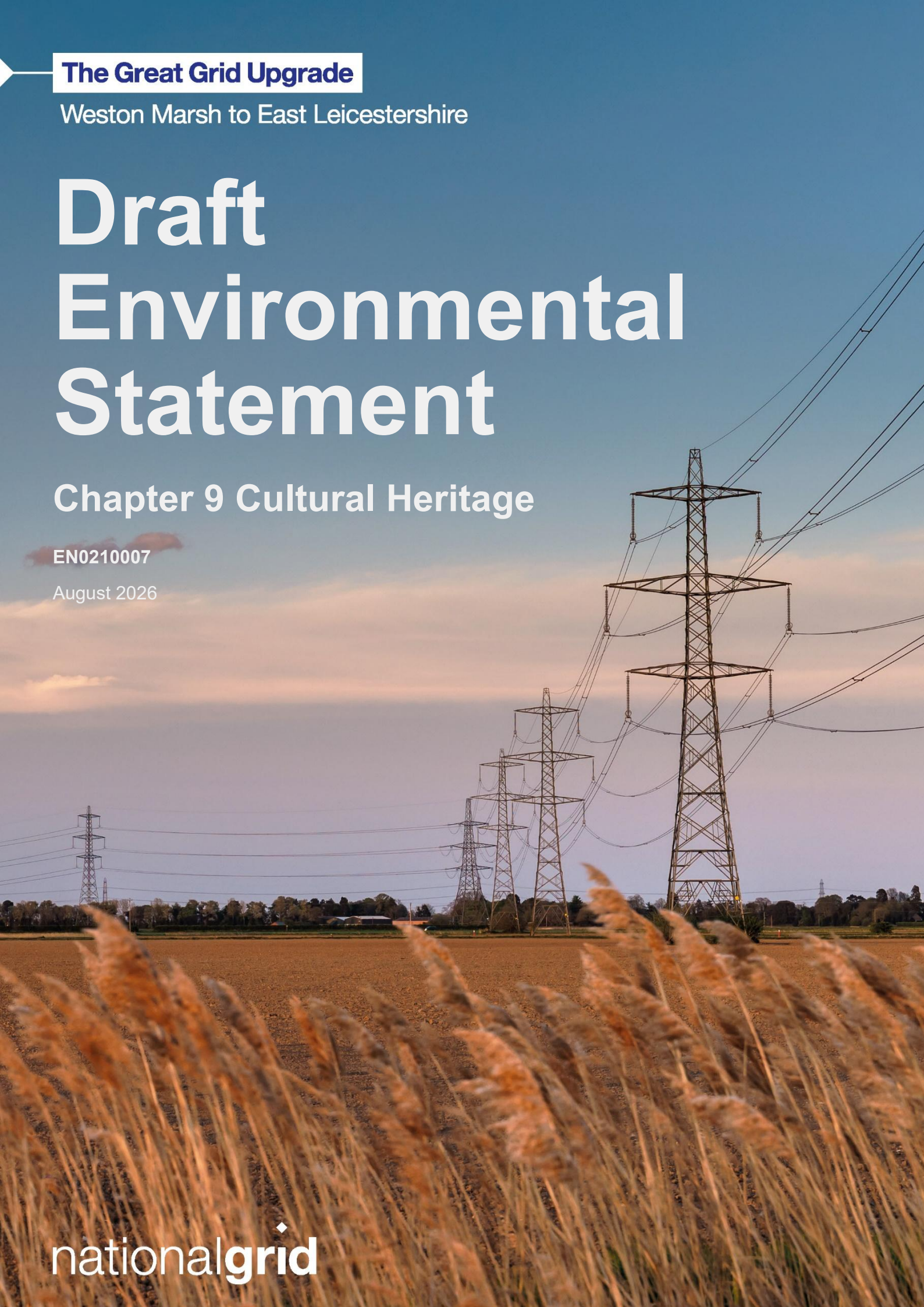




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement

Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

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9. Cultural Heritage

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 This chapter reports the preliminary assessment of the potential effects of the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire Project (the Project) on Cultural Heritage. This chapter includes consideration of the following matters:
- effects arising from construction, operation and maintenance;
 - archaeological remains – designated and non-designated;
 - historic buildings – designated and non-designated; and
 - historic landscapes – non-designated.
- 9.1.2 The Project includes proposals for new overhead line, new substations and reconductoring of existing overhead transmission. There would be no horizontal, and limited vertical realignment proposed as part of the reconductoring. On this basis, it has been agreed with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to scope out assessment of potential impacts to heritage assets as a result of changes to their setting from the reconductoring (**Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion**, paragraph 4.7.2). At this stage, it is proposed to use ‘no-dig’ methods for construction access for the reconductoring works which means that there may not be any potential physical impacts to heritage assets. To avoid disproportionate assessment of the cultural heritage baseline, only a very high-level assessment has been made of Sections 4 and 5 within this chapter but will be reconsidered for the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 9.1.3 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following chapters which provide the Project context and approach to EIA:
- **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context;**
 - **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered;**
 - **Chapter 4 Description of the Project;** and
 - **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology.**
- 9.1.4 There may be interrelationships with other disciplines. Therefore, this chapter should also be read in conjunction with the following chapters:
- **Chapter 6 Landscape** – includes details of changes to the landscape from the Project, which may result in changes to the setting and value of heritage assets.
 - **Chapter 7 Visual** – includes details of the visual imposition and visibility of the Project within the landscape, which may result in changes to the setting and value of heritage assets.
 - **Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity** – includes details of loss or creation of habitats related to the Project which may result in changes to the setting and value of heritage assets and/or the historic landscape.
 - **Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology** – includes details of changes in hydrogeology which can affect the survival of organic archaeological remains, such as wooden artefacts, textiles and plant remains, particularly in areas with historically high water tables such as the Fens.

- **Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration** – includes details of noise and vibration impacts arising from the Project which may result in changes to the setting and value of heritage assets.
- **Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects** – includes details of the potential cumulative effects from changes to the setting and value of heritage assets.

9.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following figures and appendices:

- **Figure 9.1 Designated Heritage Assets;**
- **Figure 9.2 Non-designated Heritage Assets;**
- **Figure 9.3 1st edition Ordnance Survey Mapping;**
- **Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline Report;**
- **Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteer; and**
- **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening.**

9.1.6 Further appendices providing details of aerial photography and LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) analysis, geophysical survey and trial trenching will be presented as part of the ES.

9.1.7 An **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)** will describe a mitigation strategy based on survey data collected during assessment and will be included with the ES.

9.2 Legislation, Policy Framework and Guidance

Legislation and National Policy

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

Regional and Local Policy

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

- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted 2019), Policy 29: The Historic Environment (Ref 9.1) encourages development proposals to conserve and enhance the character and appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets. It also requires assessment to include any contribution made to its setting, and stresses the importance of proportionate historic environment assessments and evaluations.
- South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted 2020), Policy EN6 The Historic Environment (Ref 9.2) states that the council will seek to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings. Development that is likely to cause harm to the significance of a heritage asset or its setting will only be granted where the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential harm. Where development affecting archaeological sites is acceptable in principle, the council will seek to ensure mitigation of impact through preservation of remains in situ as a preferred solution.

- Melton Borough Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted 2018), Policy EN6 (Ref 9.3) states that proposals will be supported where they do not harm open spaces which, among other elements, contribute to the setting of historic built form and features, or to key characteristics and features of conservation areas. Policy EN13: Heritage Assets, outlines the need to assess the effect of a proposal on the significance of an asset and the need for a balanced judgement about the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
- Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted 2019) Policy HC1 Built Heritage (Ref 9.4) states that development affecting heritage assets and their settings will be permitted where it protects, conserves or enhances the asset, but where a proposed development would lead to substantial harm, it will only be permitted under set circumstances (as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 9.5).
- Local Plan for North Northamptonshire includes the Joint Core Strategy (Adopted 2016) and supporting area-based plans, Policy 2: Historic Environment (Ref 9.6) states that developments which would impact on a heritage asset and/or its setting should either be beneficial or, where loss is unavoidable and justified, provision made for recording and appropriate archiving and reporting.
- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 (Adopted 2014), Policy BN5 The Historic Environment and Landscape (Ref 9.7), states that designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, and historic landscapes will be conserved and enhanced in recognition of their individual and cumulative significance and contribution to local distinctiveness and sense of place.
- Charnwood Local Plan 2021-2037 (Adopted 2026), Policy EV8 Heritage (Ref 9.8) states that developments should protect and enhance heritage assets, including non-designated heritage assets, and prevent harm to their significance and setting.

Guidance

9.2.3 Relevant guidance specific to Cultural Heritage that has informed this non-statutory Draft Environmental Statement (DES) (referred to in this document as “DES” and “non-statutory DES”) and will inform the assessment within the ES, comprises:

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment (Ref 9.9).
- Historic England (2015) Managing Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2. (Ref 9.10).
- Historic England (2017) The Setting of Heritage Assets - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. (Ref 9.11).
- Historic England (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12 (Ref 9.12).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (Ref 9.13).
- CIfA Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology (Ref 9.14).
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), and CIfA, Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (Ref 9.15).
- Historic Places Team, Lincolnshire County Council (2024), Historic Farmsteads Group Value Framework for NSIPs (Ref 9.16).

9.3 Scope of Assessment

- 9.3.1 The scope of the assessment has been informed by the Scoping Opinion, see **Appendix 5B Scoping Opinion**, (adopted by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State on 17 December 2025) and ongoing engagement with relevant technical consultees.
- 9.3.2 A full summary of all issues raised relevant to Cultural Heritage in the Scoping Opinion and National Grid's response is provided in **Appendix 5C National Grid's response to the Scoping Opinion**. Further details of engagement undertaken to date is provided in Section 9.4.

9.4 Stakeholder Engagement

- 9.4.1 National Grid has held several meetings with relevant consultees including Historic England and the Local Authority Archaeological Advisors for archaeology and built heritage. A summary of discussions and how these have influenced the Project's scope and/or the approach to the assessment is provided in **Table 9.1**.

Table 9.1 Key stakeholder engagement and National Grid's response

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
Historic England Cultural Heritage Technical Working Group 20 March 2026	Key issues raised at this initial stage: • The need for a flexible approach to study areas, particularly where there is the potential for important contributions from long distance views to the values of heritage assets meaning that impacts from the Project could occur at greater distance than Study Area buffers. • Need to integrate geoarchaeological input into ground investigations (GI) and intrusive investigations.	• A flexible approach has been taken to the study area, particularly when informing setting assessment site visits which meant that sites such as Easton (Section 2) and Stapleford Hall (Section 3) registered parks and gardens (RPGs) were considered despite being outside the 3 km study area. Further consideration of this will be included in the ES where applicable. • Geoarchaeological monitoring and desk-based review have been included within the GI and trial trenching scope and will be reported on in the ES.
Leicestershire County Council Technical Working Group, 20 March 2026	Key issues included: • Need for consistency in methodology for archaeological investigation across administrative areas, with joint meetings used where	• Engagement with Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisors will include both Lincolnshire and Leicestershire advisors as a minimum, throughout. • Local Planning Authority archaeological advisors will be sent Written Schemes of Investigation

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
	helpful to agree shared approaches. - Engagement on methodologies for surveys and mitigation required. - Decommissioning and reconductoring impacts: to be treated on a precautionary basis for archaeology.	(WSI) for surveys in advance of their undertaking and will be consulted on the development of the mitigation strategy, which will be included in the ES as the OWSI. Current assumption is that physical effects are likely to be broadly comparable to construction locations, with avoidance-first principles (e.g. use of track matting minimising ground disturbance, careful management of compounds and reinstatement) to be specified in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and/or OWSI and refined as contractor design develops. This will be reported on in the ES.
Lincolnshire County Council Cultural Heritage Technical Working Group 20 March 2026	Key issues, in addition to sharing the issues raised by Leicestershire: - Timing, extent and purpose of archaeological surveys, including potential to use alternative methods for geophysics and need for walkover survey. - Requested archaeology to be scoped into decommissioning. - Emphasised the need for integrated assessment across disciplines (drainage, ecology, soils, compounds). - Requested avoidance of nationally significant buried remains (both known and previously not known but identified through surveys) through design, as well as non-designated remains of less significance where possible.	- Magnetometry is the initial baseline method (including for the substation sites), but procurement to consider allowance for targeted supplementary geophysical techniques on case-by-case basis where results/conditions warrant. The specification also includes explicit walkover and field observation requirements alongside data acquisition. - Decommissioning has been scoped out of the assessment as agreed in the Scoping Opinion (Appendix 5B). A high-level summary of potential impacts will be included in the ES where relevant. - Potential impacts from all aspects of the Project are included. - Principle of avoiding impacts to archaeological remains of national importance will be followed with impacts designed out insofar as possible subject to the linear nature of the Project. For example, it may be possible to relocate a tower to avoid a localised area of archaeological remains, but if the remains are extensive then

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
	- Called for clear archaeological mitigation, management and public engagement strategies, secured through DCO requirements. - Highlighted sensitivity of fenland and limestone upland landscapes to skyline and wirescape effects, and particularly farmstead groupings.	- relocation may mean impacting another part of the same features. This is discussed in section 9.7 below but will be further addressed in the ES as the design develops. - Geophysics, trial trenching and consultation will inform discussions of appropriate archaeological mitigation, management and archaeological mitigation strategies, which will be presented in the OWSI. A public engagement strategy would be designed proportionately to the impact of the Project. This will be developed through consultation. - Sensitivity of fenland and upland landscape setting acknowledged. This has informed the setting assessment in this DES. Further detail on setting and visibility will be included in the ES if applicable.
Conservation and landscape officers for South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council, West Northamptonshire Council, and Harborough District Council Historic Landscape and Built Heritage stakeholder meeting, 29th April 2026	Targeted meeting following first technical working group to focus on built heritage and landscape issues, which included: - The approach to setting assessment methodology supported by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and site visits, with qualitative assessment supplementing ZTV. This was agreed as sufficient at this stage. - Request for the assessment to include a review of local lists (including neighbourhood plans) - Importance of group value.	- Local lists will be reviewed as part of the assessment presented in the ES. - Initial assessment of group value has been included, where appropriate, in Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening. This will be refined and developed further for the ES. - Construction methods, as they relate to ridge and furrow, will be developed further and reported on in the ES, informed by the completion of LiDAR analysis, which will also be reported on in the ES. - Woodland is mentioned as part of the relatively high-level historic landscape characterisation discussion in Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline Report. This will be reviewed and further detail added if necessary as part of the ES.

Organisation and Date	Summary of Issue Discussed	Project Response
	- The viewpoint photography proposed as part of the landscape and visual assessment was discussed, along with the potential to add further viewpoints if required. - Sensitivity of ridge and furrow was discussed. - Ancient woodland should be considered as part of the historic landscape.	Viewpoint photography, ridge and furrow and ancient woodland have been considered, with further consideration informed by consultation to be included in the ES if required.

9.5 Assessment Methodology

- 9.5.1 This section describes the methodology used to establish the existing and future baseline together with the methodology/approach used to undertake the preliminary assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on Cultural Heritage. The overarching approach is also described in **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology**.
- 9.5.2 The methodology for undertaking the baseline assessment is summarised in this section with further details included in **Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline Report**. The impact assessment methodology builds on the general assessment methodology presented in **Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology**, adapted from the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), and it incorporates DMRB LA 104 Environmental assessment and monitoring (Ref 9.17), DMRB LA 106 – Cultural heritage assessment (Ref 9.18), and the cultural heritage policy and guidance presented in **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context** as well as the specific documents discussed in section 9.2 of this chapter.
- 9.5.3 Where there is evidence of a historic-functional and/or spatial grouping, heritage assets will be assessed as a group. This will be based on professional judgement, consultation with stakeholders and, with regard to farmsteads, the three-stage approach set out in Historic Farmsteads Group Value Framework for NSIPs (Ref 9.16). This approach is evolving and so, while it has informed the DES, further detail will be added into the assessment presented in the ES.

Study Area

- 9.5.4 To allow thorough consideration of the potential impacts of the Project on heritage assets of a wide range of types, sensitivity to change and value, the assessment uses a series of nested buffers to make up the Study Area. This is used for the initial identification of a proportionate baseline for the Project, informed by professional judgement. However, a nuanced and qualitative approach has been taken, using the setting assessment site visits to inform actual landscape visibility to confirm if potential significant adverse effects are possible beyond these buffers.

- 9.5.5 This section outlines the justification behind the buffers used for designated and non-designated heritage assets, with a summary presented in **Table 9.2** of what heritage assets are included within each buffer range.

Designated heritage assets

- 9.5.6 EN-1 (Ref 9.19, para 5.9.31) makes a distinction between designated heritage assets in general, and those of the 'highest significance', which are scheduled monuments, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens (RPG), protected wreck, registered battlefields and World Heritage Sites. This reflects the nature of these heritage assets, which may have a greater level of sensitivity to change, and where the justification for substantial harm to or loss of significance to requires wholly exceptional justification. In reflection of this, the largest Study Area buffer of 5 km from the draft Order Limits has been used for the identification of these assets.
- 9.5.7 For all other designated heritage assets (i.e. grade II listed buildings and grade II RPG), a 3 km Study Area buffer has been used.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 9.5.8 The term 'non-designated heritage assets', is used in both national and local planning policy to refer to heritage assets, defined as 'elements of the historic environment that hold value to this and future generations because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest' (Ref 9.5), which are not designated but are identified by the Local Planning Authority. These are included in the assessment, where identified to date, and it is anticipated that more will be included in the ES following the Stage 2 Consultation. In order to ensure a robust assessment of potential effects is undertaken, professional judgement and experience has been used to identify aspects of the historic environment which could, potentially, be considered as non-designated heritage assets by the Local Planning Authority. These are referred to as 'potential non-designated heritage assets' and comprise features identified from the sources listed in paragraph 9.5.12. These are considered as non-designated heritage assets for the purposes of the assessment.
- 9.5.9 The cultural heritage assessment uses a Study Area buffer of 1 km from the draft Order Limits for the identification of potential non-designated heritage assets. This is considered sufficient to provide a contextual baseline of known heritage assets and to inform on the likelihood of encountering previously unknown archaeology within the draft Order Limits. It also considers the likelihood of impacts to the setting of non-designated heritage assets, considering the character of the surrounding landscape and the asset types.
- 9.5.10 EN-1 allows for the potential that there are non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that could be of demonstrably equivalent significance to scheduled monuments or protected wreck (Ref 9.19, paragraph 5.9.8). These non-designated heritage assets could, theoretically, be impacted by the Project by change in their setting at a distance greater than 1 km. However, in practice, the setting of buried archaeological remains rarely contributes enough to the sum of their interest (which is what makes up their value) such that significant effects would arise from a development of this type at distances of more than 1 km. Based on professional judgement and experience it is considered that, as the potential for non-designated heritage assets to be of equivalent value to a scheduled monument or

protected wreck is relatively low, and that significant adverse effects would still be relatively unlikely, a 1 km Study Area is proportionate.

- 9.5.11 Non-designated heritage assets located within 1 km of the draft Order Limits included for the roadway improvement areas at Colsterworth (junction of the A1 and A151 and Bourne Road, in Section 2: South Kesteven District) and Six Hills (junction of the A46 and B676, in Section 3: Melton Borough) have been excluded from this assessment. This is because it is assumed that proposed road improvement works would be limited to the extent of the existing footprint of the roadway/junctions.

Table 9.2 Study Area buffers

Range	Included
Draft Order Limits only	All designated heritage assets All non-designated heritage assets
Additional area from the outer edge of the draft Order Limits to 1km	All designated heritage assets All non-designated heritage assets
Additional area from 1 km to 3 km from draft Order Limits	All designated heritage assets
Additional area from 3 km to 5 km from draft Order Limits	Only designated heritage assets of the highest value (scheduled monuments, grade I and II* listed buildings and registered parks and gardens, protected wreck, registered battlefields, and World Heritage Sites)

Data Collection

Desk study

- 9.5.12 The baseline assessment has been informed by a desk study (**Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline Report**), which has drawn on the following key information sources:
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE) data held by Historic England, for designated assets;
 - Historic Environment Record (HER) data held by the Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, and Northamptonshire HERs, including any information regarding locally listed heritage assets where such lists exist;
 - local authority conservation area appraisal and management documents and their mapping;
 - historic landscape characterisation mapping undertaken by local planning authorities;
 - geological mapping and borehole information as held by the British Geological Survey;
 - historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (Groundsure); and
 - Greater Lincolnshire Farmsteads Character Statement (Ref 9.20).

- 9.5.13 Further sources will be added to inform the assessment that will be presented in the ES. These will include:
- Documentary, cartographic and other resources as deposited within local studies libraries, county libraries and archives, including historic OS maps, tithe, estate and other maps, and other relevant primary sources held at the Lincolnshire Archives, the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, and the Northamptonshire Archives.
 - The results, where relevant and available, of heritage assessments and archaeological evaluations undertaken for other projects that cross or fall within the draft Order Limits and surrounding Study Area.
 - Published regional studies and character assessments, e.g. Historic England's Fenland Survey, the Fenland Project published in East Anglian Archaeology, and the Nene Valley: Archaeological and Environmental Synthesis, published by Northamptonshire Archaeology and the University of Exeter.
- 9.5.14 Heritage assets identified through the desk-study are included in **Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteer**.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 9.5.15 The assessment uses the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for initial screening. The ZTV has been developed for **Chapter 6 Landscape** and **Chapter 7 Visual**, but is useful for informing the cultural heritage assessment. The ZTV defines the theoretical visibility of the Project and presents a theoretical zone of visual influence. This may not reflect what is visible on the ground nor can it be used to define the extent of setting of heritage assets, as visibility is only one aspect of setting. It should be noted that the ZTV used for the DES was developed based on an earlier stage in design development. The ES will be informed by the final version of the ZTV.
- 9.5.16 In addition to the Study Area buffer parameters identified above (section 9.5.4 - 9.5.11), a qualitative assessment of the ZTV has been undertaken to identify assets beyond the Study Area which have the potential to be impacted, such as designed landscapes or prehistoric ritual sites. The assessment has considered the value of the asset, the contribution made by its setting and the sensitivity of that setting to change. This staged approach is consistent with current Historic England guidance (Ref 9.11).

Site visits and surveys

- 9.5.17 A walkover survey has been undertaken to assess known heritage assets/sites and their setting and to determine the potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets. This survey focused on the emerging draft Order Limits, including any associated compounds, laydown areas and above ground infrastructure, and will continue to inform design development of the Project. Where the design evolution results in the need for further walkover survey and/or setting assessment surveys, these will be reported as part of the mitigation in the ES.

Further data to be collected to inform the ES

- 9.5.18 In addition to the desk-based assessment and survey described above, the ES will also be informed by the results of additional surveys and investigation. These will comprise:

- aerial photography and LiDAR analysis;
- geophysical surveys;
- geoarchaeological deposit modelling and monitoring (during ground investigation and/or trial trenching); and
- trial trench evaluation.

Impact Assessment Methodology

Value

- 9.5.19 The value of a heritage asset (its heritage significance) is guided by its designation status but is derived also from its heritage interest which may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic (Ref 9.5). Each identified heritage asset has been assigned a value in accordance with the criteria set out in **Table 9.3**.
- 9.5.20 Using professional judgement and the results of consultation, individual nuances are also considered where applicable.
- 9.5.21 An initial assessment of the value of all heritage assets identified as having the potential to be impacted by the Project is included in **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening**.

Table 9.3 Criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets

Value	Description
High	• World Heritage Sites (Cultural); • scheduled monuments; • grade I and II* listed buildings; • registered battlefields; • grade I and II* RPGs; • conservation areas of demonstrable high value; • non-designated heritage assets (archaeological sites, historic buildings, monuments, parks, gardens, or landscapes) or Grade II listed buildings, that can be shown to have demonstrable national or international importance; and • well-preserved historic landscape character areas, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth, or other critical factor(s).
Medium	• Grade II listed buildings; • grade II RPGs; • conservation areas; • non-designated heritage assets (archaeological sites, historic buildings, monuments, parks, gardens, or landscapes), or locally listed heritage assets, that can be shown to have demonstrable regional importance; • averagely preserved historic landscape character areas, exhibiting reasonable coherence, time-depth, or other critical factor(s); and • historic townscapes with historic integrity in that the assets that constitute their make-up are clearly legible.

Value	Description
Low	- Non-designated heritage assets (archaeological sites, historic buildings, monuments, parks, gardens, or landscapes), or locally listed heritage assets that can be shown to have demonstrable local importance; - assets whose values are compromised by poor preservation or survival of contextual associations to justify inclusion into a higher grade; and - historic landscape character areas whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations.
Negligible	- Assets identified on national or regional databases, but which have no archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic value; - assets whose values are compromised by poor preservation or survival of contextual associations to justify inclusion into a higher grade; and - landscapes with no or little significant historical merit.

Magnitude

- 9.5.22 Having identified the value of the heritage asset, the level and degree of impact to a heritage asset arising from the Project has been identified. Impacts could arise during construction, operation and maintenance and can be temporary or permanent. Impacts can affect the physical fabric of the asset or result from changes to the contribution made to it by its setting.
- 9.5.23 The level and degree of impact (magnitude) has been assigned with reference to a four-point scale as set out in **Table 9.4**. If no impact on value is identified, no resulting effect has been reported.

Table 9.4 Factors influencing the assessment of magnitude of impact

Magnitude	Description
Large	- Changes such that the heritage value of the asset is totally altered or destroyed; and - comprehensive changes to elements of setting that would result in harm to the asset and an individual's ability to understand and appreciate its heritage significance.
Medium	- Changes such that the heritage value of the asset is significantly altered or modified; and - changes such that the setting of the asset is noticeably different, affecting significance and resulting in changes in our ability to understand and appreciate the heritage value of the asset.
Small	- Changes such that the heritage value of the asset is slightly affected; and - changes to the setting that have a slight impact on significance resulting in changes in our ability to understand and appreciate the heritage value of the asset.
Negligible	Changes to the asset that hardly affect heritage value; and

Magnitude	Description
	changes to the setting of an asset that have little effect on significance and cause no real change in an individual's ability to understand and appreciate the heritage value of the asset.

Significance of effects

- 9.5.24 An assessment to classify the effect, having taken into consideration any design, standard and additional mitigation, has been determined using the matrix in **Table 9.5**, which takes into account the value of the asset (**Table 9.3**) and the magnitude of impact (**Table 9.4**). Effects can be neutral, adverse or beneficial. The matrix in **Table 9.5** has been adapted from DMRB LA 104 (Ref 9.17). Where the assessment results in two possible effects, such as 'major or moderate' and 'minor or negligible', professional judgement and experience is used to determine the most appropriate single effect.

Table 9.5 Criteria for determining significance of effect

Magnitude of Impact					
Value		Large	Medium	Small	Negligible
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor or negligible
	Medium	Major or moderate	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
	Negligible	Minor or negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

- 9.5.25 Major and moderate effects are typically assessed as significant, whilst minor and negligible effects are assessed as not significant. Professional judgement has been applied in reaching conclusions as to the significance of effects.
- 9.5.26 The NPPF (Ref 9.1) establishes the principle that impacts affecting the value of heritage assets are considered in terms of harm and there is a requirement for the decision maker to determine whether the level of harm amounts to 'substantial harm' or 'less than substantial harm'.
- 9.5.27 Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 9.19) maintains the concept of harm to the value of heritage assets within paragraph 5.9.29 directing the Secretary of State to give considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving all heritage assets. Any harm or loss of value (heritage significance) of a designated heritage asset (including as a result of development within its setting) should require clear and convincing justification (see section 9.2 of this chapter).
- 9.5.28 Whether a proposal would result in harm, be it substantial harm or less than substantial harm, is determined by the decision maker who, in this case, is the Secretary of State. Although not specifically stated in NPS EN-1, this approach is established in the Planning Practice Guidance (Ref 9.9, paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 18a-018-20190723), which accompanies the NPPF.

- 9.5.29 There is no prescribed relationship between the ‘significance of effect’ in EIA terms and the level of harm to heritage significance. However, a major (significant) effect on a heritage asset would more often provide the basis for a decision-maker to determine the level of harm to be substantial. A moderate (significant) effect or lower is unlikely to meet the test of substantial harm and would therefore more often support a conclusion of ‘less than substantial harm’.
- 9.5.30 NPS EN-1 provides the test that substantial harm to heritage assets of the highest significance should require wholly exceptional justification (paragraph 5.9.31) and exceptional justification is needed for substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building or grade II RPG (paragraph 5.9.30). However, EN-1 (paragraph 4.2.30) also states that the Secretary of State will take as a starting point that schemes such as the Project, which are considered to be Critical National Priority (CNP) for low carbon infrastructure (see **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context**), will meet the test of exceptional or wholly exceptional justification.

Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

- 9.5.31 The assessment has been undertaken based on preliminary Project design information and survey data gathered before the completion of the DES. Results of surveys, including aerial photograph and LiDAR analysis, geophysical survey, trial trenching, and geoarchaeological monitoring and analysis will continue to be collected, analysed and updated. The results will then be considered as the design evolves and any changes are made. They will be reported on in the ES.
- 9.5.32 At this preliminary stage, a number of assumptions have informed the assessment, including the following:
- There will be no physical impacts on any designated heritage assets.
 - Where there are buildings identified as potential non-designated heritage assets, it is assumed that they will not be physically impacted if they are in use.
 - At this preliminary assessment stage it has been assumed that heritage assets within the draft Order Limits, such as buried archaeological remains or earthworks, have the potential to be removed. This typically results in a permanent large adverse magnitude of impact where a receptor is located wholly within the draft Order Limits. This is a worst-case scenario and is likely to be reduced for the ES through the provision of increased detail of the construction requirements and through design mitigation.
 - There will be no direct or indirect physical impacts on heritage assets outside the draft Order Limits. This assumption will be reconsidered for the ES, to confirm whether factors such as dewatering could have an impact.
 - Heritage assets which are not within the ZTV are unlikely to be impacted due to a change in the contribution made to their value by their setting. This will be reconsidered for the ES when noise and vibration changes will be quantified and the assessment verified.
 - For the majority of potential non-designated heritage assets, there is a low likelihood that their setting would make a contribution to their value in such a way that the construction or operation of the Project would result in an impact. On this basis, the setting of non-designated heritage assets has not been considered for buried archaeological remains, artefact scatters or findspots, or for assets which are likely to have a functional association with their setting which the Project

would not affect, providing it is at a distance. This includes some farmsteads, community buildings such as schools, milestones and pumps, among others. This logic is described further in **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening**.

- 9.5.33 There are a number of limitations of the baseline assessment undertaken and reported in this DES:
- The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping was gathered using preliminary Project design information for Section 1, Section 2, and Section 3. Additional mapping will be obtained for these sections where changes to the draft Order Limits have resulted in gaps in coverage (shown in **Figure 9.3: 1st edition Ordnance Survey Mapping**). Any changes to the baseline will be reported and considered in the ES.
 - Geophysical survey and trial trenching is yet to be undertaken but is proposed in 2026. This will be reported and considered in the ES.
 - It is intended that geoarchaeological assessment will be undertaken alongside ground investigation work proposed in 2026 and 2027.
 - Baseline archaeological data cannot identify all potential remains, particularly in areas with deep alluvium such as in Section 1. It is assumed that there will be archaeological remains within the draft Order Limits which are not identified through this assessment process, although the combination of intrusive and non-intrusive investigations has been designed to minimise this. The OWSI, which will be included with the ES, will include procedures for mitigating impacts to any previously unidentified archaeological remains uncovered during construction.
- 9.5.34 These limitations mean that the value of heritage receptors may be presented as a range at this stage (e.g. medium to high). This will allow a worst-case assessment of potential effects to be undertaken which may be reduced for the ES.
- 9.5.35 The key parameters and assumptions will be reviewed at ES stage based on the final Project description and design and, where required, updated, or refined. The ES will present the final key parameters and assumptions used within that assessment, particularly drawing attention to any areas that may have changed from what is presented in this preliminary assessment.

9.6 Baseline Conditions

Existing Baseline

- 9.6.1 The Project has been divided into five Sections as described in **Chapter 4 Description of the Project** and shown in **Figure 1.2 Draft Order Limits**. The Sections are defined by the geographical alignment of the draft Order Limits and the administrative boundaries of the local authorities. The following section outlines the Cultural Heritage baseline considering each Section in turn. For the DES, only a high level summary is provided for Sections 4 and 5 as the proposed reconductoring in these sections is anticipated to have limited impact on heritage assets.

Section 1: South Holland District

- 9.6.2 In Section 1, the geology is composed of bedrock of the Oxford Clay Formation and a superficial geology of tidal flat deposits. Prior to the 17th century, much of this area

would have been at least seasonally marshy, with settlement and arable agriculture focused on small areas of higher ground. The landscape was transformed between the 17th and 19th centuries through large-scale drainage, with the wetland fen becoming intensively farmed arable land. The built heritage of the area is reflected in this history, with older nucleated settlement focused on higher ground, often aligned with historic drove roads and the fen edge, with isolated post-medieval farmsteads spread across the drained former fen.

- 9.6.3 There is the potential for archaeological remains throughout the draft Order Limits of Section 1. Identified sites and features include evidence dating back to the Iron Age and records from further afield indicate that earlier prehistoric remains may also survive under thick layers of alluvium. The draft Order Limits avoid the modern settlements along the route, so the land within it is mostly fields with the occasional isolated farmstead. As the settlement pattern in the area has remained largely unchanged since the early medieval period, this means that settlement evidence from the last 1,000 years is likely to be limited within the draft Order Limits. However, there is clear evidence from artefact scatters of possible Roman or early medieval settlement, especially in the western part of Section 1 which would have been on the fen edge. There are also likely to be remains of salt working, drainage and agriculture across the area.
- 9.6.4 Previously unidentified archaeological remains within the draft Order Limits could include archaeological remains and paleoenvironmental deposits, some of which may be waterlogged, which would potentially have allowed the preservation of organic remains, particularly within peaty soils.
- 9.6.5 Designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits and out to 3 km and 5 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 1 are summarised in **Table 9.6**. Potential non-designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits and out to 1 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 1 are summarised by broad type in **Table 9.7**. Those within the draft Order Limits are described briefly.

Table 9.6 Designated heritage assets (Section 1)

Designation	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 3 km	Number of Assets from 3 km out to 5 km
Scheduled monument	None identified.	Seven - three medieval moated sites, a medieval churchyard cross, a likely early medieval boundary stone, a medieval chapel, and a post-medieval pumping engine	Two – a Roman settlement site and a medieval moated site
Registered parks and gardens	None identified	None identified	None identified (in line with paragraphs 9.5.6 - 9.5.7)
Grade I listed buildings	None identified	Four – three churches and a chapel, all of medieval origin	Six – four churches, a hall, and a war memorial

Designation	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 3 km	Number of Assets from 3 km out to 5 km
Grade II* listed buildings	None identified	Two – one vicarage and a hall, both dating to the post-medieval period	22 – houses, halls, lodges, a hotel, and old office block, a school, and a constitutional club, mostly of post-medieval date
Grade II listed buildings	None identified	57 – comprising houses, farmsteads and agricultural buildings, war memorials, public houses, ecclesiastical buildings and churchyard memorials, mills, milestones, and telephone kiosks. Also, the Pinchbeck engine draining pump and the Elloe Stone, which are also scheduled monuments	Not applicable
Conservation areas	None identified	One - Pinchbeck	Not applicable

Table 9.7 Potential non-designated heritage assets (Section 1)

Asset Type	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 1 km
Buried remains (indicated by cropmarks or geophysics, or excavated features not identifiably part of another category)	1 – undated cropmarks of enclosures and possible former watercourses	26
Earthworks	1 – possible medieval dike	1
Saltern sites	1 – substantial remains identified through geophysics and trial trenching	6
Settlement/occupation features	4 – one Romano-British and three early medieval sites indicated by artefact scatters and cropmarks	21
Deserted medieval village	None identified	None identified
Moated sites	None identified	1
Ridge and furrow	None identified	None identified
Parkland	None identified	None identified
Buildings (extant)	4 – all 19th century farmsteads	57
Buildings (demolished)	2 – both sites of former farmsteads	11
Military	None identified	None identified
Transport infrastructure (roads, droveways, railways, canals)	None identified	1
Former watercourses	1 – cropmarks interpreted as former watercourses	None identified
Ecclesiastical	None identified	3
Industrial	None identified	2
Find spots/artefact scatters	None identified	19
Woodland/former woodland	None identified	None identified

Section 2: South Kesteven District

- 9.6.6 In Section 2, the geology changes from the Oxford Clay and tidal deposits it shares with the fens in Section 1, through an area of limestone hills known as the Kesteven Uplands. Here, formations such as the Lincolnshire Limestone and Northampton Sand are overlain by areas of glacial till and, in the river valleys, alluvium deposits. In the eastern part of Section 2, the transformation from wetland fenland to intensively farmed arable land is marked by large-scale drainage and enclosure during the 18th and 19th centuries. These changes led to the emergence of isolated farmsteads and nucleated villages, often aligned with historic drove roads and fen edges. The fen margin and Kesteven Uplands areas, which make up the majority of Section 2, also have long-standing settlement patterns. Many villages have likely early medieval or medieval origins, while parliamentary enclosure and the laying out of formal landscape parks and estates influenced the landscape in the post-medieval period.
- 9.6.7 There is the potential for archaeological remains throughout the draft Order Limits of Section 2. The eastern part of Section 2 is in the low-lying drained fenlands which are also found in Section 1. The archaeological potential in this part of Section 2 is high, with multiple known sites in the vicinity including salterns of Roman through medieval date, and evidence of Roman settlement through combined cropmark and findspot evidence. In the fens, there are likely to be deep and potentially waterlogged soils, where there may be preservation of organic archaeological remains. The fen margins extend in a narrow north–south band along the eastern face of the limestone Kesteven uplands. This area has numerous settlements dating back to at least the medieval period and there are known archaeological sites including cropmarks of prehistoric field systems, ring ditches (which could indicate burial or settlement), and Roman settlement.
- 9.6.8 The Roman Car Dyke is crossed by the draft Order Limits in this area, and there could be evidence of its construction, as well as prehistoric and Roman settlement in its vicinity. The village of Haconby, which has early medieval origins, is immediately south of the draft Order Limits and there is the potential for remains of this date around it. The remainder of Section 2 is within the wooded slopes and valley of the Lincolnshire limestone hills. Across this area there is evidence of settlement of all periods indicated through cropmarks and earthworks. Throughout Section 2, within the draft Order Limits, there is evidence of settlement, agriculture, industry and ritual activity from the prehistoric to the present.
- 9.6.9 Designated heritage assets within the draft Order limits and out to 3 km and 5 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 2 are summarised in **Table 9.8**. Potential non-designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits and out to 1 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 2 are summarised by broad type in **Table 9.9**. Those within the draft Order Limits are briefly described.

Table 9.8 Designated heritage assets (Section 2)

Designation	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 3 km	Number of Assets from 3 km out to 5 km
Scheduled monument	None identified	15 – moated manorial sites, a possible medieval castle motte, churchyard and market crosses, a Knights Templar preceptory, and two Roman settlements	6 – medieval castles and defences, stretches of Roman dyke, and a post-medieval decoy pond
Registered parks and gardens	None identified	2 – the 1,000-acre grade I designated Grimsthorpe Castle parkland and the grade II Easton Park. Both are considered as groups with their associated listed buildings	1 – the grade II* Stoke Rochford Hall (in line with paragraphs 9.5.6 - 9.5.7)
Grade I listed buildings	None identified	21 – mostly medieval churches, as well as high status houses, Grimsthorpe Castle and a former school	15 – mostly medieval and post-medieval churches, as well as a post-medieval manor and garden features associated with Stoke Rochford Hall; also a fragment of Early Medieval cross
Grade II* listed buildings	None identified	9 – 17th century buildings, garden features of Grimsthorpe Castle, and churches	8 – post-medieval manors, houses, and halls, garden features associated with Stoke Rochford Hall, and a church
Grade II listed buildings	2 – Round House Farm (NHLE: 1062819) and Milestone near Norwood Farm (NHLE: 1147109)	296 – post-medieval houses, farmhouses, barns, public houses, milestones, telephone boxes, chapels, and war memorials	NA
Conservation areas	None identified	8 – Morton, Dunsby, Irnham, Swinstead, Burton-le-Coggles, Corby Glen, South Witham, and Woolsthorpe by Colsterworth	NA

Table 9.9 Potential non-designated heritage assets (Section 2)

Asset Type	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 1 km
Buried remains (indicated by cropmarks or geophysics, or excavated features not identifiably part of another category)	8 – mixture of prehistoric and medieval cropmarks and earthworks including a possible barrow and a ring ditch	54
Earthworks	2 – a pillow mound of medieval or post-medieval date and earthwork and cropmark remains of late medieval buildings and enclosures	3
Saltern sites	6 – sites of prehistoric and Roman date	15
Settlement/occupation features	9 – one Iron Age settlement site, six Roman/Romano-British settlement sites, and two Early Medieval settlements	34
Deserted medieval village	2 – Deserted Medieval Village of Southorpe and Deserted Medieval Village of Elsthorpe	5
Moated sites	None identified	7
Ridge and furrow	4 – in fields around Corby Glen	29
Parkland	2 – Birkholme Lodge park and Bulby Hall park, both shown on Figure 9.3: 1st edition Ordnance Survey Mapping	3
Buildings (extant)	2 – an unnamed farmstead at Corby Glen and Todd's Lodge – a farmstead at Colsterworth	70
Buildings (demolished)	None identified	16
Military	4 – one crash site (of an Avro Lancaster) and an airfield, pillbox and searchlight battery site all dating to the Second World War	4
Transport infrastructure (roads, droveways, railways, canals)	3 – comprising two Roman roads and a Roman canal	3
Former watercourses	None identified	1
Ecclesiastical	None identified	10

Asset Type	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 1 km
Industrial	None identified	9
Find spots/artefact scatters	7 – comprising Neolithic, Roman, medieval and post-medieval artefacts	91
Woodland/former woodland	4 – Herricho Wood, Great Osgrove or Long Wood, Dunsby Wood, and Norwood, Little Norwood, Great Wesst and Little West Woods	18

Section 3: Melton Borough

- 9.6.10 In Section 3 the geology changes from the Lincolnshire Limestones and mudstones of the Dyrham Formation at its eastern end, through sandstone and mudstone formations which underlie the rolling Wolds that characterise the landscape as far as the proposed WMEL-B location north of Melton Mowbray. South from here, the bedrocks are part of the Blue Lias Formation. Glacial till deposits overlie the bedrock, with smaller areas of head (clay, silt and gravel) and alluvium. The historic landscape of this section has been shaped by enclosure and agricultural intensification, which often obscures traces of medieval and early post-medieval hunting landscapes, now hinted at by surviving woodland parcels. Settlement is mostly in small, nucleated and linear villages with discernible historic cores and vernacular architecture, surrounded by fields which reflect piecemeal enclosure from the late 16th century and formal parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 9.6.11 With the exception of areas of historic gravel, coal or ironstone extraction, there is the potential for archaeological remains across the majority of land within the draft Order Limits, as there has been limited historical development in these areas. There is evidence of human activity within the Study Area from the Mesolithic period onwards, particularly in the Wreake valley, where reconductoring of the existing overhead line is proposed. Elsewhere within the Study Area, major routeways likely influenced settlement through history, with both east–west movement along the Wreake Valley and the Leicestershire uplands to the south, and north–south following the alignment of the prehistoric Jurassic Way and later Roman Great North Road (now the A1) associated with evidence of settlement and burial activity along them. This includes the evidence of a substantial Roman town at Kirby Bellars which appears to have had continued occupation into the early medieval period. Within the draft Order Limits there is evidence of a possible early medieval settlement to the north of Melton Mowbray, as well as earthwork remains of medieval fishponds, ridge and furrow earthworks at Buckminster and Garthorpe, and a deserted medieval village near Saxelbye. Post-medieval features within the draft Order Limits include the earthwork remains of dismantled railway lines and the site of a windmill. Part of the First World War Scalford Airfield is also within the draft Order Limits. This was a grass landing field and there are no surviving buildings associated with it, but archaeological remains could be of interest.
- 9.6.12 Designated heritage assets within the draft Order limits and out to 3 km and 5 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 3 are summarised in **Table 9.10**. Potential non-designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits and out to 1 km from the draft Order Limits at Section 3 are summarised by broad type in **Table 9.11**. Those within the draft Order Limits are briefly described.

Table 9.10 Designated heritage assets (Section 3)

Designation	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 3 km	Number of Assets from 3 km out to 5 km
Scheduled monument	None identified	14 – several moated manorial sites, village and churchyard crosses, granges, a deserted medieval village, earthwork remains of a preceptory of the Knights Templar and Hospitaller, and a Norman castle motte	14 – mostly medieval moated sites, monastic granges, crosses (village, wayside, and churchyard), an abbey, and hospital complex
Registered parks and gardens	None identified	1 – grade II Stapleford Hall, considered as a group with its associated listed buildings	None identified (in line with paragraph 9.5.6 - 9.5.7)
Grade I listed buildings	None identified	17 – comprising medieval churches and Stapleford Hall	4 – all churches with medieval or Early Medieval origins
Grade II* listed buildings	None identified	30 – mostly churches and associated features, but also several high-status medieval and post-medieval houses and a stable range, shops, and a windmill	13 – mostly churches but also several high-status houses and halls
Grade II listed buildings	None identified	375 – including churches, NA bridges, houses, a windmill, wayside cross, milestones, telephone kiosks, farmhouses, pubs, agricultural buildings, a water pump, bandstand and war memorials	
Conservation areas	None identified	25 – majority of town and village cores	NA

Table 9.11 Potential non-designated heritage assets (Section 3)

Asset Type	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 1 km
Buried remains (indicated by cropmarks)	8 – including a Bronze Age metalworking site, possible Bronze	82

Asset Type	Number of Assets within Draft Order Limits	Number of Assets from Draft Order Limits out to 1 km
or geophysics, or excavated features not identifiably part of another category)	Age barrow, possible prehistoric site, a possible Iron Age site, a Roman site, early medieval cemetery and possible settlement sites, and the site of a post-medieval windmill	
Earthworks	4 – two fishponds, a post-medieval post mill and earthworks of a house platform and possible mill	18
Saltern sites	None identified	None identified
Settlement/occupation features	3 – Iron Age/Roman site south of Kirby Bellars and near Scalford, and the historic settlement core of Saxelbye	30
Deserted medieval village	2 – Welby Deserted Settlement and Welby Deserted Medieval Village	13
Moated sites	None identified	3
Ridge and furrow	40 – Comprising 33 confirmed areas and 7 potential areas often in fields around hamlets and villages	135. Of these, 26 are areas of potential ridge and furrow
Parkland	None identified	1
Buildings (extant)	None identified	67. Of these, 27 are locally listed buildings
Buildings (demolished)	1 – Former Welby Lodge	13
Military	1 – Scalford Airfield	8
Transport infrastructure (roads, droveways, railways, canals)	14 – prehistoric and Roman roads, post-medieval turnpikes, railways, and canals	14
Former watercourses	None identified	None identified
Ecclesiastical	None identified	15
Industrial	2 – an ironstone quarry and the site of Asfordby Coal Mine	8
Find spots/artefact scatters	7 – including a Bronze Age flint, later prehistoric quern, four early medieval findspots/scatters and medieval and post-medieval pottery	91
Woodland/former woodland	None identified	None identified

Section 4: Harborough District

- 9.6.13 In Section 4 the geology is made up of a series of mudstone formations which were used as building stone and as a source of iron ore. These are overlaid by glacial till deposits and, on higher ground, glaciofluvial deposits and colluvium. The historic landscape of this section reflects its upland topography, with evidence of Iron Age hillforts and deserted medieval villages found amongst extensive areas of post-medieval pastoral fields and farms, as well as ancient woodland and large post-medieval estate landscapes.
- 9.6.14 Settlements are almost exclusively small nucleated villages, often with a surviving medieval street plan.
- 9.6.15 There are no designated heritage assets within the draft Order Limits.
- 9.6.16 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4 there are:
- seven scheduled monuments;
 - 97 listed buildings, of which two are grade I, nine are grade II*, and 86 are grade II; and
 - one grade II registered park and garden.
- 9.6.17 Four conservation areas are also located entirely or partially within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4.
- 9.6.18 Within 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 4 there are a further eight scheduled monuments, four grade I, 21 grade II*, and 235 grade II listed buildings, and three grade II registered parks and gardens. There are also another nine conservation areas.
- 9.6.19 There are a further 16 scheduled monuments, two grade I, and 15 grade II* listed buildings within 5 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9.6.20 There are 27 non-designated heritage assets entirely or partially located within the draft Order Limits at Section 4, with a further 286 (including two locally listed buildings) recorded throughout the 1 km Study Area.

Section 5: Northamptonshire (including both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary areas)

- 9.6.21 In Section 5 the geology is more varied than in other sections, reflecting the extent of the area included in the section. The most extensive bedrocks are mudstones, ironstones and siltstones, with smaller areas of limestone and sandstone. Many of the bedrock stones have been used as building stone in the area historically, notably the Kingsthorpe White Sandstone which was used in a large number of prestigious buildings in Northampton, while limestone and sandstones are used in rubble walls of buildings in the villages across the area. Superficial deposits are predominantly glaciofluvial deposits, with river terrace deposits and alluvium along the major rivers of the Rivers Welland, Ise and Nene and their tributaries. The section is within the Northamptonshire Vales National Character Area, more lowland than the uplands in Section 4, and historically it has seen considerable density of historic settlement.
- 9.6.22 There is one designated heritage asset within the draft Order Limits at Section 5: Doddington Barn (NHLE: 1293977), a grade II listed building.
- 9.6.23 Within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5 there are:
- four scheduled monuments;

- 135 listed buildings, of which three are grade I, 19 are grade II*, and 113 are grade II; and
- two registered park and gardens, one grade I and one grade II*.

- 9.6.24 There are also 10 conservation areas are also located entirely or partially within 1 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9.6.25 Within 3 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5 there are a further 10 scheduled monuments, 11 grade I, 21 grade II*, 353 grade II listed buildings, and one grade II* registered park and gardens. There are also another 10 conservation areas.
- 9.6.26 There are a further 11 scheduled monuments, 13 grade I, and 25 grade II* listed buildings within 5 km of the draft Order Limits at Section 5.
- 9.6.27 There are 98 non-designated heritage assets entirely or partially within the draft Order Limits at Section 5, with a further 1,652 recorded throughout the 1 km Study Area.

Future Baseline

- 9.6.28 The future baseline relates to known or anticipated changes to the current baseline, in the future, in the absence of the Project. Relevant factors in defining the future baseline and considered in this DES are described here.
- 9.6.29 The future baseline of heritage assets in the draft Order Limits and Study Area would be expected to remain in the same condition as at present without the implementation of the Project at the time the Project comes into operation. Assuming there are no changes in land use, then the condition of any buried archaeological remains could stay as currently for an indefinite period within areas of pasture. Within arable fields, it is possible that they may suffer a slow deterioration, given the effects of periodic deep-ploughing regimes. Equally, features of the historic landscape would remain in their current condition if there were no changes in land use or management regime. In the case of historic buildings, they would be more susceptible to slow deterioration in their condition, without regular maintenance. However, if they were maintained then they too would be expected to remain in their current condition for an indefinite period.
- 9.6.30 A considerable factor for the continued preservation of buried archaeological remains is climate change. Changing weather conditions, particularly those that alter groundwater conditions such as drought and/or increased rainfall, could lead to the loss of anaerobically preserved organic remains, and extreme events such as wildfire or flooding can lead to considerable erosion of surface level deposits. While many types of archaeological remains, such as stone and brick walls and inorganic artefacts, would be resilient to these changes, others could see accelerated deterioration from the baseline over the next 50-100 years.
- 9.6.31 However, this assessment has been undertaken on a precautionary basis and there are no anticipated changes to the baseline data that would materially alter the assessment.

9.7 Design, Standard, and Additional Mitigation Measures

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

Design Measures

- 9.7.2 The Project and draft Order Limits have been designed to avoid sensitive receptors as far as practicable. This is in accordance with the 'Holford Rules' (Ref 9.21) applicable to routing of new overhead lines, and the 'Horlock Rules' (Ref 9.22) which apply to the design and siting of substations. Physical impacts to designated heritage assets have been avoided through the design. Further, route selection considered key views, particularly from designed historic landscapes. A full discussion of the route selection process is included in **Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered** and **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. Ongoing design evolution will continue to consider cultural heritage and will be reported in the ES.
- 9.7.3 There are three listed building within the draft Order Limits. Two are located within Section 2 and include the milestone near Norwood Farm (NHLE: 1147109) and Round House Farm, south-west of Corby Glen (NHLE: 1062819). It is anticipated that these will be excluded from the Order Limits when reported at the ES. The third is Doddington Barn (NHLE: 1293977), a grade II listed building, which is in Section 5. This is adjacent to the existing overhead transmission line and appears to be in ruins from aerial imagery. At DES, the construction requirements for the reconductoring have not yet been fully established, but will consider cultural heritage and will be reported in the ES.

Standard Measures

- 9.7.4 Standard measures are those that would be implemented on a project of this scale and nature regardless of being subject to statutory assessment. As such, it can be assumed these measures will be applied in the assessment.
- 9.7.5 A range of standard measures for the Project will be adopted throughout the duration of the construction phase. A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) is provided in **Appendix 4A Draft Outline CoCP**. Measures relevant to the control and management of impacts that could affect Cultural Heritage are as follows (refer to **Appendix 4A** for the full description of each measure):
- GG04 – on the appointment of Environmental Managers and Environmental Clerks of Works during construction.
 - GG05 – on environmental training provision for construction workers, including the location and protection of sensitive environmental sites and features.
 - GG07 – on the Environmental Control Plans which will be prepared, including Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), OWSI.
 - GG09 – on reinstatement of land to pre-construction condition following temporary works, where practicable.
 - GG010 – on appropriate protective areas to be established where retaining sensitive features such as ancient woodland within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits. The protective areas will be shown on the Retention and Reinstatement Plans contained within the LEMP.
 - GG25 – on the use of temporary work pads of suitable materials (stone, wooden, bog mats or similar) where heavy equipment is to be used.

Additional Mitigation Measures

- 9.7.6 Additional mitigation measures are those identified through assessment to reduce likely significant adverse environmental effects which may still occur despite the inclusion of the embedded design and standard measures described above.
- 9.7.7 For cultural heritage, additional mitigation measures will likely take the form of archaeological excavation and recording. This will be specified through the OWSI to be provided with the ES.

9.8 Preliminary Assessment of Effects

- 9.8.1 A summary of potential impacts and mitigation measures identified in this preliminary assessment, and likely significance of the resulting effect with that mitigation in place, is provided in **Table 9.12**. Where appropriate for likely significant or notable effects, further explanation is provided in the following sections on construction, and operation and maintenance effects.
- 9.8.2 Only receptors identified in **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening** as having the potential to be significantly affected by the Project (prior to the application of any mitigation) have been included in the assessment presented in this chapter. The screening assessment of all receptors in the baseline can be found in **Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening**.

Overview

Construction

Designated and non-designated heritage assets beyond the draft Order Limits

- 9.8.3 The construction of the Project will include a number of activities which will potentially impact heritage assets beyond the draft Order Limits, through temporary change to their setting. This includes the sight and sound of construction vehicles and activity, temporary construction compounds and access, lighting, dust, and noise and vibration relating to construction traffic. At this stage, the extent and character of these impacts is not known. These will be explored and assessed in the ES. However, these impacts are unlikely, in the majority of cases, to result in significant adverse effects due to their temporary nature and the mitigation which will be built in to proposals as good construction practice.

Archaeological remains within the draft Order Limits

- 9.8.4 Archaeological remains have been identified within the draft Order Limits across all sections of the Project, and it is likely that further archaeological remains will also be present. At this stage, in order to present a worst-case scenario, it is assumed that any archaeological remains within the draft Order Limits would be removed during the construction of the Project. As a preliminary assessment, it is assumed that there would be the following magnitudes of impact prior to mitigation:
- large adverse – where all or the majority of an archaeological site is located within the draft Order Limits;

- medium adverse – where approximately half of an archaeological site is located within the draft Order Limits; and
- small adverse – where no more than approximately 20% of an archaeological site is located within the draft Order Limits.

- 9.8.5 Through design evolution, informed by greater clarity on the extent and character of archaeological remains obtained through intrusive and non-intrusive surveys, it is likely that this magnitude, as well as the value of the assets, can be refined. The revised assessment will be presented in the ES.
- 9.8.6 The OWSI, which will be included with the ES, will present details of additional mitigation specific to individual assets. This will include archaeological excavation and recording, alongside proportionate reporting, dissemination and archiving of these remains. Despite this mitigation, there would still be a permanent adverse magnitude of impact on affected remains as the creation of a record can only partially reduce the loss of their heritage significance (i.e. their archaeological, historical, architectural and artistic interest). At this stage, a generalised assumption has been made that mitigation will reduce a large magnitude of impact to medium, but medium and small magnitude of impact will likely remain unchanged in line with the descriptions in **Table 9.4**.
- 9.8.7 Overall, there is the potential for significant adverse effects on archaeological remains to arise as a result of the construction of the Project. Those assets identified as experiencing potentially significant effects are described for each section below.

Non-designated buildings and parkland within the draft Order Limits

- 9.8.8 Construction also has the potential to impact non-designated buildings and parkland, although a general assumption has been made that demolition of occupied buildings will be avoided for the construction of the overhead line. However, for non-occupied buildings and parkland, or where a building is located within the proposed Siting Area for one of the substations, it has been assumed at this preliminary assessment stage that it will be demolished/removed. This means that magnitude of impact has been assessed as follows:
- no change – occupied buildings within draft Order Limits, excluding those within substation siting areas, although they may be impacted through change(s) to setting, which will be considered if assets are of a type to be sensitive to such changes;
 - large adverse – non-occupied buildings, or occupied buildings within substation siting areas; and
 - small to large adverse – non-designated parklands, depending on the extent of parkland within draft Order Limits; they may also be impacted by change(s) to setting.
- 9.8.9 Mitigation, such as building recording, will be developed as appropriate, but this is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact below large adverse in the case of demolition.

Operation and maintenance

- 9.8.10 There is the potential for impacts arising from both the presence of the Project in the landscape, specifically the two new substations WMEL-A and WMEL-B, and the new overhead line between Section 1 and Section 3.
- 9.8.11 Access to and between heritage assets/historic settlements may be impacted, particularly at the two substation sites. It is assumed that any disruption to existing Public Rights of Way will be mitigated, but this will be considered and assessed for implications for cultural heritage in the ES.
- 9.8.12 There may also be impacts from maintenance activities, such as the visual presence of temporary works and traffic. The potential impacts of these will be considered as part of the ES.

Section 1: South Holland District

Construction

Temporary effects

- 9.8.13 At this stage, no potential significant effects have been identified from the change to the setting of heritage assets from temporary construction activities. This will be reconsidered for the ES when more detail, including traffic modelling, is available to inform assessment.

Permanent effects

- 9.8.14 Potential permanent effects arising from construction works have been identified. These all relate to physical impacts to potential non-designated heritage assets:
- Roman settlement remains (MLI20145) – site identified from spreads of Roman pottery in the ploughsoil. Asset of medium to high value. Remains would be removed or truncated resulting in a (worst-case) medium adverse magnitude of impact, as only part of the site is within the draft Order Limits. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse** effect, which is significant.
 - Saxon settlement (MLI20193) – potential buried remains indicated by a spread of pottery, animal bone and slag, which indicates metalworking. Medium to high value. Remains would be removed or truncated resulting in a (worst-case) medium adverse magnitude of impact. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse**, which is significant.
 - Saxon settlement (MLI20208) – potential buried remains indicated by a spread of pottery, animal bone, shell, quernstone fragments and fired clay. Medium to high value. Remains would be removed or truncated resulting in a (worst-case) medium adverse magnitude of impact. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse** effect, which is significant.

- Romano-British cropmarks (MLI20218) – a series of enclosure boundaries and drove roads associated with Iron Age and Roman pottery. Medium to high value. Remains would be removed or truncated resulting in a (worst-case) medium adverse magnitude of impact, reflecting the fact that only part of the site is within the draft Order Limits. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse** effect, which is significant.
- Medieval saltern remains (MLI23633) – extensive remains of medieval salt working industry identified through geophysics and trial trenching. Medium to high value. As only part of the remains are within the draft Order Limits, the localised removal or truncation of remains would result in a medium adverse magnitude of impact. With the application of mitigation, such as archaeological excavation, this would be reduced to small adverse. Depending on the value of the remains, construction would result in a permanent **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant, or a permanent **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.

Operation and maintenance

9.8.15 Potential significant adverse effects from the operation and maintenance of the Project have been identified for one scheduled monument and two grade I listed buildings.

- Moated site of Newhall Grange (NHLE: 1009981). Earthworks and archaeological remains of a monastic grange farmstead, independent of the secular manorial system, used to provide food and raw materials for the parent monastic house. The site includes a moat and associated earthworks reflecting medieval agricultural practices, and has archaeological and historic interest through its remains and their potential to provide evidence of medieval monastic systems and farming. The moated site occupies a large field adjacent to a north–south road and has open views across the fenland landscape, with distant views west to the fen-edge escarpment. It forms part of a series of moated sites in the area; the nearest, with which this asset may have historically been intervisible, is at Rigbolt House. The proposed overhead line and associated towers would be highly visible from the asset and would also be apparent in views towards the asset from the north (although, in practice, the site is conspicuous only at close range). The key contribution to significance made by the asset's setting relates to visual and functional relationships with other moated sites and nearby villages. While the surrounding agricultural landscape has altered substantially since the site's establishment – particularly following large-scale drainage from the 17th century onwards – the proposal would not interrupt these principal relationships. The introduction of a new, modern industrial element would therefore result in a small adverse magnitude of impact. As a high value asset, this would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.
- Church of St Lawrence, Surfleet (NHLE: 1064403). The parish church of Surfleet is the grade I listed Church of St Lawrence, which originated in the 13th century and includes a notably leaning tower (approximately 6ft of difference between base and top). It is a grand church, both in terms of scale and the richness of its stonework and it has a commanding presence not just within the village but also the surrounding fenland fields, within which it is one of the only landmark features. The church has architectural and artistic and historic interest as a finely decorated fenland church, its grandeur representing the historic wealth and population of what is now a very rural area of the country. It also has some specific artistic and

historic interest as one of the many Lincolnshire churches photographed by John Piper for the Shell Guide to Lincolnshire. As a subject of Piper's it forms part of the architectural tapestry of rural Britain he created through the guides and his wider work. The church also has archaeological interest, both for the centuries of burial within the church and within its churchyard, and for the potential for remains of earlier phases of building on the site. However, views towards the Project from the asset are entirely screened by intervening tree cover afforded within the village immediately to the south. The church spire remains visible at long range across the fenland landscape and may lose a degree of its visual dominance with the introduction of towers in the vicinity. This would result in a small adverse magnitude of impact. As a high value asset, this would result in a **moderate adverse**, which is significant.

- Church of St Mary, Pinchbeck (NHLE: 1064433). The Church of St Mary, Pinchbeck, is a large parish church of complex medieval development, originating in the 12th century and substantially enlarged and remodelled between the 13th and 15th centuries, with later 19th-century restoration and rebuilding by Butterfield. Constructed in ashlar with lead and slate roofs, it comprises a prominent west tower, clerestoried nave with aisles, chancel, north chapel and south porch. The imposing 14th-century tower features rich perpendicular detailing, while the exterior is notable for extensive embattled parapets, large traceried windows and ornate doorways, particularly the elaborate west entrance and south porch. Internally, the church retains tall 13th-century arcades, a fine 15th-century timber roof, surviving medieval glass, and later Victorian stained glass by O'Connor. Significant fittings include a 14th-century octagonal font, a restored 15th-century screen, and a series of notable monuments ranging from the 17th to early 18th centuries, reflecting the building's long architectural and liturgical history. It has architectural and artistic interest through the qualities of its medieval design and later modifications. Its 12th century origins are notable in terms of its historic interest, reflecting a population in Pinchbeck of sufficient size and wealth to support it. Today, Pinchbeck could appear more of a suburb of Spalding, but the church illustrates its independent history. It also has archaeological interest through its churchyard and the potential for remains of earlier buildings on the site. As with Surfleet to the north, the church tower is an important landmark and is visible for a long distance across the fenland fields. There are no views from the churchyard towards the Project, as established vegetative screening around the churchyard fully encloses the site and prevents visual connection. At the wider landscape scale, the Project will introduce tall tower structures into the open fenland landscape, within which the church tower is currently visible over long distances. These towers may compete with the dominance of the church tower in views from the surrounding area, affecting the legibility and relative visual dominance of the church tower. This would result in a small adverse magnitude of impact. As a high value asset, this would result in a **moderate adverse**, which is significant.

Section 2: South Kesteven District

- 9.8.16 Due to design development for the proposed overhead line near Corby Glen, which occurred after the collection of baseline setting data, assessment of some heritage assets has been deferred to the ES in order to allow additional setting assessment to be undertaken. As a result, there may be potential impacts from temporary construction activities and/or the presence of the new infrastructure in the landscape during the operation and maintenance of the Project which are not included at this stage. The assets excluded from impact assessment at DES are:

- Scheduled monuments: NHLE: 1005001 (Corby Castle) and NHLE: 1004928 (Corby Glen gatehouse);
- Listed buildings in:
 - Farmland south of Corby Glen: NHLE: 1062819;
 - Corby Glen: NHLE: 1062848, NHLE: 1309158, NHLE: 1062813, NHLE: 1062814, NHLE: 1062815, NHLE: 1062816, NHLE: 1062817, NHLE: 1062849, NHLE: 1062850, NHLE: 1062851, NHLE: 102852, NHLE: 1062853, NHLE: 1165913, NHLE: 1165985, NHLE: 1165992, NHLE: 1166014, NHLE: 1166023, NHLE: 1166038, NHLE: 1166042, NHLE: 1309046, NHLE: 1309127, NHLE: 1309175, NHLE: 1360087, NHLE: 1360088, NHLE: 1360089, NHLE: 1360090, NHLE: 1360108, NHLE: 1360109, NHLE: 1360110, NHLE: 1453151;
 - Creeton: NHLE: 1166154, NHLE: 1062822, NHLE: 1166266;
 - Bitchfield: NHLE: 1062863, NHLE: 1062864;
 - Swinstead: NHLE: 1062789, NHLE: 1062779, NHLE: 1062780, NHLE: 1062781, NHLE: 1062782, NHLE: 1062783, NHLE: 1062784, NHLE: 1062785, NHLE: 1062786, NHLE: 1360128, NHLE: 1062788, NHLE: 1062790, NHLE: 1360094, NHLE: 1147011, NHLE: 1147091, NHLE: 1146996, NHLE: 1147018, NHLE: 1147041, NHLE: 1147081, NHLE: 1147105, NHLE: 1147131, NHLE: 1147122, NHLE: 1360129, NHLE: 1308677, NHLE: 1360130;
 - Swayfield: NHLE: 1360127, NHLE: 1062774, NHLE: 1062775, NHLE: 1062776, NHLE: 1062777, NHLE: 1062778, NHLE: 1146951, NHLE: 1146960, NHLE: 1146969, NHLE: 1146973;
 - Irnham, associated with **Irnham Hall** in the south of the village: NHLE: 1146898, NHLE: 1146902, NHLE: 1308744, NHLE: 1062811, NHLE: 1062812, 1360106); and
 - Little Bytham: NHLE: 1062772.
- non-designated built heritage in Corby Glen: MLI99281, MLI99282, MLI126717, Swinstead: MLI121771, or associated with Irnham Hall (MLI34177); and
- conservation areas: Corby Glen, Swinstead, and Irnham.

9.8.17 Details of these assets can be found in **Appendix 9B: Gazetteers**.

Construction

Temporary effects

- 9.8.18 At this stage, no potential significant effects have been identified from the change to the setting of heritage assets from temporary construction activities. This will be reconsidered for the ES when more detail, including traffic modelling, is available to inform assessment.

Permanent effects

- 9.8.19 Potential permanent effects arising from construction works have been identified. These all relate to physical impacts to potential non-designated heritage assets:

- Romano-British settlement/salern, Dunsby (MLI34394 and MLI34395), identified from two adjacent groupings of pottery and briquetage sherds associated with a faint soilmark. Medium to high value. The two record points are within the draft Order Limits to the south of tower WMEL 49. Although the extent of the scatters is not known, it is likely that only part of the areas would be impacted, which would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact as a worst case, reduced to small through implementation of robust archaeological mitigation strategy. This would result in a permanent **minor** or **moderate adverse** effect, depending on the significance of the buried remains. A **minor adverse** effect is not significant, but a **moderate adverse** effect is significant.
- Romano-British settlement site, Haconby (MLI34426 and MLI34427), identified from two adjacent artefact scatters of Romano-British material by the Car Dyke. Medium to high value. Only one of the scatters is within the draft Order Limits, but it is possible that buried remains associated with the artefact scatter extend beyond the central point. There would not be any physical impact from towers or haul road, but a worst-case of small adverse magnitude of impact is included to allow for greater footprint of work. It is unlikely that mitigation through archaeological excavation would reduce this impact below small adverse, As a result, the worst-case preliminary assessment would be a permanent **minor** or **moderate adverse**. A **minor adverse** effect is not significant, but a **moderate adverse** effect is significant.
- Probable Iron Age Salt working site, Haconby (MLI34430, MLI34432 and MLI34433), identified from cropmarks and surface artefact collection. Artefacts include pottery, briquetage, burnt stone, animal bone, oyster shells and stone rubble. Medium to high value. Remains would be removed or truncated resulting in a (worst-case) medium adverse magnitude of impact. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse**, which is significant.
- Cropmark ring ditch (MLI34734). This is a feature to the west of Corby Glen identified from aerial photographs and possibly indicating the buried remains of a Bronze Age round barrow. Depending on the character and level of survival or archaeological remains, this could be of medium or high value. Although it is intended to design mitigation for this, it is currently within the draft Order Limits to allow for drainage during construction, which could, at worst-case, lead to truncation or removal of the archaeological remains. At worst-case this would be a large adverse magnitude of impact, reduced to medium through implementation of a robust archaeological mitigation strategy. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse**, which is significant.
- Earthwork and buried remains of a deserted medieval village, which are likely to be of high value, located near Elsthorpe (MLI33654). Medium to high value. Construction of a haul road through the central part of the earthworks would result in a medium adverse magnitude of impact. Although a robust mitigation strategy would prevent complete loss of archaeological evidence, it is unlikely to reduce the magnitude of impact to less than medium. This would result in a permanent **moderate or major adverse**, which is significant.

Operation and maintenance

9.8.20 Potential significant adverse effects from the operation and maintenance of the Project have been identified for two groups of heritage assets, three individual listed buildings, and two possible Bronze Age barrows:

- **Grimsthorpe Castle** – a group of heritage assets associated with, and located within, Grimsthorpe Castle registered park and garden (NHLE: 1000978). Grimsthorpe Castle and North Court (NHLE: 1062823) is the principal building of the group. The significance of the group is derived from the Castle and closely related ensemble of ancillary buildings, garden structures and landscape features that together illustrate the historic development, function and status of the estate. The Castle itself incorporates medieval remains and successive phases of Tudor, Baroque and later rebuilding, including the monumental early 18th century north façade by Sir John Vanbrugh, reflecting national architectural ambition, aristocratic patronage and long-standing high-status occupation. The associated designated assets, including the stable block, Laundry Cottage (NHLE: 1166357), Gardeners Cottage (NHLE: 1166363) and Grimsthorpe Lodge Cottage (NHLE: 1360099) contribute strongly to an understanding of the estate as a self-contained working and residential landscape. These buildings illustrate the hierarchy, domestic economy and service functions essential to the operation of a country house and enhance the historic interest of the group as a whole. Designed landscape features further reinforce the collective significance of the group. The fountain base in the north court (NHLE: 1062824), garden ornaments on the south terrace (NHLE: 1308944), statues east of the castle and garden (NHLE: 1360074) and gate piers to the east of the drive (NHLE: 1360075) contribute to the aesthetic and ceremonial qualities of the estate, demonstrating the integration of architecture, sculpture and formal landscape design typical of high-status estates from the seventeenth century onwards. Together, these elements enhance important axial views, spaces and approaches, and reinforce the intended grandeur and visual coherence of Grimsthorpe as a landscaped estate. The group occupies a deliberately designed landscape composed of formal courts and terraces close to the castle, transitioning into more informal parkland, estate yards, avenues and approach routes. The castle, set on a ridge running from north west to south east through the park, forms the visual and functional nucleus of the group. Lodges, gate piers and approach avenues define key routes into the estate, mediating movement from the wider rural landscape into the designed core. Key views across the parkland are towards the Castle, in particular, looking south from the formal north–south approach. The Project may be visible in the view north from the Castle along the formal approach from a distance (just under 2 km). There is also the possibility that towers would be visible in views north west from the park through a gap in the shelter belts which ring the park. The primacy of the designed landscape as the Castle’s setting would not be affected to such a degree that this affected the significance of the Grimsthorpe Castle group, but the change to the setting would result in a small adverse magnitude of impact. As a group of assets of high value, this would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.
- Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kirkby Underwood (NHLE: 1166122). The church is a Grade I listed building with fabric dating from at least the 11th to 12th centuries. The church has remained the spiritual and historic focus of Kirkby Underwood despite the relocation of the village in the early 19th century which left the church physically separated from the main settlement. This unusual relationship enhances its historic interest and illustrates changes in rural

landownership and settlement patterns. The church possesses strong aesthetic value derived from its simple massing, weathered limestone fabric, and prominent tower, which rises above the surrounding countryside. Its isolated position at the end of Church Lane enhances its visual impact, allowing the building to be appreciated in the round and reinforcing its landmark quality within the rural landscape. Seasonal vegetation within the churchyard further enriches the setting and visual experience of the asset. Although there would be no physical impact to the church from the Project, there is the potential for operational change to its setting arising from the presence of the Project in the landscape to the south. The church occupies a slightly elevated and enclosed site, surrounded by its historic churchyard, which forms a distinct and self-contained ecclesiastical enclosure within the wider landscape. The churchyard is enclosed by mature trees which form a strong vegetated boundary, creating a defined and contained setting immediately around the building. This enclosed setting provides a strong visual and physical buffer between the church and surrounding farmland, a clear understanding of the church's historic function as a parish focus and a quiet, contemplative character which contributes to both aesthetic and communal value. Beyond this, the wider setting is predominantly open arable farmland of large, gently rolling agricultural fields characterised by wide, open boundaries, occasional hedgerows, drainage ditches and sporadic trees. Blocks of woodland are visible on the distant horizon to the south west and north west, but otherwise the setting is notably open and rural in character. The absence of modern or large scale development in the immediate vicinity allows the church to be appreciated as an isolated rural landmark, a characteristic that is integral to its significance following the loss of its former village context. The Project would be visible in views south from the churchyard. The introduction of new modern components in the landscape, even at a distance, would be a small adverse magnitude of impact. As the building is of high value, this would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.

- Church of St Andrew, Haconby (NHLE: 1360134). The church is of high architectural significance, originating in the late 12th century with subsequent early 13th century and 15th century phases of development. The building is constructed primarily of coursed ironstone rubble with limestone ashlar dressings, under plain tile roofs, contributing to its robust and regionally distinctive character. Particularly notable is the west tower and octagonal spire, dating principally from c.1300 with later medieval embellishment. The spire is richly detailed, incorporating polygonal pinnacles, ornate lucarnes and crocketed gables, making it a dominant visual feature in long-distance views. There would be no physical impact to the church from the Project. However, the Project would be visible in views north from the church. The church's rural village setting forms a key component of its overall significance. It is slightly set apart from the main body of the village on its south eastern edge, with fields to the south and only the historic manor house immediately north. Mature trees partially enclose the churchyard creating a distinct and intimate enclosure around the building, while beyond this the landscape opens into expansive fields with limited built development in view. The contrast between enclosure and openness enhances the visual prominence of the tower and spire, reinforcing the church's historic role as both a spiritual and visual focus within the wider countryside. Long views across open farmland contribute to the church's aesthetic value and underline the importance of its relationship with the surrounding landscape, as does the view of the spire of the grade I listed Church of St John the Baptist in Morton to the south west. The Project will not be visible in views towards the church from the village owing to the

position of the church. New elements are likely to be visible in views north from the churchyard, however these are unlikely to disrupt the principal contribution made by the setting. This would be a small adverse magnitude of impact. Due to the high value of the asset, this would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.

- Home Farm House (NHLE: 1062799), located to the north of Grimsthorpe Castle, is of architectural and historic interest as an early 19th century rural dwelling dated 1837, incorporating reused 17th century fabric that evidences continuity of occupation and building practice on the site. Constructed of coursed limestone rubble with ashlar quoins and dressings, its materials and craftsmanship typify high-quality vernacular building traditions, while the L-plan form and later 19th century alterations illustrate the building's incremental development in response to changing domestic and agricultural needs. Home Farm is an isolated farmstead comprising several buildings with extensive modern agricultural buildings immediately to the east, with further contemporary associated buildings across the farm site. The grade II listed pump (NHLE: 1146759) within the courtyard contributes to the significance of the farmhouse, reflecting the historic functional relationship between the two. The wider setting of the farmhouse comprises arable fields to the north, south and west, with planted woodland to the west. The Farmhouse faces west, with established greenery to the southern boundary of the land adjacent to its western frontage. Its setting contributes to its value as a Victorian farmstead in terms of function and historic interest. The draft Order Limits pass through the site, adjacent to the eastern side of the house for construction access to the main overhead line position which is approximately 350 m to the north. As a result the Project is likely to be clearly visible as new industrial elements within view, which would have an impact on the otherwise isolated and rural landscape which forms its setting. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact. The asset is of medium value so this would result in a **moderate adverse**, which is significant.
- The Old Rectory (NHLE: 1062351), part of the **Church of St Peter** group, which also includes the church (NHLE: 1147921). Together they form a coherent ecclesiastical group central to the historic development of Stainby. The church is significant for its architectural, communal and evidential value as a Victorian parish church incorporating earlier medieval fabric, while the Old Rectory reflects the historic role, status and domestic arrangements of the parish clergy. Their close functional and historic relationship gives the assets strong group value, illustrating the operation of the historic parish and the social and ecclesiastical structure of the rural settlement. There would be no physical impact on the group, and views from the church would not be impacted due to screening by the rectory to the south of it. However, views towards the Project to the south may be visible in the middle distance of possibly designed views from the Old Rectory, resulting in a medium adverse magnitude of change. The Old Rectory is a heritage asset of medium value, so this would result in a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.
- Possible Bronze Age round barrow, Elsthorpe Grange, Edenham (MLI84042). Buried remains of a barrow could be of high value, although the possible identification will be examined further for the ES. Although within the draft Order Limits, the design evolution has meant that the design avoids physical impacts to the site of the possible barrow, with towers WMEL 77 and WMEL 78 and haul road located to the south. There would, therefore, be no physical change. However, barrows are burial monuments and are typically thought to have a close

relationship with their setting, including their location in the landscape (e.g. close to rivers or on higher ground), have key views, and/or have intervisibility with other barrows. As this site is not confirmed, it is not possible to comment on the contribution made by its setting, but it can be assumed to make a positive contribution should archaeological remains be present. A possible medium adverse magnitude of impact is included at DES, pending further survey. If the remains are indeed of a barrow, this would result in a **major adverse** effect, which is significant.

- Ring ditch about 600 m north east of Haconby village (MLI97701). Earthwork or buried remains of a barrow could be of high value, although the possible identification will be examined further for the ES. Although within the draft Order Limits, the design avoids direct impact, with towers WMEL 56 and WMEL 57 located on either side of the possible barrow, and the haul road to the north. However, as with the potential barrow near Edenham above, if the remains are indeed of a barrow, it can be assumed that its setting makes a positive contribution should archaeological remains be present. A possible medium adverse magnitude of impact is included at DES, pending further survey. If the remains are indeed of a barrow, this would result in a **major adverse** effect, which is significant.

Section 3: Melton Borough

Construction

Temporary effects

- 9.8.21 At this stage, no potential significant effects have been identified from the change to the setting of heritage assets from temporary construction activities. This will be reconsidered for the ES when more detail, including traffic modelling, is available to inform assessment.

Permanent effects

- 9.8.22 One potential permanent significant effect arising from construction works has been identified. This is to an area of ridge and furrow identified through the 'Turning the Plough' survey in 2000, which is included in the Leicestershire & Rutland HER. Construction within this area would include the haul road, a tower, construction compound and access, affecting a relatively large part of the parcel. This would result in a medium adverse magnitude of impact. Although topographic and/or photographic survey would provide some record, the loss to the historic landscape would not be reduced below medium adverse magnitude. The ridge and furrow are of low to medium value, so this would result in a **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant, or a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.
- 9.8.23 Further research is being undertaken on ridge and furrow in the LiDAR assessment which will be included with the ES, so further impacts may be identified.

Operation and maintenance

- 9.8.24 Potential significant adverse effects from the operation and maintenance of the Project have been identified for one individual listed building:

- Church of St. Bartholomew, Welby (NHLE: 1075115) derives its significance from its medieval origins, with substantial 14th to 15th century fabric and later 17th century repair, clearly expressed in its plan, masonry, and Gothic detailing. Its aesthetic interest lies in the varied and well-preserved windows, west tower, and use of local ironstone and limestone, reflecting regional character. The 19th century restoration by R. W. Johnson forms part of its historic evolution. The church occupies a locally elevated position within an otherwise open agricultural landscape, formerly associated with the deserted medieval settlement of Welby, for which no visible above-ground remains survive (potentially legible only as earthworks or through LiDAR). While the immediate lane is relatively quiet, road noise is audible from larger surrounding roads and the industrial park to the south. The setting is further influenced by modern infrastructure, including multiple electricity cables, notably a prominent north–south line serving a solar farm, as well as two nearby wind turbines (approximately 25–30 m high, subject to confirmation). A proposed overhead line would pass between the church and the turbines, resulting in electricity and energy infrastructure on multiple sides of the church, with pylons passing particularly close to its western side and enclosing the asset on at least two sides. This would result in a small adverse magnitude of change. Church of St. Bartholomew is a heritage asset of high value, so this would result in a **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant, or a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.

Section 4: Harborough District

Construction

- 9.8.25 It is currently proposed to use existing access supplemented by track matting for the construction work required for the reconductoring of the existing overhead line in Section 4. As a result, no permanent significant effects arising from construction works are anticipated on archaeological remains or built heritage assets.
- 9.8.26 It is possible that temporary significant effects may arise from construction works. Further detail on construction methods and traffic modelling is needed to inform this assessment so it will be included in the ES.

Operation and maintenance

- 9.8.27 At this stage, no potential impacts, and therefore no significant effects, have been identified relating to the operation and maintenance of the Project in Section 4. If this changes as the detail of the design evolves, this will be reported on in the ES.

Section 5: Northamptonshire (including both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary areas)

Construction

- 9.8.28 It is currently proposed to use existing access supplemented by track matting for the construction work required for the reconductoring of the existing overhead line in Section 5. As a result, no permanent significant effects arising from construction works are anticipated on archaeological remains or built heritage assets.

- 9.8.29 It is possible that temporary significant effects may arise from construction works. Further detail on construction methods and traffic modelling is needed to inform this assessment so it will be included in the ES.

Operation and maintenance

- 9.8.30 At this stage, no potential impacts, and therefore no significant effects, have been identified relating to the operation and maintenance of the Project in Section 5. If this changes as the detail of the design evolves, this will be reported on in the ES.

Table 9.12 Preliminary assessment summary of likely significant effects to Cultural Heritage

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
Section 1: South Holland District – Construction					
Roman settlement remains (MLI20145)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.	Medium adverse	Medium – high	Major or moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Saxon Settlement (MLI20193)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.	Medium adverse	Medium – high	Major or moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Saxon Settlement (MLI20208)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of	Medium adverse	Medium – high	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.			
Romano-British cropmarks (MLI20218)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.	Medium adverse	Medium – high	Major or moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Medieval salterns (MLI23633)	Archaeological excavation and/or topographic survey	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. As only part of the receptor is within the draft	Small adverse	Medium – high	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant, or minor adverse, which is not significant (depending on value of remains).

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		Order Limits, and mitigation through excavation or survey would be applied, this would be a small adverse magnitude of impact.			
Section 1: South Holland District – Operation and maintenance					
Moated site of Newhall Grange (NHLE: 1009981)	N/A	Change to the setting of the asset resulting from presence of the Project in the landscape during operation. The introduction of a new, modern industrial element in the landscape would be highly visible, although not changing specifically historic aspects of the asset's setting. This would therefore result in a small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Church of St Lawrence (NHLE: 1064403)	N/A	Change to setting of the church from presence of the Project in the landscape. Although views from the church would not be impacted, the church remains visible	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		at long range across the fenland landscape and may lose a degree of its visual dominance with the introduction of towers in the vicinity. This would therefore result in a small adverse magnitude of impact.			
Church of St Mary (NHLE: 1064433)	N/A	Change to setting of the church from presence of the Project in the landscape. Although views from the church would not be impacted, at the wider landscape scale, the Project will introduce tall tower structures into the open fenland landscape, within which the church tower is currently visible over long distances. These towers may compete with the dominance of the church tower in views from Surfleet, affecting the legibility and relative visual dominance of the church tower. This would	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		result in a small adverse magnitude of impact.			
Section 2: South Kesteven District – Construction					
Romano-British settlement, Dunsby (MLI34394, MLI34395)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	Medium to high	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant, or minor adverse effect, which is not significant (depending on value of remains).
Romano-British settlement site, Haconby (MLI34426, MLI34427)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	Medium to high	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant, or minor adverse effect, which is not significant (depending on value of remains)
Probable Iron Age Salt Work Site, Haconby	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of	Medium adverse	Medium to high	Moderate or major adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
(MLI34430, MLI34432 and MLI34433)		archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.			
Cropmark ring ditch (MLI34734)	Archaeological excavation	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a large adverse magnitude of impact.	Large adverse	Medium to high	Moderate or major adverse effect, which is significant
Deserted medieval village, Elsthorpe/ Southorpe (MLI33654)	Excavation and/or topographic survey	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or truncation of archaeological remains in advance of or during construction. This would be a permanent adverse impact. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of	Medium	High	Major or moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		impact, reflecting the haul road crossing central area of the earthworks.			
Section 2: South Kesteven District – Operation and maintenance					
Grimsthorpe Castle	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line in views from park looking north west. Small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Church of St Mary and All Saints, Kirkby Underwood (NHLE: 116122)	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line in landscape to the south. Small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Church of St Andrew, Haconby (NHLE: 1360134)	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line in landscape to the north. Small adverse magnitude of impact.	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Home Farm House (NHLE: 1062799)	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line in landscape approximately 350 m north.	Medium adverse	Medium	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
Old Rectory (NHLE: 1062351), part of the Church of St Peter group	N/A	Presence of overhead line in possibly designed views south from Old Rectory.	Medium adverse	Medium	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant.
Possible Bronze Age round barrow, Edenham (MLI84042)	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line in the landscape immediately south of the barrow. Preliminary assessment of medium adverse magnitude of impact pending further survey.	Medium adverse	High	Major adverse effect (depending on value of remains), which is significant.
Ring ditch about 600 m north east of Haconby village (MLI97701)	N/A	Change to setting resulting from presence of overhead line overhead and towers to east and west. Preliminary assessment of medium adverse magnitude of impact pending further survey.	Medium adverse	High	Major adverse effect (depending on value of remains), which is significant.

Section 3: Melton Borough – Construction

Ridge and furrow (Turning the Plough: 996)	Topographic/ photographic survey	Potential for physical impact arising from removal or erosion of ridge and furrow. This would be a permanent adverse impact.	Medium	Low to medium	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant, or minor adverse effect, which is not significant.
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Receptor(s)	Key Design, Standard and Additional Mitigation	Impact	Magnitude of Change	Sensitivity / Value	Likely Significance of Effect
		Recording would provide limited mitigation. This would be a medium adverse magnitude of impact.			
Section 3: Melton Borough – Operation and maintenance					
Church of St. Bartholomew, Welby (NHLE: 1075115)	N/A	Towers located close to its western side and enclosing the asset on at least two sides in culmination with existing overhead lines.	Small adverse	High	Moderate adverse effect, which is significant, or minor adverse effect, which is not significant.
Section 4: Harborough District – Construction					
No impacts currently identified and, as a result, no significant effects. Further construction detail, available for ES, may lead to this being revised.					
Section 4: Harborough District – Operation and maintenance					
No impacts currently identified and, as a result, no significant effects. Note: setting assessment screened out for Section 4 and Section 5.					
Section 5: Northamptonshire (including both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary areas) – Construction					
No impacts currently identified and, as a result, no significant effects. Further construction detail, available for ES, may lead to this being revised.					
Section 5: Northamptonshire (including both North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire unitary areas) – Operation and maintenance					
No impacts currently identified, and as a result, no significant effects. Note: setting assessment screened out for Section 4 and Section 5.					

Alternative Scenarios

- 9.8.31 As described in Section 4.4 of **Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, there are elements of the Project which have not been fixed at this stage. Therefore flexibility needs to be considered in this DES. Two alternative scenarios are outlined in **Table 4.3** and are assessed in **Table 9.13** below.
- 9.8.32 This assessment considers each scenario, together with the assumptions and mitigation measures described in this chapter. It provides a qualitative appraisal of the potential changes to the preliminary conclusions reported in this section, should these scenarios occur.
- 9.8.33 **Table 9.13** presents the conclusions of this appraisal, supported by appropriate qualitative justification, to ensure that any potentially significant effects are identified in this DES. If these alternative scenarios remain under consideration in the application for development consent, they will be appropriately assessed in the ES.

Table 9.13 Preliminary assessment of alternative scenarios

Scenario	Potential change in impacts	Potential change in effects
1. No or reduced haul roads	This scenario would reduce the potential impacts on below ground archaeological remains and earthwork features such as ridge and furrow, potentially removing or reducing significant adverse effects identified on: • Roman settlement remains in Section 1 (MLI20145) • Saxon settlement in Section 1 (MLI20208) • Medieval salterns in Section 1 (MLI23633) • Deserted medieval village of Elsthorpe/Southorpe in Section 2 (MLI33654) • Ridge and furrow in Section 3 (Turning the Plough: 996) Visual and noise related impacts from temporary access have not been included in the DES but will be included in the ES. The alternative access arrangements would be smaller vehicles and require the use of track matting. The routes for these can be influenced to mitigate potential harm through design, excavation and/or archaeological monitoring.	This may result in the removal or reduction of significant adverse effects on five heritage assets. However, new significant effects could arise from the alternative scenario, which could be mitigated through careful route selection and ground protection.
2. Off-site construction compound near Melton Mowbray	This scenario would reduce or remove potential impacts arising from construction compounds. While visual and noise related impacts from temporary construction works will be included at the ES stage, the direct impacts arising from construction of the compounds have been included at the DES. Construction compounds contribute to significant adverse effects on Romano-British cropmarks in Section 1 (MLI20218) and ridge and furrow in Section 3 (Turning the Plough: 996).	This may result in the removal or reduction of significant adverse effects on two heritage assets.

Scenario	Potential change in impacts	Potential change in effects
	The off-site construction compound would be located within an existing light industrial area and would not alter the settings of heritage assets directly. Changes in traffic and associated noise and vibration could have adverse impacts. However, this is unlikely to result in a significant adverse effect.	

9.9 Monitoring

9.9.1 Monitoring requirements will be considered in the ES.

9.10 Further Assessment

9.10.1 The following further work is proposed or underway and will be reported and considered in the ES:

- **Geoarchaeological deposit modelling and/or monitoring** during ground investigation or trial trenching – this will provide a specialist interpretation of the sequence of superficial deposits across the site. This not only provides useful context for the method and interpretation for geophysics and trial trenching, but also can identify specific areas of paleoenvironmental interest.
- **Geophysics** – magnetometry survey (at a minimum) will be undertaken across suitable areas within the draft Order Limits. While this will not identify all sub-surface archaeological remains, this non-intrusive method provides an indication of archaeological potential and can be used across large areas.
- **Trial trenching** – targeted trial trenching will be undertaken in the parts of the draft Order Limits where ground disturbance is most likely (i.e. tower locations, compounds), informed by the results of the geophysical survey, aerial photograph and LiDAR survey, and desktop baseline assessment. ‘Blank’ areas, i.e. where geophysics and other sources do not indicate buried remains, will be targeted and examined in order to test the potential for remains not otherwise identifiable.
- **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (OWSI)** – this document provides the details of the mitigation proposed for the impacts identified through the cultural heritage assessment, including providing a research strategy context, high-level specifications for work proposed, and information about how the work will be managed, monitored and signed off. This will form part of the ES. If necessary, it will continue to be revised through the Examination process. The final site or task-specific WSIs will be secured through the DCO and produced as required during the detailed design, pre-construction and construction phases.

9.10.2 The scope for the pre-application archaeological surveys will be developed through consultation with the Local Authority Archaeological Advisors and a WSI agreed.

9.10.3 The assessments listed in this section will be undertaken through 2026 and 2027 and will be reported within the ES.

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