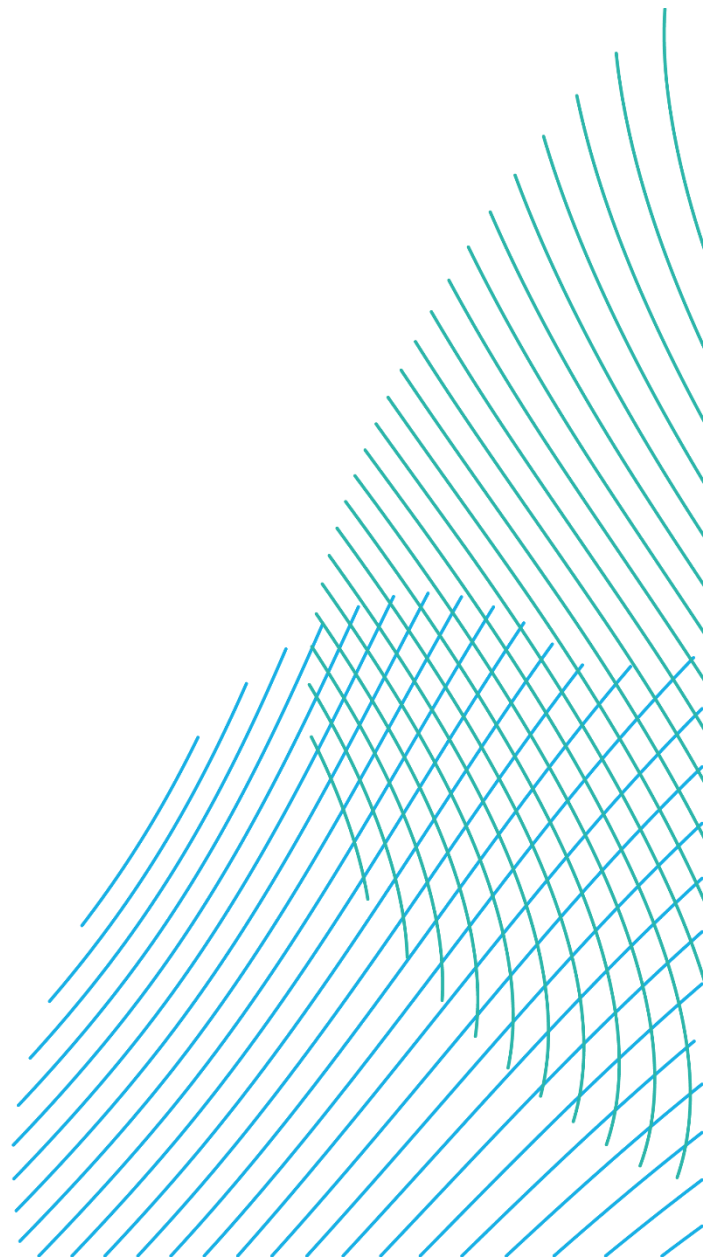


**RWE**

# **Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal**



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## Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix considers the sensitivity of landscape character within the study area of the Proposed Development. The concluding judgements regarding landscape sensitivity are carried through into the preliminary assessment of effects presented in Chapter 11 of the PEIR.
- 1.1.2 In the context of LVIA, landscape sensitivity as described in paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3 is not absolute and is specific to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular type of change likely to result from the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 The appraisal of sensitivity in this appendix draws upon observations contained within Natural England's National Character Area Profile 40 (NCA 40) Holderness and the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (ERYLCA) as summarised in **Appendix 11.2: Extracts from Published Landscape Character Assessments**; as well as observations made in the field during the baseline assessment of landscape character. Where relevant, extracts from the two documents above are reproduced in the appraisal below (in italics).
- 1.1.4 The landscape value criteria below are based on guidance contained within LI TGN 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations; specifically Table 1 within that document.
- 1.1.5 With reference to the ERYLCA, the majority of the above ground components of the solar array (ie excluding the underground cable routes) are located within LCT 19: Open Farmland and specifically LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland. A smaller part of the above ground components also fall within LCT 18 and specifically LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor.
- 1.1.6 The very north-eastern corner of Land Area A actually lies within LCA 18B: Quarry Farmland. However, these fields would be more accurately described as sharing the characteristics of LCA 18A than LCA 18B and for the purposes of the PEIR are treated as part of LCA 18A.
- 1.1.7 LCAs 19D and 18A are therefore considered to be 'host landscape character areas' and are considered in this PIER. It has been determined that there would be no greater than a negligible effect on any other LCAs and therefore the appraisal of sensitivity in this appendix focuses solely on these two LCAs.

- 1.1.8 It should be noted that both LCAs extend considerably beyond the study area. Some of the descriptive text relating to these two LCAs in the ERYLCA is therefore not relevant and the discussion of landscape sensitivity below specifically focuses on the tract of the LCAs within the study area.
- 1.1.9 Part of the process of determining landscape sensitivity requires a judgement regarding the susceptibility of the LCA to the specific type of change likely to result from the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.10 For the avoidance of doubt it should be noted that the sensitivity and capacity judgments presented in the ERYLCA do not consider sensitivity to solar farm development and the constituent judgements regarding susceptibility cannot be extrapolated directly to form judgments in this PEIR. Where relevant analysis in the ERYLCA has been taken into account.
- 1.1.11 However, the judgements below relating to LCA 19D and 18A specifically assume that the type of development is commercial scale ground mounted solar PV development.

Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p><i>“There are six Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designations in this LCT but given the expansive nature of the landscape this indicates a dwindling number of natural habitats, within an area that was once covered by marshes and meres.</i></p> <p><i>Hedgerows and watercourses coupled with small areas of woodland provide habitats. Bail Wood, Old Wood and Cote Wood areas of ancient woodland offer important areas of habitat.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p>The ERYLCA states the value of conservation interests across the LCT as a whole are high; but these are all outside the study area, with the exception of Leven Canal SSSI.</p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	The wider LCT is host to several scheduled monuments from medieval times and there is evidence of prehistoric settlement.	Community
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	A good quality agricultural landscape comprising large-scale field patterns bounded by drainage ditches, however there is sparse woodland cover. <i>“Landscape quality (condition) – Parts of this LCT overlap the Flamborough Headland Heritage Coast. The landscape is relatively flat in which vertical elements detract from character. Some elements of high landscape quality such as Burton Constable RPG (Grade II*). Value – Medium.” (ERYLCA)</i>	Regional
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No notable associations with events, notable people or the arts. Two landscapes associated with Capability Brown are outside the study area.	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	<i>"This is a large scale landscape where the sky dominates views over a gently undulating landform. Panoramic views to the east coast and the neighbouring Wolds are available from this LCA."</i> (ERYLCA)	Community
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	<p>Recreation in the study area and LCA is limited to a small number of PRow which appear underused and in often poor condition, and a small number of caravan parks.</p> <p><i>"There is a network of public footpaths in the area that provide a number of circular and long distance routes including the Trans Pennine Trail."</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p><i>"Recreational value – The LCT contains Burton Constable, Rise Park Local Wildlife Site and associated Scheduled Monuments. National trail and long distance routes include the Trans Pennine Trail and National Cycle Routes 1 and 65. Value – Medium."</i> (ERYLCA)</p>	Community

# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>The landscape is not particularly scenic and you would not visit the area to specifically experience the available views.</p> <p><i>“This is a large scale landscape with a gently undulating landform. Panoramic views to the east coast and the neighbouring Wolds, to the north west, are available from this LCA.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p><i>“Scenic quality – The flat landscape allows any large development to be viewed from long distances, detracting from scenic quality. Areas of high scenic quality include Burton Constable and Rise Park. Value – Medium.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p>	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p>There are high levels of tranquillity away from the settlements and highway network; but the transport routes are busy and noisy.</p> <p><i>“Perceptual aspects (openness, wildness, tranquillity, remoteness) – There is a strong rural character within a very open landscape with some areas of tranquillity. The LCT is intensively farmed arable land with a dispersed settlement pattern and little woodland or tree cover. There are a number of</i></p>	Community



# RWE

<b>Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland</b>				
<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
			<i>vertical detractors within an otherwise flat and gently undulating landscape. Value – Medium.</i> ” (ERYLCA)	
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	<i>“...the land use consists of open agricultural land, mainly arable, with generally large fields and little woodland. Settlements are well scattered, numerous and varied in size.”</i> (ERYLCA)	Community
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Community</b>
<b>Susceptibility</b>				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	The landscape is large-scale and predominantly open. Large scale solar PV could reflect the scale of the landscape and be contained within the medium to large-scale fields. However, the size of the overall development, in relation to the LCA, would mean it becomes a dominant feature in the landscape.	Medium/ Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	A gentle landscape with some localised and small undulations the fields but no prominent landform, irregular topography or notables hill sides.	Low

# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
			Embankments alongside watercourses are occasional markers in the landform.	
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	For many developments, the flat expansive landscape would result in wide ranging visibility, detracting from scenic quality; however the low-level nature of solar farms means that structures would generally be screened by intervening built form, vegetation and even gentle undulations in the landscape.	Medium
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular landcover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Simple patterns in the landscape with large fields and a linear highways network. There is only sparse woodland cover.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	A generally sparsely settled landscape with linear settlements spread along the highways network. The busy A-roads are prominent linear feature through the landscape and there are visible detracting vertical features including wind turbines and overhead pylons.	Medium

# RWE

<b>Host Landscape: LCA 19D: Central Holderness Open Farmland</b>				
<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<p>An open landscape enabling long distance views across exposed arable farmland but no clear vistas or focal points and no prominent horizon which is the focus of these long distance views.</p> <p>The level landscape means despite the open views they are often of the sky and not ground level features, which are screened by low-level vegetation and gentle undulations in the landscape.</p>	Medium/ Low
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	A low lying landscape with no distinctive horizon. The solar proposals would generally sit below the hedgerow lines and embankments and would not define the skyline.	Low
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Low</b>

Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p><i>“Water is the unifying element of this landscape and it provides important habitats. There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in this area [LCT as a whole] that are linked to the water bodies. Although the corridor is intensively farmed there are pockets of wetland habitat that are important to the biodiversity of the East Riding.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p><i>“Conservation interests – The LCT contains 5 SSSI's including Pulfin Bog, Tophill Low, River Hull Headwaters, Leven Canal and Hornsea Mere SSSI/SPA/SAC. There are 2 Local Wildlife Sites at Figham Common and Swine Moor. Value – High.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p>	Regional/Community
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of	Landscape with strong evidence of	The wider LCT is host to three scheduled monuments from medieval times.	Community

# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
	archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape		
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	A good quality landscape comprising good ecological features, recreation associated with the River Hull and good scenic quality.  The features referenced in the ERYLCA as criteria for stating the landscape quality has a value of 'High' are outside the study area.	Regional
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	There are no known associations with people or events.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a sense of identity created by the river and lowland ditches and dykes.	Community

# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
	by local communities.			
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	<p><i>“The recreational value of the area is the result of the navigation of the river, Public Rights of Way along the river banks, nature reserves with public access and the provision of facilities such as car parking and picnic sites. The River Hull corridor is a tranquil and attractive area that attracts visitors.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p><i>“Recreational value – Recreation within the LCT is generally associated with water bodies and the River Hull. There are a number of Public Rights of Way (mainly following water courses). Value – Medium.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p> <p>Whilst the river itself has good access and recreational value it does not draw large numbers of visitors from outside the area.</p>	Regional/Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<i>“Scenic quality – The area has good scenic quality overall with Local Wildlife Areas (associated with the floodplain) and numerous water bodies including the Leven Canal. The LCT is also noted for sparse</i>	Community

# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>settlements and low density development. Value – Medium.</i>” (ERYLCA)</p> <p>Whilst the scenic quality is generally good with some attractive features, especially along sections of the River Hull, there are also detracting features and it is unlikely visitors would come especially to experience the views.</p>	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p><i>“Perceptual aspects (openness, wildness, tranquillity, remoteness) – The LCT contains a flat low lying floodplain landscape with numerous water bodies and water courses providing a unifying element. The landscape is generally attractive, remote in places and relatively tranquil due to the low density of development and settlement. Value – High.”</i> (ERYLCA)</p>	Regional/Community
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the	The key functions of the river corridor are ecological and recreational.	Community

# RWE

<b>Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor</b>				
<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
	the healthy functioning of the landscape	healthy functioning of the landscape		
<b>Overall Judgement of Value</b>				<b>Community</b>
<b>Susceptibility</b>				
<b>Scale</b>	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	The landscape is defined by the river, and adjacent fields are often large to medium size to cope with flooding.	Medium/ Low
<b>Landform</b>	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	Embankments alongside watercourses are markers in the landform and often the local highpoints. The development would be away from the embankments.	Low
<b>Openness/enclosure</b>	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	From the river embankments developments in nearby fields are likely to be highly visible; however those same embankments would screen any development from the opposite side of the river.	Medium



# RWE

Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development	Explanation	Judgement
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular landcover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Simple patterns in the landscape with large fields and sparse woodland cover away from the river. The river itself is a key element influencing pattern and field shape.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	A generally sparsely settled landscape. There are visible detracting vertical features including wind turbines and overhead pylons.	Medium
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	An open landscape enabling long distance views, especially from the river embankments, across exposed arable farmland but no clear vistas or focal points and no prominent horizon which is the focus of these long distance views.  The level landscape means despite the open views they are often of the sky and not ground level features, which are screened by low-level vegetation and gentle undulations in the landscape.	Medium/ Low

# RWE

<b>Host Landscape: LCA 18A: River Hull Corridor</b>				
<b>Factors affecting sensitivity</b>	<b>Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar development</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	A low lying landscape with no distinctive horizon. The solar proposals would generally sit below the hedgerow lines and embankments and would not define the skyline.	Low
<b>Overall Judgement of Susceptibility</b>				<b>Medium/ Low</b>
<b>Overall Judgement of Sensitivity</b>				<b>Low</b>