



**HELIOS** RENEWABLE  
ENERGY  
PROJECT

# **Preliminary Environmental Information Report**

**Volume 3: Technical Appendices**

Appendix 7.3: Landscape Effects Table

SENSITIVITY			
RECEPTOR	VALUE	SUSCEPTIBILITY	SENSITIVITY
<i>Fields</i>	<b>Low</b> Fields on the Site are undesignated and are as a result of intensive agricultural farming are mono-cultural with little variation or structure, and with boundaries that are often poorly defined and fragmented. They have little recreational value, with limited public accessibility and being flat and rectilinear are not distinctive, nor do they have an identifiable environmental function beyond agricultural use.	<b>Medium</b> As a physical feature intensively farmed arable fields are of low susceptibility to the Proposed Development which will preserve the pattern of the fieldscape and result in little physical change to the feature itself, particularly with respect to levels and earthworks. However, the Proposed Development also includes more extensive development such as substations, resulting in a medium overall susceptibility.	<b>Low / Medium</b>
<i>Hedgerows</i>	<b>Low</b> A common and undesignated landscape feature that as a whole is fragmented and therefore in poor overall condition. Where present, the Site's hedgerows contribute to landscape character to an extent through their function of defining field boundaries however due to their condition they are deemed to be of low value.	<b>Low</b> Hedgerows where present define the existing agricultural fields of the Site and are thus highly likely to be retained as part of the development type proposed. Due to their fragmented nature, they are more able to accommodate the change proposed without transformational effects.	<b>Low</b>
<i>Canopy Trees</i>	<b>Community</b> Canopy trees are a common, undesignated feature lining field boundaries and contribute a limited degree of distinctiveness and variation to the landscape, in some places marking historic or fragmented field boundaries. Where present, they are generally in good condition and are often of considerable maturity, and they assist in defining the structure of the Site's fieldscape.	<b>Medium</b> Canopy trees typically follow internal field boundaries which are likely to be retained as part of the development proposed. However, mature isolated trees within field boundaries are more susceptible to the Proposed Development, including the potential for internal construction/operation/decommissioning access tracks between fields.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Woodland</i>	<b>Community</b> An undesignated feature, woodland blocks within the Site are infrequent but assist in providing landscape structure, containment and contrast with the otherwise open landscape within and around limited parts of the Site, however they are often in mixed condition with invasive rhododendron a common feature dominating the understory. Nonetheless, they are likely to be valued at community level for their contribution to semi-natural habitats which are rare within the landscape.	<b>Medium</b> Blocks of woodland are likely to be retained as part of development and their function in the structure of the landscape is likely to be largely retained as a result of their form and location, predominantly around the Site's boundaries. However, within the Site, woodland has some susceptibility to the Proposed Development, particularly with respect to earthworks or the potential for internal construction/operation/decommissioning access tracks between fields.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Wetland Features</i>	<b>Low</b> Many field boundaries are marked by ditches/watercourses which are common and in the wider landscape of the Humberhead levels and are not distinctive. As part of a rectilinear network of drainage channels they are not natural in appearance, and they do not have strong aesthetic qualities.	<b>Low</b> Ditches/watercourses are entirely confined to field boundaries and are likely to be treated as a constraint as part of development. It is highly unlikely that the Proposed Development will result in transformational Negative effects on the overall integrity or characteristics of the receptor.	<b>Low</b>
<i>The Tranquillity of the Site</i>	<b>Community</b> The Site is not designated for tranquillity and is strongly agricultural, with limited perceived links to nature. However, as an expansive area of agricultural land, the majority of the landscape is peaceful and quiet, albeit there is traffic noise associated with the A1041 on the northern extents of the Site, and occasional passing trains to the south and west of the Site. There is also likely to be intermittent noise associated with agricultural activity on the Site. On this basis, the area is likely to be of some importance for quiet recreation to the local community, it is not designated or valued for tranquillity in a wider sense.	<b>Medium</b> Considering the levels of existing tranquillity and the nature of the Proposed Development, the Site is judged to have some ability to accommodate the Proposed Development, albeit the entire receptor would be affected to a greater or lesser degree. Once developed, the Site is likely to still accommodate quiet recreation, albeit there is likely to be some reduced tranquillity.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>The Overall Character of the Site</i>	<b>Community</b> Taken as a whole, the Site comprises common components and characteristics and is not designated for landscape or scenic qualities. It is strongly agricultural, with limited natural interest. It is also sparse and fragmented as a result of intensive agricultural practices including historic removal of field boundaries, with a resulting high level of openness. It is generally considered to be a landscape in poor condition. While there are opportunities for quiet recreation on the network of lanes and PRoW, the dominant and distinctive features that influence the perceptual aspects of the area are Drax Power Station and associated overhead power lines. However, these are primarily located outside the Site itself, which is primarily an undeveloped landscape. On this basis, it is likely to be of some value to the community.	<b>Medium</b> The landscape of the Site is simple in terms of pattern and landform, with an open nature that would result in development within it being perceived. However, the landscape structure is also fragmented and denuded as a result of human influences and re-establishment of structure is a recurring theme within the published landscape character guidance for the LCAs in which the Site is located. On this basis, and considering the nature of the Proposed Development, the Site is considered to have some ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without transformational Negative effects.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>LCA 7: Aire Valley</i>	<b>Community</b> The LCA is not designated for landscape or scenic beauty. It is noted as being a river corridor landscape with a strong association with the River Aire and a variety of wetland habitats that contribute to conservation value. However, there is also limited access for recreation, as well as indistinct skylines as noted in the landscape character assessment. The LCA is also noted as largely rural and tranquil in most places, however there are also strong associations with power stations, power lines and numerous road bridges, which reduce tranquillity and impact negatively on scenic qualities. Nonetheless, the association with the River Aire is such that it is judged to be of community value.	<b>Low</b> The landscape of the LCA is largely flat, with areas of wetlands and marshy grassland. The pattern of the LCA, as an elongated river corridor, results in reduced ability to accommodate large scale development in general. However, the Proposed Development's location on a very small area on the fringe of the LCA which is influenced by visual intrusion from large scale infrastructure reduces the susceptibility to the Proposed Development.	<b>Low</b>
<i>LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland</i>	<b>Low</b> An undesignated landscape composed of intensively farmed landscapes, containing few areas of semi natural character and limited time depth, with very sporadic settlement	<b>Low</b> As an open, flat landscape with little enclosure, the LCA is vulnerable to development in general due to the potential for changes to be highly visible. However, published	<b>Low</b>



		and only occasional listed buildings, which are remote from the Site and confined to villages. A distinct lack of hedgerows and trees is notable, resulting in a degraded monocultural character. Skylines are described as indistinct and there are limited recreation opportunities, although the Trans Pennine Way runs within the LCA. The LCA has strong associations with large scale infrastructure, limiting any sense of remoteness.		guidance, including re-establishment of hedgerows and shelter belts, is readily applied as part of the Proposed Development. In so doing, characteristic and desirable features would be reinstated. These features would reduce susceptibility due to greater enclosure. Furthermore, the Proposed Development occupies a limited extent of the LCA, on its south-eastern fringe. On this basis, the LCA is considered to have the ability to accommodate the Proposed Development without transformational Negative effects.	
LCA 15: Camblesforth Farmland	Low	<p>A landscape that is not designated in landscape terms and is primarily composed of arable land with limited and indistinct semi-natural components, albeit there is a Local Nature Reserve located approximately 480m north of the Site. There is a limited PRoW network offering some opportunity for recreation, as noted in the landscape character assessment, albeit there is also a network of lanes that provide access.</p> <p>Scenic qualities are also limited, with strong visual influences of infrastructure, most notably including Drax Power Station, which dominates the LCA, and alongside associated power lines/pylons is a visually intrusive element. In physical terms, the LCA is also dominated by built infrastructure, with the Drax Power Station compound occupying a substantial footprint, alongside overhead power lines and transport infrastructure. Within the settlements of Camblesforth and Carlton there is some time depth, with listed buildings within the settlements and scheduled monuments to the north and east of the LCA, however these are remote from the Site.</p> <p>There are some woodlands and hedgerow trees which contribute to a sense of enclosure and add to the condition and quality of the landscape, however due to detractive elements the LCA is not likely to have wider recognition of value.</p>	Medium/Low	<p>A broad, flat landscape primarily under intensive arable agricultural use, with a relatively strong sense of enclosure as a result of existing tree belts and blocks of woodland, and existing influences of infrastructure are strong. Therefore, the LCA is considered to have some capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development without transformational Negative effects. The Site occupies a sizeable extent of the LCA, however, there are considerable opportunities to incorporate characteristic mitigation including the retention and reinforcement of hedgerows, enhancement of access and improved management to encourage natural regeneration, in accordance with published landscape guidelines.</p>	Low / Medium

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE - FIELDS					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
Construction	Medium	Large	Short Term	Construction activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months. They will affect the majority of the receptor and with ongoing construction activities and introduction of built form. The construction of the substation/BESS compound will introduce a greater extent of physical change, with associated ground works and construction of larger built forms. However, the construction of solar PV development on the majority of the Site will be considerably less intense in terms of physical impacts on this receptor with no major groundworks or changes in levels anticipated. Nonetheless, the scale of change to the receptor is likely to be perceived as extensive, changing the character of the feature from arable fields to a solar development over a temporary and short-term period.	Medium (Negative)
Construction Residual	Medium	Large	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	Medium (Negative)
Operation (Year 1)	Large	Large	Long term, reversible	At Year 1, the Proposed Development will result in the introduction of built forms within the fields, however due to the construction method for solar arrays (i.e. pile driven, lightweight metal frames), the majority of the receptor will not undergo fundamental physical changes and the changes are readily reversible at the end of this period. In some areas, changes to the receptor will be more intense, such as at the Substation/BESS compound where bunding and hard-standing are proposed. The seeding of the fields with native species grassland will begin to improve the physical condition of the receptor from initial seeding, however the contribution of new planting to the overall quality receptor in Year 1 is likely to be limited.  Notwithstanding the above, the changes in the character and appearance of the receptor will be widely apparent across the Site due to its current open nature, and the presence of built form is likely to be perceived as a dominant feature within this landscape. The changes are reversible but will be long term.	Substantial (Negative)
Operational Residual (Year 15)	Medium	Large	Long terms, reversible	Following establishment of proposed planting, including approximately 369 ha of new seeding across the majority of the receptor, the existing intensive arable farmland will be converted to grassland beneath solar PV panels. Over time, this will improve the physical and biodiversity values and qualities of the receptor. Furthermore, the establishment of proposed hedgerows and woodland belts will provide enclosure to proposed built form, limiting the extent to which enduring physical changes to the receptor as a result of built form are perceived.	Medium (Negative)
Decommissioning	Medium	Large	Short Term	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase. However, the presence of established mitigation planting is likely to considerably reduce the extent to which changes are perceived across the Site, thereby reducing the perceived size and scale of change.	Slight (Negative)
Decommissioning Residual	Medium	Large	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	Slight (Negative)

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE - HEDGEROWS					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
<i>Construction</i>	Small	Small	Short Term	The Proposed Development is expected to require the removal of limited localised sections of existing hedgerows in order to provide access. Considering the extent of the receptor across the Site, this will be a limited change which is unlikely to affect the overall characteristics of the feature.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	Small	Small	Short Term	The mitigation measures set out for the construction period are unlikely to alter the effects identified.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	Medium	Large	Permanent	The Proposed Development includes approximately 12.99km of new hedgerows and 8.2km of reinforced hedgerows, with a total of over 60,000 native species trees and shrubs. Whilst this is a substantial planting scheme, the contribution of new planting to the overall quality of the receptor is judged to be limited until it is established, resulting in a medium size and scale of change across an extensive area.	<b>Medium (Positive)</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	Large	Large	Permanent	At Year 15, the successful establishment of proposed hedgerows, including the reinstatement of historic hedgerows and the reinforcement of existing fragmented hedgerows is likely to result in a wholesale improvement to the receptor. The overall character of the landscape will be more enclosed and less fragmented as a result, with enhanced habitat connectivity. The change is entirely consistent with published landscape guidance.	<b>Substantial (Positive)</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Small	Small	Short Term	During decommissioning, there is potential for the removal of limited localised sections of existing hedgerows in order to provide access. This will be a limited, temporary and reversible change, which is unlikely to affect the overall characteristics of the feature	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	Small	Small	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – Canopy Trees					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
<i>Construction</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing canopy trees are expected to be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing canopy trees are expected to be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	Small	Medium	Permanent	The landscape strategy includes the planting of 491 new native species trees including 336 hedgerow trees and 155 canopy trees located sporadically but consistently throughout the Site. Whilst new planting is generally considered to have a limited benefit before it has successfully established, due to the larger stock sizes used for this planting element, it is considered that this receptor as a whole will be improved from Year 1.	<b>Slight (Positive)</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	Medium	Medium	Permanent	Following establishment of proposed planting at Year 15, there will be wholesale change in the landscape receptor across the Site, and a marked improvement in the quality and quantity of the landscape resource. Published landscape character guidelines will be implemented resulting in a stronger pattern of landscape, and greater species richness.	<b>Medium (Positive)</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing canopy trees are expected to be affected by the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – Woodland					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
<i>Construction</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing woodland is expected to be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing woodland is expected to be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	Medium	Small	Permanent	The landscape strategy plans include the planting of over 9.48 ha of new native woodland, comprising over 24,000 trees across a palette of 11 native species. Whilst this will substantially increase tree cover across limited parts of the Site, the contribution of new planting to the overall quality of the receptor is considered to be limited at Year 1.	<b>Slight (Positive)</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	Large	Small	Permanent	At Year 15 following the successful establishment of proposed planting, substantial new areas of woodland within limited extents of the Site will contribute to overall landscape structure, including new planting to extend the woodland pattern around Kerrick Spring Wood Ancient Woodland. The established woodland will also link existing woodland habitats across a wide area to the south-west of Camblesforth. The changes will be consistent with published landscape guidance.	<b>Medium (Positive)</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Negligible	Negligible	Short Term	No existing or proposed woodland areas are expected to be affected by the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>

<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Neutral)</b>
---------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------	-------------------	---	-----------------------------

<b>MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – <i>Wetland Features</i></b>					
<b>ASSESSMENT PHASE</b>	<b>SIZE AND SCALE</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT</b>	<b>DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	The Proposed Development largely leaves the existing network of ditches and watercourses untouched. However as shown on the Watercourse Buffers drawing prepared by PFA Consulting, the Proposed Development includes the alteration of several existing watercourse crossings and the provision of new crossings. The construction of these elements is expected to result in very localised changes to the landscape receptor in locations interspersed throughout the Site. The changes are unlikely to have an impact on the overall integrity of the receptor.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Permanent</b>	The Proposed Development includes the wholesale retention of existing ditches and watercourses, and any temporary impacts from construction activities are expected to abate rapidly upon completion, with improvements as a result of the seeding of approximately 16.8 ha of new wetland grassland along the watercourse corridors. The landscape mitigation strategy includes the introduction of a series of new wetland features, including ponds, scrapes and with a total area of 0.63ha planted with appropriate native species to enhance habitats. These new features are likely to result in an enhancement to the receptor albeit to a limited extent within the Site.	<b>Slight (Positive)</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Permanent</b>	Following establishment of the soft landscape proposals, including new areas of wetland habitats as part of a mosaic of landscape habitats, the quality and value of this receptor within the Site will be enhanced.	<b>Medium/Slight (Positive)</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase, i.e., temporary works associated with the removal of access crossings.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>

<b>MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – <i>The Tranquillity of the Site</i></b>					
<b>ASSESSMENT PHASE</b>	<b>SIZE AND SCALE</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT</b>	<b>DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	For a period of 12 months, there will be wholesale change to the tranquillity of the Site due to the introduction of construction activities across an extensive area and on local roads including plant and equipment movement and activity. This is likely to fundamentally change the perception of tranquillity from an agricultural landscape typically characterised by limited infrequent activity associated with agricultural operations. However, the majority of construction operations associated with the installation of solar PV arrays are of relatively low intensity. Construction of the BESS/Substation compound is likely to be of a greater scale of change with respect to activity and noise.	<b>Medium (Negative)</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Medium (Negative)</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Long term, reversible</b>	At Year 1 the completed development will result in the introduction of static built forms (tracker panels movements are gradual and unlikely to result in noticeable movement within the landscape). The majority of the Site will remain relatively peaceful with little day to day activity i.e., only occasional maintenance operations – albeit these are expected to be more frequent within the early years of establishment of planting. There are likely to be increased impacts from noise from the Proposed Development itself – in particular around the proposed sub-station/battery storage compound, albeit this is anticipated to be mitigated to a degree by bunds/acoustic fences.	<b>Medium (Negative)</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Long term, reversible</b>	Following establishment of proposed planting at Year 15, the Proposed Development will benefit from increased enclosure from vegetation, and there are likely to be reduced maintenance operations associated with the landscape. The established landscape will increase the habitat value of the Site and as a result is likely to add to a sense of peacefulness to an extent due to increased presence of wildlife (e.g., opportunities to hear birdsong). Nonetheless, there will remain areas of the Site where tranquillity is reduced.	<b>Slight (Negative)</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase.	<b>Medium (Negative)</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Medium (Negative)</b>

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – <i>The Character of the Site</i>					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
<i>Construction</i>	Medium	Large	Short Term	Principal activities relating to the construction of the Proposed Development will occur on existing fields that are already subject to intensive arable farming with little vegetation cover. The retention of the existing structure of field boundary trees and hedgerows is such that in physical terms the individual components of the Site will not be fundamentally altered. However, the presence of construction activities across the site and emergence of built forms, with associated visual intrusion and heightened levels of activity will alter the perceived character of the Site to a large degree. The Site's open, simple agricultural character will be altered to a construction site, albeit for a short timeframe of 12 months.	Medium (Negative)
<i>Construction Residual</i>	Medium	Large	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	Medium (Negative)
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	Medium	Large	Long term, built form reversible	At Year 1, the Proposed Development will introduce built development across the Site. However, the physical changes to the Site's individual components are limited, with the underlying structure of fields bounded by vegetation and ditches largely retained. More extensive changes are proposed on the Site of the proposed substation, including earthworks and structures of a larger scale, where there will be a greater intensity of landscape impact. The Proposed Development will be in place for an extended period, albeit temporarily and the landscape is largely readily reinstated on decommissioning. The proposed landscape scheme, including the seeding of 369 ha and planting of 87,980 trees and shrubs as well as 0.63 ha of new wetland features will result in substantial improvements to the Site's condition and physical qualities, albeit at Year 1, these improvements will have only just begun to manifest.  The Site will still continue to contribute to recreation, with a slight improvement in public access as a result of the permissive path to the south of Camblesforth.  Whilst the physical changes to the Site are more limited, in perceptual terms there will be Negative effects due to the reduction in openness and tranquillity and increased prominence of energy related built form within the landscape, albeit that change is tempered somewhat by existing indirect influences from Drax Power Station, overhead HV transmission lines and other built elements which are perceived throughout the Site. Notwithstanding the above, the existing field pattern will remain legible.	Medium (Negative) (Negative)
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	Medium	Large	Long term, built form reversible	At Year 15, the maturation of the extensive planting scheme will result in a wholesale change to the physical landscape with 369ha of arable land converted to wildflower grassland or grazing pasture, over 12km of new hedgerows as well as reinforcement of existing hedgerows, a substantial number of new canopy trees, nearly 10ha of native woodland and areas of new wetland habitats.  Whilst the Site will be changed to a solar PV installation, with associated increases in built infrastructure, the perception of these new built forms will be tempered to a considerable degree by new planting once established, resulting in more filtering and screening of existing open views.	Medium (Negative and Positive Negative)
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Medium	Large	Short Term	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase. However, the presence of established planting will provide increased containment and screening of activities on the Site, such that the scale of change will be reduced.	Slight (Negative)
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	Medium	Large	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	Slight (Negative)

MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – <i>LCA 7: Aire Valley</i>					
ASSESSMENT PHASE	SIZE AND SCALE	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY	NOTES	MAGNITUDE
<i>Construction</i>	Large	Negligible	Short Term	With respect to direct effects, construction activities will occur on a very limited extent of the LCA at its northern fringe, which is unlikely to result in a discernible change to the overall integrity of the LCA. There is unlikely to be any wider intervisibility such that the Proposed Development will be perceived from the River Aire itself. As such, indirect effects on the wider LCA will also be limited.	Negligible (Negative)
<i>Construction Residual</i>	Large	Negligible	Short Term	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	Negligible (Negative)
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	Medium	Negligible	Long term, built form reversible	At Year 1, the Proposed Development will introduce new built form, only in the form of solar PV arrays, within a relatively small part of the LCA (approximately 17 ha), leading to limited direct effects on the physical fabric of the receptor. The limited height of the Proposed Development in combination with the flat landscape is such that wider, indirect effects are unlikely to alter the integrity or overall perception of the LCA. The inclusion of new wetland areas and woodland shelterbelts near the southern site boundary will contribute to an enhancement of the LCA, in line with published guidance, however the contribution of this planting to the receptor at year 1 is likely to be limited. The Proposed Development is within a part of the LCA that is already strongly influenced by commercial greenhouses north of Hirst Road, and as such is already under the influence of built development that has similar form and height to solar PV development.	Slight (Negative)
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	Small	Negligible	Long term, built form reversible	Following the establishment of proposed planting at Year 15, the Proposed Development will benefit from enhanced assimilation and integration within the landscape further reducing the potential for intervisibility and resultant indirect effects. The establishment of proposed landscape features will also improve the condition and habitat value of the landscape to a degree. Nonetheless, the increased presence of energy infrastructure within the LCA will continue to have a localised Negative effect.	Negligible (Negative)
<i>Decommissioning</i>	Small	Negligible	Short Term	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase. However, the presence of established planting will provide increased containment and screening of activities on the Site, such that the scale of change will be reduced.	Negligible (Negative)

<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Negligible</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Negligible (Negative)</b>
---------------------------------	--------------	-------------------	-------------------	---	------------------------------

<b>MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland</b>					
<b>ASSESSMENT PHASE</b>	<b>SIZE AND SCALE</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT</b>	<b>DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small/Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	The construction of the Proposed Development will introduce direct effects on a relatively limited part of the overall receptor, with approximately 66ha of the Solar Farm Zone lying within this LCA, which has a total area of 3,600ha. The changes, i.e., the installation of solar PV panels will introduce disturbance and visual intrusion for a period of 12 months. However, this disturbance is limited due to the low intensity of construction operations associated with solar development. Due to the relative openness of this LCA, these changes will also be perceptible further afield within the LCA such that the perceptual envelope for indirect effects on the LCA due to intrusion will extend beyond the Site's boundaries, albeit nonetheless restricted to the eastern limit of the LCA.	<b>Slight</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small/Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Slight</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small/Medium</b>	<b>Long term, built form reversible</b>	At Year 1, the Proposed Development will introduce new built form, only solar PV arrays, within a relatively small area (approximately 66ha), leading to limited direct effects on the physical fabric of the area. The open nature of the landscape in the LCA is such that the Proposed Development is likely to be perceptible within a wider area, although this remains a discrete part of the receptor as a whole. The inclusion of characteristic new planting in accordance with published guidance will have a positive impact on the LCA, however these benefits are likely to be limited at Year 1.	<b>Medium/Slight</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Long term, built form reversible</b>	Following establishment of proposed planting at Year 15, there will be an overall enhancement to the structure and quality of the landscape in a limited part of the LCA. This planting will also reduce the perception of the Proposed Development in views from the wider area, and thus limit the potential for indirect effects to be experienced beyond the Site's boundaries. Nonetheless, the change in the character and physical fabric of this part of the LCA due to the introduction of built form will remain.	<b>Slight</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase. However, the presence of established planting will provide increased containment and screening of activities on the Site, such that the scale of change will be reduced, and the extent over which the activities will be perceived will also reduce.	<b>Slight/Negligible</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Slight/Negligible</b>

<b>MAGNITUDE OF LANDSCAPE CHANGE – LCA 15: Camblesforth Farmland</b>					
<b>ASSESSMENT PHASE</b>	<b>SIZE AND SCALE</b>	<b>GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT</b>	<b>DURATION/ REVERSIBILITY</b>	<b>NOTES</b>	<b>MAGNITUDE</b>
<i>Construction</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	The construction of the Proposed Development will directly affect an extensive area that comprises a substantial geographic area within the LCA resulting in a large scale of change from agricultural land to a solar PV construction site. Whilst the majority of the Site within the LCA is the Solar Farm Zone, with construction operations of limited intensity, there are also areas that will undergo excavations and groundworks (e.g., substation/BESS compounds and construction compounds) and thus operations of a higher intensity. These operations will extend over a wider area, and with construction access likely to be via the A1041, the LCA will be subject to indirect effects as a result of additional vehicle movements on roads, albeit on a short-term basis.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Construction Residual</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Operation (Year 1)</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Long term, built form reversible</b>	At Year 1, the Proposed Development will result in direct effects on a sizeable part of the LCA due to the introduction of new built form across the Site, which occupies a sizeable part of the LCA. This change will also be perceptible across a wider but localised area resulting in indirect effects due to perception of change on the Site. The influence of built form associated with energy infrastructure will be extended in the context of existing large scale infrastructure features.	<b>Medium</b>
<i>Operational Residual (Year 15)</i>	<b>Medium/Small</b>	<b>Large</b>	<b>Long term, built form reversible</b>	At Year 15 following the establishment of extensive planting, the majority of which is within the LCA, there will be a considerable strengthening of the existing field pattern, and a greater degree of vegetative enclosure that will limit the perception of proposed built elements. The proposed planting will also contribute to the enhancement of the landscape through habitat creation and a greater level of diversity in the landscape, compared with a baseline of primarily mono-cultural agriculture. The existing field pattern will be largely preserved and reinforced in accordance with published guidance.	<b>Medium/Slight</b>
<i>Decommissioning</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	Decommissioning activities will occur across the Site for a period of 12 months and are expected to be similar in nature to the construction phase. However, the presence of established planting will provide increased containment and screening of activities on the Site, such that the scale of change will be reduced, and the extent over which the activities will be perceived will also reduce.	<b>Slight</b>
<i>Decommissioning Residual</i>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short Term</b>	No further mitigation is proposed. Therefore, the effects will remain as above.	<b>Slight</b>



ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE EFFECTS													
RECEPTOR	SENSITIVITY	CONSTRUCTION		CONSTRUCTION RESIDUAL		OPERATION (YEAR 1)		OPERATIONAL RESIDUAL (YEAR 15)		DECOMMISSIONING		DECOMMISSIONING RESIDUAL	
		MAGNITUDE	EFFECT	MAGNITUDE	EFFECT	MAGNITUDE	EFFECT	MAGNITUDE	EFFECT	MAGNITUDE	EFFECT	MAGNITUDE	EFFECT
<i>Fields</i>	Low/Medium	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Substantial	Major/ Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate/ Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)
<i>Hedgerows</i>	Low	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Medium	Moderate/ Minor (P)	Substantial	Moderate (P)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)
<i>Canopy Trees</i>	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Slight	Minor (P)	Medium	Moderate (P)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)
<i>Woodland</i>	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Slight	Minor (P)	Medium	Moderate (P)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)	Negligible	Negligible (Nu)
<i>Wetland Features</i>	Low	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Slight	Negligible/ Minor (P)	Medium/Slight	Minor (P)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)
<i>The Tranquillity of the Site</i>	Medium	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)
<i>The Overall Character of the Site</i>	Medium	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N and P)	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)
<i>LCA 7: Aire Valley</i>	Low	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)	Negligible	Negligible (N)
<i>LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland</i>	Low	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Medium/Slight	Moderate (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight/ Negligible	Minor/ Negligible (N)	Slight/ Negligible	Minor/ Negligible (N)
<i>LCA 15: Camblesforth Farmland</i>	Low-Medium	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium	Moderate (N)	Medium/Slight	Moderate/ Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)	Slight	Minor (N)

**Key to effect balance: (P) = Positive, (N) = Negative, (Nu) = Neutral**

**Boxes shaded dark grey denote effects considered significant for EIA purposes. Boxes shaded light grey are not considered significant for EIA purposes, but in accordance with the methodology at Appendix 7.1 it is considered that a concentration of such effects could result in significant effects.**