views from the settlement and users of the local PRowWs. From the viewpoint location there are relatively open, although short range views to the north across rising agricultural land to woodland blocks on the horizon beyond. Views in other directions are more restricted due to screening by buildings, vegetation and landform. Residential properties are largely orientated towards the south, with variable views which are often partially restricted by vegetation and other buildings. More open south and north facing views across rising agricultural fields are possible from select locations. Views east and west are typically more limited by vegetation and buildings. From the local PRowWs views are also variable, with local enclosure by topography, vegetation and buildings and more open views from more elevated sections.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible towards the north and east from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities would be predominantly screened by landform, vegetation and other buildings. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. There are likely to be more open and close range views of construction from a short section of the nearby PRow where immediately adjacent to and crossing the draft Order Limits. There would be more limited visibility from other sections of the routes due to partial screening by landform and/or foreground vegetation. Overall, construction activity would be at least partially screened from the viewpoint and settlement and although there would be closer range views from part of a PRow, change would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		<u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the north and east from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the view northwest, the lower parts of the towers are likely to be largely screened by topography, with intervening vegetation and buildings adding further screening to the east and south. Users of parts of the PRow network are likely to experience relatively open views of the Project, although with localised screening from field boundary vegetation and blocks of woodland. Landform may also provide some screening in places along the route although the upper sections of towers are likely to remain visible. Overall, the Project would potentially occupy a relatively wide extent of the views to the northwest and may lead to a notable change and as such the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 3B.3 Freeby (480173, 320245)	This viewpoint is located along Freeby Lane and is representative of views from residential properties at the settlement of Freeby and recreational users of PRow in the immediate vicinity.	<u>Sensitivity: Medium</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be in the distance to the northeast of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are likely to

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location there are relatively open views to the north and west across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows, some of which provide localised containment. Thin woodland belts partially restrict views to the north, and combine with hedgerows to form a wooded horizon. Elsewhere trees tend to be located along the watercourse and interspersed within hedgerows. The mast at Waltham Transmitting Station is a distant tall feature and landmark to the north. Views to the south and east are restricted by foreground vegetation and rising landform. From the settlement of Freeby and local PRowS, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation, landform, and adjacent properties. There are slightly more open views southwards from the PRowS, with views north limited by landform.	largely screened by landform and vegetation and at a distance which reduces the impression of change. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible although are likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Intervening boundary vegetation is likely to further reduce views for residential receptors. There are likely to be only very limited or no views of distant construction activity from nearby PRow due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the northeast from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line may occupy a relatively wide extent of the view in this direction, the distance, intervening landform and vegetation and woodland backclothing would limit the impression of change. Intervening boundary vegetation is likely to further reduce views for residential receptors. There are likely to be only very limited and distant or no views of the Project from nearby PRow due to screening by intervening landform and vegetation.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Overall, although the Project may be apparent across the background of the view it would be partially screened and backclothed and generally represent an unobtrusive change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3B.4 Mowbray Way near Stonesby (482984, 324436)	This viewpoint is located at a local high point along the Mowbray Way to the southeast of Stonesby and is representative of views from a section of the long distance route and other local PRowS, and more broadly the settlements of Sproxton and Stonesby. From the viewpoint location there are elevated, open and expansive views to the south and east across undulating agricultural fields bound by hedgerows. Occasional trees and woodland blocks provide elements of local containment within the otherwise long distance views. The mast at Waltham Transmitting Station is a local landmark feature in the view to the southwest. Rising landform restricts views north from the viewpoint and local section of the Mowbray Way. From the settlements of Stonesby and Sproxton views are more variable and often at least partially restricted by foreground vegetation and buildings and/or the locally undulating landform. Both settlements are located within local dips in the landscape which adds to the restricted nature of views from many locations.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be in the distance to the southwest of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are likely to be largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation and/or at a distance where they would have little influence on the view. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers is likely to be partially visible in the distance, although would be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Intervening boundary vegetation is likely to further reduce views for residential receptors. Visibility of construction from part of the Mowbray Way and nearby PRowS are likely to be similar to the viewpoint location, becoming more restricted to the east and south where at lower elevation. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	Views from this section of the Mowbray Way and other local PRow are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, albeit with varying openness and enclosure dependant on field boundary vegetation and landform. Views from less elevated sections of the routes tend to be more restricted than those from the viewpoint and elevated areas. A description of baseline views from the longer section of the Mowbray Way within the Study Area is provided at the end of this table.	<u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible towards the background of the view to the southwest from the viewpoint, nearby residential properties and sections of recreational routes. Although the Project may occupy part of the expansive views to the south and southwest, intervening landform and vegetation and woodland backclothing would limit the impression of change. Intervening boundary vegetation is likely to further reduce views for residential receptors. Overall, although the Project may be apparent across the background of the view it would be partially screened and backclothed and generally represent an unobtrusive change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3B.5 Waltham on the Wolds (480442, 324841)	This viewpoint is located along the Mowbray Way where it passes through Waltham On The Wolds and is representative of views from the settlement and recreational users of the long distance route and other local PRowS.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be distant to the south of the viewpoint location and nearby residential properties. Ground level construction activities are likely to be predominantly screen by intervening landform and vegetation. The tops of

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the viewpoint location there are relatively short range views to the south and west across a small pastoral field bound by a hedgerow with intermittent hedgerow trees. Vegetation and buildings restrict more distant views to the south and west and screen views to the north and east. The mast at Waltham Transmitting Station is a local landmark feature within the view to the southeast. From the settlement of Waltham On The Wolds, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation and other buildings. There are locally more open and/or partially restricted views from parts of the settlement edge, particularly to the west and from near the water tower at the eastern edge. From these locations there are elevated views across rolling agricultural land. From the local section of the Mowbray Way and local PRowS views are largely restricted as the routes pass through the settlement. There are more open views across the surrounding landscape from parts of the routes on elevated ground immediately to the east and west of the settlement.	taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be partially visible, although would be distant and limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Intervening boundary vegetation and foreground buildings are likely to further reduce potential visibility from the majority of the settlement. There is potential for slightly greater visibility of elements of construction from more elevated parts of nearby recreational routes. However, much of the activity would be at least partially screened by landform and vegetation and would be distant, limiting the perception of change. Overall, although construction activity may be visible in the distance, it would have little or no influence on the impression of the view and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project may be partially visible in the distance to the south from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Although the overhead line may occupy parts of the view south, the distance and intervening landform and vegetation would limit the impression of change. Intervening boundary vegetation and buildings are likely to further reduce visibility from the majority of the settlement. Although variable, there are likely to be similar and

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		occasionally more open views of the Project from the nearby recreational routes, including part of the Mowbray Way. Overall, although the Project may be apparent across parts of the view it would be distant and partially screened and as such would represent a largely unobtrusive change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3B.6 PRoW east of The Hindles (478028, 322870)	This viewpoint is located along PRoW E95/1 and is representative of views from recreational users of the local PRoW network and more broadly from nearby scattered residential properties. From the viewpoint location and local PRoW along the ridgeline, there are open and expansive views across the surrounding undulating and rolling agricultural landscape in all directions. Views to the south extend across a long distance, with landform, trees and woodland in the middle ground often somewhat restricting views in other directions. A range of development is apparent in the distance to the south, with an overhead line crossing the view, albeit at lower elevation and therefore often seen against a dark background. Views from the nearby scattered properties and from less elevated sections of local PRoWs are often more restricted by foreground vegetation, buildings and/or landform. Where more open views are possible from	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activities would be located in relative close proximity to the south of the viewpoint and associated PRoW. There would be limited screening from intervening vegetation and landform, with construction introducing additional movement and associated lighting, sections of haul road and temporary earthworks, with potential for a laydown area to be partially visible to the east. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers would be apparent occupying relatively small parts of the view at any one time. A section of the PRoW runs broadly parallel to the draft Order Limits, increasing the local influence of construction. There is likely to be more variable visibility of construction from the nearby residential properties, with close range albeit partially screened views from a few locations and slightly more distant and partially screened views from elsewhere.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	properties they tend to be orientated to the south or west and include an existing overhead line in the middle ground or distance.	Overall, construction would occur across a relatively wide extent of the view, although would be temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the level of movement and activity associated with the Project would be reduced, haul roads removed and land returned to agriculture. The main change to views would be the introduction of a series of overhead line towers in relative close proximity to the south of the viewpoint and associated PRow. Visibility of the Project from nearby residential properties would be more variable and often partially screened by vegetation and buildings. Overall, taking a worst case approach based on the viewpoint location, the Project would result in a pronounced change across a relatively wide extent of views and although locally restricted by vegetation, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
Mowbray Way	The Mowbray Way is a 14 km route that runs east - west linking the Viking Way and the Leicestershire Jubilee Way. The route runs between Buckminster and Scalford and passes through the settlements of Sproxton, Stonesby, Waltham On The Wolds and Chadwell. The route generally passes through open countryside although there are small sections through woodland plantations. Views from the route are variable with open and expansive views often available from more elevated sections (as indicated by Viewpoint 3B.4 and 3C.1), becoming more restricted at lower elevation or where passing through settlements or woodland (as indicated by Viewpoint 3B.5). The nature of the surrounding landform means that views tend to be orientated east or west depending on the direction of travel, and/or to the south. Views north are generally more limited by rising landform or foreground vegetation. The mast at Waltham Transmitting Station is a local landmark feature often apparent from the route, with an overhead line also visible from western parts of the route towards Scalford.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of the Mowbray Way are likely to experience variable visibility of construction activities from different parts of the route. From many sections ground level construction activities are likely to be screened and/or barely perceptible as a result of intervening landform, buildings and vegetation. There is potential for limited and distant visibility from short, elevated sections of the route. The tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be more apparent from parts of the route, although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although the route runs broadly parallel to the Project, potential visibility of construction would be limited and relatively infrequent and would be distant, temporary and of a short duration, resulting in little or no discernible change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible from more elevated sections of the route, although would often be at least partially screened and represent a distant and relatively unobtrusive change. From many sections of the route there would be very little or no visibility of the Project due to screening by landform, vegetation and/or buildings. From the more elevated sections of the route, existing views

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		are expansive and often include distant overhead lines and a range of other developments and infrastructure. Overall, the Project would be occasionally visible from parts of the route which runs broadly parallel to the proposed overhead line, albeit at a distance and often with partial screening, limiting the impression of change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

3C: Melton Mowbray north

- 7B.3.23 This VRA is located to the west of the Project and 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.
- 7B.3.24 A series of six viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the edges of principal settlements and scattered rural properties and from long distance recreational routes (Leicestershire Jubilee Way), the local PRow network and Melton Country Park. Descriptions and evaluation of views from the sections of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way and National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 64 found within the Study Area are also provided below. Although a section of the Mowbray Way is also located within this VRA, the baseline description and preliminary assessment for this route are provided under VRA 3B, within which a greater length of the route is located. **Table 7B.11** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints and long distance routes within VRA 3C: Melton Mowbray north. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.3C Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.11 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3C: Melton Mowbray north)

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3C.1 Mowbray Way west of Chadwell (477334, 324241)	This viewpoint is located along the Mowbray Way near Triangulation Pillar S4642 to the east of Scalford and is representative of views from recreational users of this long distance route and from local PRow to the east of Scalford. From the viewpoint location and a short section of the Mowbray Way there are open and expansive views across undulating agricultural land in most directions. The undulating landform partially restricts localised areas in the foreground of views. Woodland blocks combine with field boundary hedgerows and trees and rising topography to form the distant horizon to the north, east and west, with more distant views to the south. An existing overhead line runs in a southeast to northwest direction from the east of Melton Mowbray to	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the background across part of the view to the south from the viewpoint and short elevated section of the Mowbray Way and local PRow. Undulating landform, woodland blocks and boundary hedgerows would limit much of the ground level activity, although with movement of vehicles and machinery locally apparent in the background. This activity would be seen in the context of traffic on the surrounding road network and occasional agricultural operations throughout the landscape. Taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers may be more apparent, although this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	the west of Scalford and the mast at Waltham Transmitting Station is a notable vertical feature to the southeast. Views from other nearby sections of the Mowbray Way and local PRow to the east of Scalford are similar to the viewpoint location albeit with localised enclosure due to the undulating landform leading to partial restrictions in middle to longer distance views. A description of baseline views from the longer section of the Mowbray Way within the Study Area is provided in Table 7B.10.	Overall, although construction activity is likely to be partially visible across parts of the view to the south, the impression of change would be limited by localised screening from landform and vegetation and the separation distance and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible across a relatively wide extent of the view in the distance to the south from the viewpoint and short elevated section of the Mowbray Way and local PRow. Lower sections of the towers would generally be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Where visible, the Project would often be backclothed by landform and woodland blocks which would somewhat limit the impression of change. An existing overhead line to the south and east provides a context to change. Overall, while the Project would represent an increase in electrical infrastructure apparent across the view to the south, it would be relatively distant, partially screened and backclothed, reducing the impression of change such that it would be largely unobtrusive. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3C.2 Scalford, Leicestershire Jubilee Way (476276, 323634)	This viewpoint is located along the Leicester Jubilee Way long distance route to the south of Scalford and is representative of views from the settlement and recreational routes. From the viewpoint location and adjacent section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way and local PRowS, there are short to medium range views across rolling agricultural land to the south and east, with more limited views to the north and west due to rising landform and vegetation. Trees and hedgerows along field boundaries and the Scalford Brook combine with landform to restrict more distant views in all directions. An existing overhead line crosses the foreground to the south and west, locally influencing the impression of the view. A description of baseline views from the longer section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way within the Study Area is provided towards the end of this table. From the settlement of Scalford, views are variable and often partially restricted by other buildings, foreground vegetation and landform, including the wooded former railway embankments which wrap around the south of the settlement. Where outward views are possible, they are broadly similar to those at the viewpoint.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> The majority of construction activity is likely to be screened from the viewpoint location, much of the settlement and local section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way and along the route to the north. While there is potential for partial visibility of the tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers this is likely to be limited to very small parts of the view at any one time. There is potential for slightly greater visibility from more elevated locations within the settlement, although with little or no influence on the view. Overall, considering the limited and localised potential visibility of construction activities and the temporary nature and short duration the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be largely screened from the viewpoint location and majority of the settlement of Scalford and local section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way and along the route to the north by a combination of landform

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3C.3 PRoW near Old Hills (473996, 322688)	This viewpoint is located at the confluence of several local PRoWs (G81/1, G81/2, G82/1 and G82/2) and is representative of views from the local PRoW network south of Holwell and nearby scattered residential properties From the viewpoint location, views are open and relatively expansive across an undulating agricultural landscape in most directions. Landform slightly restricts views to the south and east, with more open and slightly elevated views to the north and west. Trees and hedgerows along field boundaries and linear belts and	and mature vegetation. Where partially visible, the Project would be a relatively minor feature, adding further electrical infrastructure into views in which an existing overhead line is present in the foreground. There is potential for slightly greater visibility of elements of the Project from a short section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way, although with partial screening by landform and vegetation and context of existing infrastructure in the foreground. Overall, while there is potential for partial localised visibility of elements of the Project this would be limited by screening from intervening landform and vegetation and experienced in the context of existing more notable electrical infrastructure. The Project is anticipated to result in an unobtrusive change, indicating a Low magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible to the south and southwest from the viewpoint and short section of PRoW. Intervening landform and vegetation is likely to screen the majority of ground level activity. While there is potential for partial visibility of the tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers this is likely to be limited to very small parts of the view at any one time. There is potential for slightly greater visibility of construction activity, including localised ground level movement and activity in parts of the

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	small blocks of woodland provide localised containment. An existing overhead line crosses the view to the north and west, with a further overhead line in the distance to the west, and two wind turbines in closer proximity, although partially screened, to the south. Views from other PRoW to the south of the settlement of Holwell are similar to the viewpoint location albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure that partially increase or restrict longer distance views across the undulating rural landform. Views from nearby residential properties are more variable and often partially restricted by other buildings, foreground vegetation and landform. Although not consistent, there is a general trend of the residential properties being orientated to the south and west, with views broadly similar in nature to those experienced at the viewpoint and from the local PRoW network.	view from nearby residential properties. Taller machinery and equipment is likely to be more apparent from these locations, although would remain limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, visibility of construction is likely to be at least partially limited by landform and vegetation and would be temporary and of a short duration such that it would represent a relatively unobtrusive change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible across the view to the south and in the far distance to the southwest from the viewpoint. Intervening landform and vegetation would largely limit visibility to the tops of towers, reducing the apparent change. There is potential for greater visibility of the Project across a relatively wide extent of views from nearby residential properties and sections of the PRoW, although with partial screening by landform and vegetation often somewhat limiting the sense of change. Existing overhead lines and a range of other development and infrastructure are apparent in views from most receptors. Overall, taking a precautionary approach considering the potential worst case, the Project would add further electrical infrastructure into the view and has the potential to result in a notable change from a small number of scattered properties to

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		the east of the viewpoint. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 3C.4 Leicestershire Jubilee Way, Melton Country Park (476061, 321253)	This viewpoint is located along the Leicestershire Jubilee Way long distance route immediately to the north of the Melton Country Park and is representative of views from a local section of the long distance route and the northern edge of the country park. From the viewpoint location there are open but truncated views of undulating and rising agricultural land to the north and northeast. Woodland and landform, including embankments of a former railway, restrict views to the south and east, and northwards from the country park. The newly constructed East Melton Mowbray Distributor Road and associated structures and traffic are present within the foreground of views to the north with an existing overhead line partially visible towards the background of the view.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> The majority of construction activity is likely to be screened from the viewpoint location, Melton Country Park the northern edge of Melton Mowbray and local section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way. While there is potential for partial visibility of the tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead towers this is likely to be limited to very small parts of the view at any one time. There is potential for greater visibility of construction from a limited section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way north of the viewpoint, representing a very small part of the wider route. Overall, considering the limited and localised potential visibility of construction activities and the temporary nature and short duration, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3C.5 Stapleford Heights, Melton Mowbray (475022, 321458)	This viewpoint is located on the northern edge of the Stapleford Heights housing estate and immediately south of the newly constructed distributor road and is representative of views from the northern edge of Melton Mowbray and nearby recreational routes. From the viewpoint location, there are relatively open views to the north and west over the distributor road and towards undulating agricultural land. Hedgerow field boundaries, a noise barrier, rising topography and	At operation, the Project is likely to be largely screened from the viewpoint location, Melton Country Park the northern edge of Melton Mowbray and local section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way by a combination of landform and mature vegetation. Where the tops of overhead line towers are partially visible, they would represent relatively minor features towards the background of a small part of the view, limiting the sense of change. There is potential for greater visibility of parts of the Project from a limited section of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way, although with partial screening by landform and vegetation and the context of existing infrastructure. Overall, while there is potential for partial localised visibility of elements of the Project this would be limited by screening from intervening landform and vegetation and experienced, resulting in a largely unobtrusive change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible across parts of the view to the north from the viewpoint and adjacent residential properties. The majority of the ground level activity would be screened by intervening landform, vegetation, and from some locations by the noise barrier structure adjacent to the road. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers is likely to be more apparent, although

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	woodland blocks limit more distant views, particularly to the north, with slightly more open views to the west. The road and associated traffic are notable foreground features to the north, with the tops of two wind farms apparent to the west. There are broadly similar views to the north and west from the adjacent residential properties, with more open views to the east and south from properties along the edge of the small settlement area. Views from properties set back from the edge are more limited and largely contained by surrounding buildings.	would occupy relatively small parts of the view at any one time. Overall, although there is potential for visibility of taller elements of construction activity across part of the view, change would be limited, temporary in nature and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible across parts of the middle ground of the views to the north from the viewpoint and nearby residential properties. Intervening landform, vegetation and/or other structures would screen the lower parts of the overhead line towers, somewhat reducing the impression of change. The Project would also be experienced in the context of other infrastructure, including foreground streetlighting and more distant wind turbines. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on receptors with more open visibility to the north, the Project would occupy a relatively wide extent of the view, adding further electrical infrastructure and with the potential to represent a notable change. On this basis the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. Views from the majority of nearby residential receptors and more broadly from the northern edge of Melton Mowbray would typically be more restricted and therefore experience a reduce level of change.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3C.6 Potter Hill (473873, 321575)	This viewpoint is located along Nottingham Road to the north of Gorse Lane and is representative of views from a small group of residential properties in and around Potter Hill. From the viewpoint location, there are relatively short distance views truncated by the locally undulating landform and vegetation in most directions. The road in the foreground is flanked by tall individual trees and a small pastoral field that rises up steeply to the horizon where boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees enclose the view. There are slightly more distant, but still limited views to the northwest. Views from the small group of residential properties in the area are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation, similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location. However, there are more open and slightly elevated views over the surrounding undulating landscape from a small number of properties. Traffic on the road network, two wind turbines and an existing overhead line are local features of the views.	<u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
		<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> There are likely to be relatively close range views of construction activity and sections of the haul roads to the north of the viewpoint and adjacent properties and to the south and extending towards the west from the small cluster of properties at Potter Hill. The nature of potential visibility is likely to be variable and often partially screened by vegetation, landform and/or other buildings and structures. Localised removal of existing trees to facilitate construction may slightly increase visibility of the activity. There is also potential for partial visibility of construction activity to the east and west of nearby properties, although this is likely to be limited or heavily restricted by landform and vegetation. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on potential worst case, construction of the Project would be in close proximity and occupy a relatively wide extent of views and may represent a pronounced change, although would be temporary and of a short duration. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		effect of construction is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be visible in the foreground of the view to the north and northwest from the viewpoint and adjacent properties, to the south and west from Potter Hill and to the northeast from Sysonby Farm. The extent of visibility will often be limited by landform, buildings and vegetation from many of the nearby receptors. However, there is potential for more extensive visibility from properties with more elevated and open views. There is some context of existing electrical infrastructure in views which somewhat reduces the impression of change. The potential requirement for removal of trees to the southeast of Potter Hill would locally increase visibility of the Project. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on the potential worst case and assuming requirement for clearance of existing trees, the Project is anticipated to result in a substantial change to views from a small number of properties, indicating a Very High magnitude of effect. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant).
Leicestershire Jubilee Way	The Leicestershire Jubilee Way is a 33 km route that runs from the Vale of Belvoir in the north down through Melton Mowbray to the Burrough Hill Country Park in the south. A relatively short section (approximately 7.5 km) of the route passes from north to south through the	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of the Leicestershire Jubilee Way within the Study Area are likely to experience varying views of construction activity.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	Study Area from the north of Scalford to Melton Mowbray. Views from the route are generally enclosed due to the location within the valley of the Scalford Brook watercourse. Whilst generally constrained by the adjacent landform, there are open, short distance views across the locally rolling agricultural fields on the higher slopes, and more restricted views elsewhere due to riparian vegetation and trees (as indicated by Viewpoint 3C.2 and 3C.4). The route passes through the urban area of Melton Mowbray and other settlements and crosses beneath an overhead line to the south of Scalford, locally influencing the impression of views.	Ground level construction activities are likely to be predominantly screened from the majority of the route due to intervening landform, vegetation and built form, although with increased and close range visibility when adjacent to or crossing the draft Order Limits. From this short section there are likely to be views along short sections of haul roads and to activity to construct a small number of the overhead line towers, and a temporary compound to the east. This would represent a very short part of the route, with more limited change experienced from remaining sections. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent from a slightly longer section of the route, although are likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Although variable and potentially locally notable, the overall sense of change is likely to be limited across the majority of the part of the route within the Study Area and would be both temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, there are likely to be variable, although often limited, views of the Project from the Leicestershire Jubilee Way, depending on the direction of travel and level of screening provided by landform and vegetation. The greatest level of change is likely to be experienced where the route is

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		in close proximity to and crosses the Project, with close range views of overhead line towers representing a notable change. This would occur from a very short section of the route with the level of change decreasing with greater distance and where partially screened by landform and vegetation. The recreational route is along the base of a shallow valley, with woodland and linear tree belts limiting outward views. The overhead line would run perpendicular to the route, further reducing the length from which the Project would influence views. Overall, visibility of the Project would be variable and generally limited or heavily restricted and although there may be localised notable change, this is likely to occur over a relatively short section, with little influence on the overall impression or visual experience of the wider route. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
NCN Route 64	NCN Route 64 is a long distance 94 km cycle route running from Melton Mowbray to Lincoln. A relatively short section (approximately 9.5 km) of the route runs from north to south through the Study Area between Melton Mowbray and Scalford before turning northeast toward Eaton outside of the Study Area. The route generally follows secondary and minor roads.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of NCN Route 64 within the Study Area are likely to experience varying and generally limited views of construction of the Project. Ground level construction activities are likely to be screened from the majority of the route due to intervening landform, vegetation and built form, although with occasional glimpsed views where there are gaps in roadside vegetation.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	Views from the route vary considerably and are often influenced, restricted or screened by roadside hedgerows and trees. From more elevated sections of the route, particularly to the north of Scalford and towards the north of Melton Mowbray there are often open and expansive views across undulating agricultural fields and to a number of villages. To the south of Scalford overhead lines and a range of other development has a local influence on views. Where the route is close to or passes through Melton Mowbray, views tend to be heavily restricted and influenced by buildings and vegetation.	Where visible, construction would generally be seen oblique or side on to the direction of travel and focus of views. There would be locally increased and close range visibility when adjacent to or crossing the draft Order Limits. From this very short section there are likely to be views along short lengths of haul roads and to activity to construct a small number of the overhead line towers, and a temporary compound to the west. This would represent a very short part of the route, with more limited change experienced from remaining sections. Taller machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent from a slightly greater length of the route, although are likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Although variable, the overall sense of change is likely to be limited across the majority of the part of the route within the Study Area and would be both temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, there are likely to be variable, although generally limited, views of the Project from NCN Route 64, depending largely on the level of screening by roadside vegetation or by intervening landform and buildings. The greatest level of change is likely to be experienced where the route is in close proximity to and crosses the Project, with close range views of overhead line towers. This would occur from a very short

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		section of the route where there is an existing influence from overhead line towers, and the level of change is likely to quickly decrease with greater distance. The overhead line would run perpendicular to the route, further reducing the length from which the Project would influence views. Overall, visibility of the Project would be variable and generally limited or heavily restricted and although there may be localised close range views, this is likely to occur over a relatively short section, with little influence on the overall impression or visual experience of the wider route. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby

- 7B.3.25 This VRA is located towards the western end of the Project and to the west of Melton Mowbray and the Welby Brook tributary of the Wreake.
- 7B.3.26 A series of eight viewpoints have been identified within this VRA, representing views experienced from the settlements and scattered rural properties and from long distance recreational routes (NCN Route 48) and the local PRow network. Descriptions and evaluation of views from the sections of the Midshires Way and NCN Route 48 found within the Study Area are also provided below. **Table 7B.12** provides a baseline description and preliminary assessment of potential effects in relation to viewpoints and long distance routes within VRA 3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby. Photography from the majority of the viewpoints, captured in June 2026, is provided in **Figure 7.3.3D Preliminary Baseline Photography**. Winter season photography will be provided within the ES.

Table 7B.12 Visual Baseline and Preliminary Assessment (VRA 3D: Ab Kettleby to Old Dalby and Asfordby)

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3D.1 Holwell (473344, 323723)	This viewpoint is located adjacent to Nursery Lane on the western edge of Holwell and is representative of views from residential properties to the west of Holwell and from the local PRoW network. From the viewpoint location, there are relatively open and slightly elevated views to the north and expansive and distant views to the south over undulating agricultural land. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries provide an element of local containment in the fore and midground to the north and south and combine with topography to limit views to the east and west. A number of overhead lines and wind turbines are present within the middle ground and distance to the south, along with a range of other development across the extensive views. From the settlement of Holwell, views are generally limited and contained by surrounding landform and vegetation, such that they are largely inward facing. There are more open and elevated views, similar to those experienced from the viewpoint, from the properties along Nursery Lane to the west of Holwell. Views from other PRoW to the immediate south and southwest of the settlement of Holwell are similar to the viewpoint location, albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure due to differences in elevation and vegetation cover.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> The majority of construction activity is likely to be screened from the viewpoint location, Holwell and properties along Nursery Lane to the west. Ground level construction activity is likely to be predominantly screened by intervening landform and vegetation, limiting potential change. While there is potential for partial visibility of the tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers this is likely to be limited to very small parts of the view at any one time and would be distant, such that there would be little impression of change. Overall, considering the limited and localised potential visibility of construction activities and the temporary nature and short duration, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible in the distance, across sections of the view to the south. Parts of the overhead line and the lower sections of towers would be at least partially screened by landform and/or vegetation, reducing the apparent scale and extent of potential change. Where visible, the overhead line towers would often be seen

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3D.2 Ab Kettleby (472042, 323023)	This viewpoint is located at the western edge of Ab Kettleby and is representative of views from the settlement and the local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are partially restricted long distance views to the south across undulating agricultural land extending to the distant horizon. Hedgerow field boundaries with occasional trees and larger woodland blocks locally limit the more distant views. A range of development, including overhead lines and wind turbines are visible in the distance. Views to the north, east and west are more restricted by buildings, vegetation and/or landform. From the settlement, views are more variable and often partially restricted by foreground vegetation or other	against the dark backdrop of landform and/or woodland, further reducing the visual presence. The Project would also be experienced as part of a view containing existing overhead lines, occasional wind turbines and a range of other distant development and infrastructure. Overall, while the Project would potentially be visible across a number of parts of the view, the separation distance, partially screening and backclothing would limit the impression of change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the distance across parts of the view to the south and southwest from the viewpoint and settlement. Ground level construction activity is likely to be predominantly screened by intervening topography, trees and woodland such that it would result in little apparent change. While there is potential for partial visibility of the tops of taller machinery and activity to install the overhead line towers and/or WMEL-B substation structures, this is likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time and would be distant such that there would be little impression of change. Overall, considering the limited and localised potential visibility of construction activities and the temporary nature and short

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	buildings, although with more distant views from parts of the settlement edge. Views from the local PRow network south of the settlement are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint location, albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure influenced by landform and vegetation.	duration, the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible across parts of the view to the south and southwest. Intervening landform and vegetation would provide at least partial screening of much of the Project, including lower parts of the overhead line towers and the WMEL-B substation, somewhat reducing the impression of scale and extent of change. There would be more limited and restricted visibility of the Project from many parts of the settlement due to increased screening by landform, vegetation and other buildings. Overall, although the Project would introduce additional electrical infrastructure into parts of the view, the separation distance and partial screening would limit the sense of change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3D.3 Wartnaby (470850, 323069)	This viewpoint is located along the PRow to the west of Wartnaby and is representative of recreational users on	<u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u>

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	the local PRow network and more broadly from the settlement of Wartnaby. From the viewpoint location, there are relatively open, although variable, views to the west across undulating agricultural fields divided by hedgerows. A series of woodland blocks partially restrict and limit more distant views. An existing overhead line is a notable feature in the foreground of these views. Woodland and trees restrict views to the south and east, with rising topography limiting more distant view to the north. From residential properties in Wartnaby, views are more variable and often restricted and contained by foreground vegetation and woodland and/or other buildings. However, there are occasional more distant and framed views east and south from a few properties. Views from the wider PRow network are broadly similar to those from the viewpoint location, albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure depending on the extent of woodland and influence of local landform.	Construction activity is likely to be visible across parts of the view to the west of the viewpoint and would be in relative close proximity. Some of the ground level activity is likely to be at least partially screened by trees and woodland, although movement of vehicles, earthworks operations and a temporary compound are likely to be apparent. There would be closer range and more open views of construction from the PRow between Wartnaby and Saxelby Pastures, which crosses through the draft Order Limits and immediately north of the WMEL-B substation area. From this route there is likely to be a pronounced change adding to the influence of the existing overhead line. Overall, although landform and woodland may provide an element of screening from the viewpoint and PRow and construction would be temporary and of a short duration, the proximity is such that it would have a strong influence on the overall impression of the view. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. Visibility of construction and the resulting change experienced from the residential properties within the small settlement would be more limited due to increased screening by woodland and other vegetation. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible within relative close proximity to the southwest of the viewpoint and to the south of

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3D.4 Six Hill Lane, Stonepits (470359, 323420)	This viewpoint is located along Six Hill Lane and is representative of views from a small group of residential properties and the adjacent PRoWs. From the viewpoint location and adjacent properties there are variable and occasionally distant views to the south over undulating agricultural fields divided by hedgerows. A series of woodland blocks locally restrict and/or frame the more distant views. Trees and woodlands and other buildings limit views to the north, east and west from both the viewpoint and adjacent properties. Traffic on the road in the foreground and an existing overhead line are notable features which influence the baseline view to the south.	the PRoW between Wartnaby and Saxelby Pastures. The WMEL-B substation and a number of overhead line towers would add a series of additional structures into the view and considerably add to the influence of existing electrical infrastructure. While many of the structures would be partially screened by existing woodland, the Project has the potential to result in a substantial change to the view, such that the magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. Properties within Wartnaby are likely to experience lower levels of impact due to increased screening of the Project by existing woodland and landform. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible within the view to the south and southwest. Woodland blocks and intervening landform is likely to provide an element of containment and screening of some of the ground level construction activity, particularly relating to alterations to the existing overhead line and construction of the new overhead line elements, but also including works relating to the WMEL-B substation. However, a range of movement and activity is likely to be apparent, particularly along the WMEL-B access road and within the substation area. Temporary structures within the compound and laydown areas are also likely to be partially visible within the midground of the view. Taller

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	From the local PRow routes, views are broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure depending on the extent of woodland and influence of local landform.	machinery and activities to remove existing overhead line towers and install new towers and substation structures is likely to be relatively prominent, although more focused in duration. Overall, although construction activity would be partially screened and would be temporary in nature and of a short duration, it would be in relative close proximity and represent a notable change to views from the viewpoint and adjacent properties. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be in relative close proximity to the south, occupying a limited but important part of the view. Potential change would be experienced in the context of the existing overhead line which influences the impression of the view in the baseline. A number of the existing overhead line towers would be removed. However, there would be an overall increase in the number of towers in the view, concentrated around the WMEL-B substation. The substation and the lower parts of several of the towers are likely to be partially screened by landform and woodland blocks, slightly reducing the sense of change. A short section of permanent access road would also be visible to the southwest although would be a minor element within the view, particularly with the existing Six Hills Lane and traffic a feature of the foreground.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3D.5 Saxelby Pastures (469785, 322074)	This viewpoint is located along Ostler Lane and is representative of views from a small group of residential properties at Saxelby Pastures and users of a section of NCN Route 48. From the viewpoint location there are open, middle distance views across gently rolling agricultural land to the east and southeast. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries and woodland blocks locally restrict and limit views, particularly to the east. There are slightly longer distance views to the southeast with a linear tree belt defining the horizon. An existing overhead line is a notable feature of views to the east and southeast. Foreground vegetation predominantly contains views to the north, south and west. The adjacent residential properties tend to be orientated to the south and west, with slightly elevated, although partially restricted views across rolling agricultural land, particularly to the west. Views to the east and north tend to be heavily restricted or fully screened by foreground vegetation and/or buildings.	Overall, although partially screened by woodland and landform, the Project would add a series of additional structures into the view, considerably increasing the influence of electrical infrastructure and resulting in a pronounced change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Sensitivity:</u> Medium <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity would be partially visible in the foreground and middle ground to the east of the viewpoint, occupying a relatively wide extent of the view. Topography and vegetation would screen most of the ground level activity within the foreground and elements of construction of the WMEL-B substation beyond. However, much of the construction activity associated with the WMEL-B substation is likely to be visible and relatively prominent within the view adding to the influence of the existing overhead line. Taller machinery and activities related to alterations to the existing overhead line and installation of the new overhead line towers would add further to the range of activity and movement within the view to the east and extending to the southeast. There would be more restricted visibility from the adjacent residential properties, due to increased screening by foreground buildings and vegetation. Visibility by users of the NCN route 48 would be variable and often screened by roadside vegetation and/or intervening landform.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	Views from the local section of NCN Route 48 are broadly similar to the viewpoint location, although are often more restricted by roadside hedgerows and woodland blocks. This often results in views being channelled along the road in the direction of travel. A description of baseline views from the longer section of NCN Route 48 within the Study Area is provided towards the end of this table.	Overall, although partially screened, temporary in nature and of a short duration, construction of the Project would be a relatively prominent feature to the east and as such would potentially result in a pronounced change to the view. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be High. The level of change and impact on the nearby residential properties would be lower due to increased screening. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a high magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, several new overhead line towers and much of the WMEL-B substation would be visible in the foreground and middle ground to the east. While the lower parts of many of the overhead line towers would be partially screened, they would be in relative close proximity and would considerably add to the concentration and prominence of electrical infrastructure within the view. Much of the WMEL-B substation would also be visible from the viewpoint location, further adding to the influence of electrical infrastructure. There would be more limited visibility of the Project from the nearby residential properties which tend to be orientated to the south and west and with buildings and vegetation in the foreground that largely screen views east. Overall, taking a precautionary approach based on the viewpoint location, the Project would add a series of new features, considerably adding to the influence of existing electrical infrastructure and therefore with potential to

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
VP 3D.6 Grimston (468870, 321715)	This viewpoint is located along Saxelbye Lane at the southern edge of Grimston and is representative of views from the settlement and more broadly from a section of the Midshires Way long distance route and local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are open, slightly elevated and relatively distant views across rolling agricultural land to the east and southeast. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries provide local containment and a series of woodland blocks and linear tree belts combine with rising landform to define the horizon. Large agricultural buildings and an overhead line are features across the view. Foreground vegetation and buildings limit views to the north, south and west. Views from the settlement are more variable and often at least partially restricted by foreground vegetation and/or other buildings, with more limited outward visibility. Views from the Midshires Way and local PRowS are also variable and influenced by the nature of foreground vegetation and by their elevation relative to surrounding landform. There are relatively open and	represent a substantial change to the view. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very High. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very high magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Major Adverse (significant). <u>Sensitivity: Medium</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the distance to the northeast and east from the viewpoint, parts of the settlement edge and localised sections of recreational routes. Intervening vegetation and topography would limit visibility of the majority of ground level construction activities, somewhat reducing the impression of change. Taller machinery associated with the installation of overhead line towers and the WMEL-B substation would be more apparent, although limited to a relatively small part of the view. There is likely to be more restricted visibility from the majority of the settlement due to increased screening from vegetation, landform and other buildings. Overall, although there is potential for construction activities to be partially visible to the east, it would be relatively distant and largely screened, and would be temporary in nature and of short duration representing a barely discernible change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	distant views from short sections of select routes, including part of the Midshires Way, with views from other sections heavily restricted or contained. A description of baseline views from the section of the Midshires Way within the Study Area is provided towards the end of this table.	significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible in the distance to northeast and east from the viewpoint, parts of the settlement edge and local sections of recreational routes. The bases of the majority of the new overhead line towers and lower substation structures are likely to be screened by intervening topography and vegetation, limiting the sense of change. The Project would introduce a series of overhead line towers, locally adding to the concentration and influence of existing electrical infrastructure in part of the view. Overall, considering the existing influence of electrical infrastructure, the separation distance and partial screening of many of the proposed structures, the Project is likely to represent a largely unobtrusive change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).
VP 3D.7 Saxelby (470365, 321152)	This viewpoint is located at the northeastern edge of Saxelby and is representative of views from the settlement and adjacent residential properties and from the local PRow network. From the viewpoint location there are generally short to mid-range, and more distant views, across rolling agricultural land to the north. A range of field	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible in the foreground and parts of the middle ground to the north and northeast from the viewpoint location. Activity in the foreground will primarily include a short section of haul road and works to an existing overhead line tower. There is likely to be greater activity within

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	boundaries, riparian trees and woodland blocks, and rising landform provide local containment and often limit more distant views. An overhead line within the immediate foreground and extending towards the distance to the north has a strong influence on the impression of the view. A combination of landform, buildings and vegetation limits views in other directions. From the settlement views tend to be more contained and limited by surrounding landform and trees, although with slightly more distant views available from select locations. The overhead line is often a feature of more open views, where they exist. Views from the local PRoW network are often broadly similar to those experienced at the viewpoint, albeit with varying degrees of openness and enclosure depending on the extent of vegetation and influence of local landform.	the middle ground associated with alterations to the existing overhead line and construction of new towers and parts of the WMEL-B substation. Intervening landform and vegetation, including woodland blocks, would provide partial screening of construction activity, somewhat reducing the extent of visibility and the impression of change. Taller machinery associated with the installation of overhead line towers and the WMEL-B substation would be more apparent, although limited to relatively small parts of the view at any one time. There would be considerably more restricted or no visibility from much of the settlement of Saxelbye, limiting any sense of change. Overall, taking a worst case approach based on the viewpoint and adjacent property, construction would add a range of movement and activity to parts of the view and although temporary and of a short duration would represent a notable change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be partially visible within the foreground and extending towards the middle ground of the view to the north and northeast from the viewpoint. A number of existing overhead line towers would be removed from parts of the view, although the Project would introduce a number of additional towers at slightly greater distance and result in an overall increase in the number and concentration of structures. The WMEL-B substation would also be partially

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		visible from the viewpoint, further adding to the influence of electrical infrastructure in the view. Overall, taking account of the existing influence of electrical infrastructure, and the increased number of overhead line towers and partial visibility of the WMEL-B substation, the Project has the potential to result in a notable change to the view from the viewpoint location. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. There is likely to be more limited visibility of the Project from the majority of the settlement, from which the level of change and impact would be lower than indicated above. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
VP 3D.8 Glebe Farm (470809, 321266)	This viewpoint is located along Saxelby Road and is representative of views from nearby residential properties and more broadly, local recreational users. From the viewpoint location and local recreational users there are slightly elevated, open and expansive views across undulating and rolling agricultural fields to the north and west. Hedgerows and trees along field boundaries and a series of small and larger woodland blocks provide local containment and combine with rising landform to form the distant horizon. An existing overhead line crosses a wide extent and has an influence on the impression of the baseline view. Large agricultural buildings and vegetation restrict views to the south and east.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be visible within the middle ground to the west and northeast and towards the distance to the north. Landform and vegetation would locally limit visibility of elements of construction, and particularly ground level activity associated with the overhead line to the west and northeast. There would be more open visibility of construction of the WMEL-B substation located on the opposite side of the broad shallow valley to the north. Taller machinery associated with the installation of overhead line towers and the WMEL-B substation would also be apparent in parts of the view.

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	The orientation of views from nearby properties is variable, with the dwelling north of the viewpoint orientated to the west and south and experiencing views broadly similar to the viewpoint, albeit slightly more restricted by foreground vegetation. The property to the south is orientated to the south across open agricultural fields extending to the distance, with views in other directions heavily restricted and screened by surrounding buildings.	Overall, considering the offset distance and existing influence of electrical infrastructure and the temporary nature and short duration, together with the relatively open visibility of construction across a wide extent, construction of the Project would represent a notable change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project would be visible across part of the view from northwest to northeast. The existing overhead line that crosses this part of the view would be altered and several of the existing towers removed. The Project would introduce a number of additional towers resulting in an overall increase in the number and concentration of structures within the view. The WMEL-B substation would also be visible to the northwest, further adding to the influence of electrical infrastructure in the view. Overall, taking account of the existing influence of electrical infrastructure, and the increased number of overhead line towers and addition of the WMEL-B substation, the Project has the potential to result in a notable change. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Medium. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a medium magnitude, the

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
Midshires Way	The Midshires Way is a long distance (360 km) route generally along public bridleways and quiet country lanes linking the Bledlow near the Chilterns to Stockport, Greater Manchester. A short section of the route (approximately 4 km) passes through the western edge of the Study Area, from the south of Old Dalby through Grimston to Shoby, experiencing a variety of different landscapes.	significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Moderate Adverse (significant).
	Views from the route vary considerably, with a range of open and more restricted views over level agricultural fields and to woodlands in the north, transitioning to more open and slightly elevated and expansive views immediate to the north, and particularly to the south of Grimston (as indicated by Viewpoint 3D.6). Further south towards Shoby, the route descends onto lower slopes and views become more enclosed and limited. Along all parts of the route, the availability and nature of views is influenced by the presence and height of roadside vegetation. Where more open views are possible, they often include a range of development, including overhead lines and wind turbines.	<u>Sensitivity:</u> High <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Construction activity is likely to be partially visible in the distance from a very short section of this route to the north and south of Grimston. The majority of activity is likely to be screened by intervening landform, vegetation and buildings such that potential change would be limited to taller machinery associated with the installation of overhead line towers and the WMEL-B substation. This activity would typically be limited to small parts of the view at any one time with very little influence on the impression of the view. Overall, potential visibility of construction would be limited to small parts of the view from a short section of the route and would be temporary and of a short duration and represent a barely perceptible change. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, the Project is likely to be partially visible in the distance to the east of a short section of the route to the north and south of Grimston. Landform, vegetation and buildings are likely to screen the majority of the Project and although the tops of a number of overhead line towers may be visible,

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
NCN Route 48	NCN Route 48 is a long distance (119 km) cycle route running from Tetbury to Southam. A relatively short (approximately 8 km) section of the route runs from north to south through the Study Area from Nether Broughton to Asfordby and passing through Saxelbye. The route follows secondary and minor roads. Views from the route vary considerably and are often influenced, restricted or screened by roadside hedgerows and trees and/or buildings. There are expansive north facing views from a short section south of Nether Broughton where the route crosses a steep scarp slope. There are also partially restricted and more open long range views from more elevated sections of the route, such as along Ostler Lane (as indicated by Viewpoint 3D.5) to the north of Saxelbye and along Saxelby Road to the south. From these sections of the route an existing overhead line is an	they would be seen in the context of existing electrical infrastructure within the same part of the view. Overall, considering the limited nature of potential visibility from a short section of the route and the existing context of electrical infrastructure, the Project would represent a barely perceptible change with no influence on the overall experience of the route. Magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Very Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a high sensitivity with those which indicate a very low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Negligible Adverse (not significant). <u>Sensitivity: Medium</u> <u>Magnitude of effect (Construction):</u> Users of NCN Route 48 within the Study Area are likely to experience varying and generally limited views of construction of the Project. Ground level construction activities are likely to be screened from much of the route due to intervening landform, vegetation and built form, although with glimpsed or more open views from short sections. Where visible, construction would generally be seen oblique or side on to the direction of travel and focus of views. There would be locally increased and/or closer range visibility when adjacent to the draft Order Limits to the east and north of Saxelbye. From these short sections there are likely to be views of short lengths of haul roads and activity to construct a number of the overhead line towers and/or the WMEL-B substation. This would represent short parts of the route, with more limited change experienced from remaining sections. Taller

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
	existing feature in the foreground or middle ground, often influencing the baseline view. Where the route is close to or passes through Asfordby, views tend to be heavily restricted and influenced by buildings and vegetation.	machinery and activities to install the overhead line towers may be more apparent from a slightly greater length of the route, although are likely to be limited to small parts of the view at any one time. Although variable and locally notable, the overall sense of change is likely to be limited across the majority of the part of the route within the Study Area and would be both temporary and of a short duration. The magnitude of effect is anticipated to be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Construction):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect of construction is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant). <u>Magnitude of effect (Operation):</u> At operation, views of the Project from NCN Route 48 are likely to be variable and although generally limited by screening from roadside vegetation or intervening landform and buildings. The greatest level of change is likely to be experienced from short sections of the route to the east and north of Saxelbye where additional overhead line towers and/or the WMEL-B substation are visible within the foreground or middle ground. This would occur from short sections of the route where there is an existing influence from overhead line towers, and the level of change is likely to quickly decrease with greater distance. Overall, visibility of the Project would be variable and generally limited or heavily restricted and although there may be localised close range views and more notable change, this is likely to occur over relatively short sections, with little

Viewpoint/ Long Distance Route	Description of Baseline	Preliminary evaluation of potential change
		influence on the overall impression or visual experience of the wider route. It is therefore anticipated that the magnitude of effect during operation would be Low. <u>Significance of effect (Operation):</u> Considering the factors which contribute to a medium sensitivity with those which indicate a low magnitude, the significance of effect during operation is anticipated to be Minor Adverse (not significant).

References

- Ref 7.1 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013). *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition*. Abingdon: Routledge.

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