The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume: 1

Part 2 Suffolk Onshore Scheme

Chapter 2 Landscape and Visual

Version A

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nationalgrid

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2.2 Landscape and Visual

2.2.1 Introduction

2.2.1.1 This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presents information about the preliminary environmental assessment of the likely significant landscape and visual effects identified to date, that could result from Sea Link (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Project) (as described in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**).

2.2.1.2 This chapter describes the methodology used, the datasets that have informed the preliminary assessment, baseline conditions, mitigation measures and the preliminary landscape and visual residual significant effects that could result from the Proposed Project.

2.2.1.3 Landscape effects associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme relate to the changes to the fabric, character, and quality of the landscape and how it is experienced. As defined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third edition) (GLVIA3) (Ref 2.2.1) the term landscape also encompasses urban landscape, often referred to as townscape. For the purpose of this assessment the term landscape is adopted and may include areas of townscape within towns or villages.

2.2.1.4 Visual effects relate closely to changes to the landscape, but primarily concern changes in people's views and visual amenity as a result of the introduction of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Although effects on the landscape and visual environment are interrelated, they are assessed and reported separately in this chapter.

2.2.1.5 The draft Order Limits, which illustrate the boundary of the Proposed Project, are illustrated on **Figure 1.1.1 Draft Order Limits** and the Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary is illustrated on **Figure 1.1.2 Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary**.

2.2.1.6 This chapter should be read in conjunction with:

- **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**;
- **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**;
- **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 6, Scoping Opinion and EIA Consultation**;
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme**;
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Ecology and Biodiversity;**
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage;**
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 8, Traffic and Transport;**
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 10, Noise and Vibration; and**
- **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 11, Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism.**

2.2.1.7 This chapter is supported by the following figures:

- **Volume 3, Part 1, Figure 1.4.3: Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy;**

- **Volume 3, Part 1, Figure 1.4.6: Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.1: Topography;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.2: Landscape Context and Designations;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.3: Landscape Character – National and Regional;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.4: Landscape Character – County;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.5: Landscape Character – District;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.6: Seascape Character – National, Regional and District;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.7: Representative Viewpoint Locations;**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.8: Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1);**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.9: Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 2);**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.10: Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and SPR Friston Substation (Option 3);**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.11: Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4); and**
- **Volume 3, Part 2, Figure 2.2.12: Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages.**
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- R: Viewpoint 18: Suffolk Coast Path east of Snape

2.2.1.8 This chapter is supported by the following appendices:

- **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A, Outline Code of Construction Practice;**
- **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.F, Outline Schedule of Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures; and**
- **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.A, Photomontage Methodology; and**
- **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

2.2.2 Regulatory and Planning Context

2.2.2.1 This section sets out the legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the preliminary landscape and visual assessment for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. A full review of compliance with relevant national and local planning policy will be provided within the Planning Statement that will be submitted as part of the application for Development Consent.

2.2.2.2 Policy generally seeks to minimise landscape effects from development and to avoid significant adverse effects. This applies particularly to landscapes with statutory designations, including in this case, Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), but also to other landscapes outside of designated areas where there is an aspiration in policy terms to conserve and enhance landscapes of high value or features which are particularly distinctive.

Legislation

European Landscape Convention

2.2.2.3 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Ref 2.2.2) was signed by the UK Government in 2006 and came into effect in March 2007[1]. The ELC recognises landscape in law. It focuses specifically on landscape issues and highlights the importance of integration of landscape into areas of policy, to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes including the assessment of landscape and analysis of landscape change.

[1] The UK remains a signatory post-Brexit.

2.2.2.4 The ELC defines landscape as:

"*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors*".

2.2.2.5 The ELC promotes an 'all-landscapes approach', founded on the recognition of value in all landscapes. It recognises that the landscape is important as a component of the environment and of people's surroundings in both town and country and whether it is ordinary landscape or outstanding. The ELC considers landscape as a whole (land or marine), from urban to rural areas, and whether special or degraded.

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

2.2.2.6 In England and Wales national parks and AONB are designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (Ref 2.2.3). The Environment Act 1995 revised the original legislation and set out two statutory purposes for national parks in England and Wales:

"*Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage"*

and

"Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of national parks by the public".

2.2.2.7 When national parks carry out these purposes they also have the duty to:

"*Seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the national parks (Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995)".*

Tree Preservation Orders

2.2.2.8 The law on Tree Preservation Orders is contained in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (in particular sections 197-214, as amended) (Ref 2.2.4) and in the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 (as amended)(Statutory Instrument number 1892) (Ref 2.2.5).

National Policy

National Policy Statements

2.2.2.9 National Policy Statements (NPSs) set out the primary policy tests against which the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Proposed Project would be considered. A review of the NPS was announced in the 2020 Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future. This review was to ensure the NPSs were brought up to date to reflect the policies set out in the white paper. Table 2.2.1 and Table 2.2.2 provide details of the elements of NPS for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 2.2.6) and NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 2.2.7) that are relevant to this chapter and how and where they are covered in the PEIR or will be covered within the Environmental Statement (ES).

Table 2.2.1: NPS EN-1 requirements relevant to landscape and visual

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
Part 4.2 sets out the requirement for an ES which should describe "*the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project*".	An ES will accompany the DCO application, which will include a Landscape and Visual chapter and reference to interaction between disciplines. The Landscape and Visual chapter will set out an assessment of likely significant effects for construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning, as set out within the NPS in paragraph 4.2.1.
Part 4.5 sets out criteria for "*good design*" for energy infrastructure. Paragraph 4.5.1 states that: "*Applying "good design" to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area*".	**Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme** identifies the environmental considerations, including landscape and visual considerations, which have informed the siting and outline design of the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station. The design of this structure, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.
4.5.3 (part) "...*Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation…"*	**Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme** identifies the environmental considerations, including landscape and visual considerations, which have informed the siting and outline design of the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station. The design of this

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	structure, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.
4.5.4 (part) "…*For the IPC to consider the proposal for a project, applicants should be able to demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected. In considering applications the IPC should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy".*	The draft Order Limits have been developed through a detailed routeing and siting process. **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Main Alternatives Considered** sets out how the Proposed Project has evolved to date, and the alternatives considered. The evolution of the design will be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES.
Part 5.3 sets out information regarding Biodiversity and geological conservation and Part 5.8 sets out information regarding the Historic Environment, including reference to designations.	Assessments covering matters relating to biodiversity, geological conservation and the historic environment will inform judgements on landscape value within the Landscape and Visual chapter of the ES.
5.9.5 (part)"…*The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development plan documents in England and local development plans in Wales".*	Published landscape and seascape character documents have been used as a means of assessing the preliminary landscape effects presented in this chapter. The baseline landscape and seascape character is presented in Section 2.2.8, **Volume 2, Part 2**, **Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape**

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	and Visual Baseline and on **Figure 2.2.3 Landscape Character - National and Regional** to **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District**.
5.9.6 "*The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character".*	The preliminary landscape and visual assessment presented in this chapter has assessed the likely significant effects from the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Project on landscape component and character (see Section 2.2.10).
5.9.8 "*Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate".*	An iterative process of design and assessment has informed the siting and routeing of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Mitigation measures including those which are embedded in the Suffolk Onshore Scheme design are presented in Section 2.2.9. Landscape character, quality and value are considered in Section 2.2.8 and **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline** and have informed the value and susceptibility judgements.
5.9.9 "*National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the IPC should have regard to in its decisions. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas".*	The preliminary assessment of effects on the AONB is reported in Section 2.2.10.
5.9.10 "*Nevertheless, the IPC may grant development consent in these areas in exceptional circumstances. The development*	The preliminary assessment of effects on the AONB is contained in Section 2.2.10.

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: • *the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy;* • *the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.4; and* • *any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated".*	
5.9.11 "*The IPC should ensure that any projects consented in these designated areas should be carried out to high environmental standards, including through the application of appropriate requirements where necessary".*	Measures contained in **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A, Outline Code of Construction Practice** provide a commitment to reinstate land within the AONB that would be affected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.
5.9.12 *(part) "The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints…"*	The draft Order Limits including the siting of the converter station have been developed through a detailed routeing and siting process. **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Main Alternatives Considered** sets out how the Proposed Project has evolved to date, and the alternatives considered. This includes the decision to site the converter station away from the AONB to limit effects on its setting and a commitment to a trenchless technique for the landfall. The preliminary assessment of effects on the AONB and its setting is reported in Section 2.2.10.
5.9.14 "*Outside designated landscapes, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in*	The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character is contained in Section 2.2.10. Preliminary judgements of

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent as this may unduly restrict acceptable development".	landscape value are contained in Section 2.2.8 and **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline** and have informed the overall sensitivity of each Landscape Character Area (LCA).
5.9.15 "*The scale of such projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The IPC [Secretary of State] should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project".*	The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plans are presented on **Figure 2.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1)** to **2.2.11 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4)**. Beyond the extents shown on the ZTV and the identified study area, potentially significant landscape and visual effects are not considered likely.
5.9.16 "*In reaching a judgement, the IPC should consider whether the adverse impact on the landscape is temporary, such as during construction, and/ or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable".*	The preliminary landscape and visual assessment presented in this chapter has assessed the likely significant effects from the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Section 2.2.10). The magnitude judgements consider the duration and reversibility of the impact.
5.9.17 "*The IPC should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation".*	An iterative process of design and assessment has informed the siting and routeing of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme to minimise effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Mitigation measures including

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	those which are embedded in the Suffolk Onshore Scheme design are presented in Section 2.2.9.
5.9.18 "*All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. The IPC will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project. Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion because of the potential high visibility of development on the foreshore, on the skyline and affecting views along stretches of undeveloped coast".*	The preliminary landscape and visual assessment presented in this chapter has assessed the likely significant effects from the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. This has included a range of receptors, including local residents and visitors as well as views experienced from recreational routes along the coast. These are presented in Section 2.2.10.
5.9.19 "*It may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on sensitive receptors. This may assist the IPC in judging the weight it should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development".*	Consideration of similar infrastructure present within the study area has been identified where relevant and has informed the preliminary landscape and visual assessment where relevant.
5.9.21 "*Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the IPC may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function".*	As part of the iterative process of design and assessment, the vertical Limits of Deviation (LoD) for the converter station has been reduced from 30m to 26m in order to reduce the potential landscape and visual effects. See **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Main Alternatives Considered and Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme**.
5.9.22 "*Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and*	**Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme** identifies the environmental considerations, including landscape and visual considerations, which have informed the siting and outline

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
design of buildings should always be given careful consideration".	design of the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station. The design of this structure, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.
5.9.23 "*Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off-site. For example, when filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines would mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista".* Part 5.9 also goes on to discuss developments outside nationally designated areas. It acknowledges that a landscape does not have to be designated to be valued locally and makes reference to local designations.	Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**. Within the draft Order Limits additional landscape planting beyond the converter station boundaries has been identified to assist in reducing landscape and visual effects, also shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**.
Part 5.10 sets out information regarding Land use including open space, green infrastructure & Green Belt. This section is relevant primarily relating to mitigation. This includes ensuring that the: *"connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained" and "appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails and other rights of way".*	Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** and consider connectivity with the green

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	infrastructure network. Potential effects on rights of way, National Trails and other longer distance recreational routes are considered in the visual assessment (see Section 2.2.10).
Part 5.11 sets out information regarding Noise and vibration, which will be referred to where relevant to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment such as relating to tranquillity.	Consideration of noise and vibration has informed the landscape value judgements relating to tranquillity.

2.2.2.10 The draft version of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) published in March 2023 (Ref 2.2.8). also refers to factors that should be taken into consideration when completing a landscape and visual impact assessment. These remain similar to the adopted version, and the document refers to the Secretary of State as the decision maker rather than the IPC.

2.2.2.11 The draft document (Ref 2.2.8) includes a new part 4.5: Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain. Paragraph 4.5.1 states that:

"*Environmental net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Projects should therefore not only mitigate harms, following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements.*

Biodiversity net gain is an essential component of environmental net gain. Projects in England should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver biodiversity net gain."

2.2.2.12 In response to this draft policy, National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) has prepared draft landscape mitigation proposals which are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** and will be developed collaboratively with the ecology team to ensure Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the conservation, enhancement and management of biodiversity and geodiversity assets is positively considered.

Table 2.2.2: NPS EN-5 requirements relevant to landscape and visual

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
2.2.6 "... *As well as having duties under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), developers will be influenced by Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989 , which*	The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this chapter considers the option that the consented Friston

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to "have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and … do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects." Depending on the location of the proposed development, statutory duties under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 may be relevant".	Substation may be constructed as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. There would be no significant effects on the AONB or its setting (see Section 2.2.10).
Part 2.5 reiterates the importance of good design and refers back to EN-1. Paragraph 2.5.2 states that: *"Proposals for electricity networks infrastructure should demonstrate good design in their approach to mitigating the potential adverse impacts which can be associated with overhead lines".*	There are no overhead lines included within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.
Part 2.7 provides specific considerations which apply to electricity networks infrastructure for understanding Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.	There are no overhead lines included within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.
2.8.2 (part) "…*New substations, sealing end compounds and other above ground installations that form connection, switching and voltage transformation points on the electricity networks can also give rise to landscape and visual impacts. Cumulative landscape and visual impacts can arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms and/or other new sources of power generation…"*	The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this chapter considers the option that the consented Friston Substation may be constructed as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Section 2.2.10). Preliminary cumulative landscape and visual effects are presented in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, Inter-project Cumulative Effects**.
2.8.4 "*Where possible, applicants should follow the principles below [Holford Rules] in designing the route of their overhead line proposals and it will be for applicants to offer constructive proposals for additional mitigation of the proposed overhead line. While proposed underground lines do not require*	There are no overhead lines included within the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
development consent under the Planning Act 2008, wherever the nature or proposed route of an overhead line proposals makes it likely that its visual impact will be particularly significant, the applicant should have given appropriate consideration to the potential costs and benefits of other feasible means of connection or reinforcement, including underground and sub-sea cables where appropriate. The ES should set out details of how consideration has been given to undergrounding or sub-sea cables as a way of mitigating such impacts, including, where these have not been adopted on grounds of additional cost, how the costs of mitigation have been calculated"	effects presented in this chapter considers the option that the consented Friston Substation may be constructed as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Section 2.2.10). The High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cables connection to it would be underground.
2.8.9 "*The impacts and costs of both overhead and underground options vary considerably between individual projects (both in absolute and relative terms). Therefore, each project should be assessed individually on the basis of its specific circumstances and taking account of the fact that Government has not laid down any general rule about when an overhead line should be considered unacceptable. The IPC should, however only refuse consent for overhead line proposals in favour of an underground or sub-sea line if it is satisfied that the benefits from the non-overhead line alternative will clearly outweigh any extra economic, social and environmental impacts and the technical difficulties are surmountable. In this context it should consider:* • *The landscape in which the proposed line will be set, (in particular, the impact on residential areas, and those of natural beauty or historic importance such as National Parks, AONBs and the Broads);* • *the additional cost of any undergrounding or sub-sea cabling (which experience shows is generally significantly more expensive than overhead lines, but varies considerably from project to project depending on a range of factors, including whether the line is buried directly in open agricultural land or whether more complex tunnelling and civil engineering through conurbations and major cities is*	The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this chapter considers the option that the consented Friston Substation may be constructed as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Section 2.2.10). The HVAC connection to it would be underground.

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
required. Repair impacts are also significantly higher than for overhead lines as are the costs associated with any later uprating.); and • *the environmental and archaeological consequences (undergrounding a 400 kV line may mean disturbing a swathe of ground up to 40 metres across, which can disturb sensitive habitats, have an impact on soils and geology, and damage heritage assets, in many cases more than an overhead line would)"*	
2.8.10 "*In addition to following the principles set out in the Holford Rules and considering undergrounding, the main opportunities for mitigating likely adverse landscape and visual impacts of electricity networks infrastructure are:* • *consideration of network reinforcement options (where alternatives exist) which may allow improvements to an existing line rather than the building of an entirely new line; and* • *selection of the most suitable type and design of support structure (i.e., different lattice tower types, use of wooden poles etc.) in order to minimise the overall visual impact on the landscape."*	There are no OHL components to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this chapter considers the option that the consented Friston Substation may be constructed as part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Section 2.2.10). The HVAC connection to it would be underground.
2.8.11 "(part) There are some more specific measures that might be taken, and which the IPC could require through requirements if appropriate, as follows: Landscape Schemes comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting are sometimes used for larger overhead line projects to mitigate likely landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These can only be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s) and advice from the relevant statutory advisor may also be needed"	Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**. Within the draft Order Limits additional landscape planting beyond the converter station, and substation site boundaries has been identified to assist in reducing landscape and visual effects, also shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham**

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**.

2.2.2.13 The draft version of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) published in March 2023 (Ref 2.2.9) also refers to factors that should be taken into consideration when completing a landscape and visual impact assessment specifically relating to electricity networks. In addition to the adopted version, the draft document in paragraph 2.0.11 states that:

"*Though mitigation of the landscape and visual impacts arising from overhead lines and their associated infrastructure is usually possible, it may not always be so, and the impossibility of full mitigation in these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines*".

2.2.2.14 There is information regarding landscape and visual mitigation, including in paragraph 2.10.8 which states:

"*Furthermore, since long-term management of the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes. This should also uphold the landscape commitments made to achieve consent, alongside any pertinent commitments to environmental and biodiversity net gain*".

2.2.2.15 The draft document also includes part 2.8: Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain. Paragraph 2.5.1 states that:

"*When planning and evaluating the proposed development's contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important – for both the applicant and the Secretary of State – to supplement the generic guidance set out in EN-1 (Section 4.5) with recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure allows excellent opportunities to: i) reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or ii) connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements*".

2.2.2.16 In response to this draft policy, National Grid has prepared draft landscape mitigation proposals which are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** and will be developed collaboratively with the ecology team to ensure BNG and the conservation, enhancement and management of biodiversity and geodiversity assets is positively considered.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.2.2.17 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 2.2.10) was published in July 2021 and sets out national planning policies that reflect priorities of the Government for operation of the planning system and the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the development and use of land. The NPPF has a strong emphasis on sustainable development, with a presumption in favour of such development. The NPPF has the potential to be considered important and relevant to the SoS' consideration of the Proposed Project. Table 2.2.3 below provides details of the elements of the NPPF that are relevant to this chapter, and how and where they are covered in the PEIR or will be covered within the ES.

Table 2.2.3: NPPF requirements relevant to landscape and visual

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
Paragraph 127 states: *"Design policies should be developed with local communities so they reflect local aspirations, and are grounded in an understanding and evaluation of each area's defining characteristics…".*	Statutory consultation as part of the DCO process will enable local communities to respond to the landscape mitigation proposed.
Paragraph 130: "*Planning policies and decisions should ensure that development (amongst other criteria):* • *are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;* • *are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting;* • *establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;* • *optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and* • *create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not*	The design of the Saxmundham Converter Station in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience."	
Paragraph 134 states: *"Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:* • *development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or* • *outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings."*	The design of the Saxmundham Converter Station, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.
This is further developed in paragraph 135 that states: *"Local planning authorities should seek to ensure that the quality of approved development is not materially diminished between permission and completion, as a result of changes being made to the permitted scheme (for example through changes to approved details such as the materials used)."*	The design of the Saxmundham Converter Station, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.
Paragraph 174 states: "*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:* • *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner*	Landscape and visual considerations have informed the development of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Main Alternatives Considered**

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); • *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;* • *maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;* • *minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;* • *preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and* • *remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate."*	and **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 1, Evolution of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme**). Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** and have been developed collaboratively with disciplines including cultural heritage and ecology.
Paragraph 176 *"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues"*	The draft Order Limits including the siting of the converter station have been developed through a detailed routeing and siting process. **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Main Alternatives Considered** sets out how the Proposed Project has evolved to date, and the alternatives considered. This includes the decision to site the converter station away

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	from the AONB to limit effects on its setting. The preliminary assessment of effects on the AONB and its setting is contained in Section 2.2.10. Effects would be short term and temporary associated with the construction period and the immediate period of reinstatement as committed to within **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A Outline Code of Construction Practice**.
This is further expanded in paragraph 177 which states: *"When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:* • *the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;* • *the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and* • *any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated."*	The preliminary assessment of effects on the AONB and its setting is contained in Section 2.2.10. Effects would be short term and temporary associated with the construction period and the immediate period of reinstatement as committed to within **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A, Outline Code of Construction Practice**. Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**.
Paragraph 185 states: *"Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:*	Preliminary cumulative effects are considered in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, Suffolk Onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects**. The preliminary landscape and visual assessment presented in this chapter has

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the PEIR
• *mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life;* • *identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and* • *limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation."*	assessed the likely significant effects from the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme including potential effects from lighting on landscape character and visual amenity (see Section 2.2.10).

National Planning Practice Guidance

Planning Practice Guidance for Natural Environment

2.2.2.18 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) for 'Natural Environment' (Ref 2.2.11) under the subheading of Green Infrastructure, the PPG notes the importance of green infrastructure as a natural capital asset and should be considered at the earliest stages of development proposals.

2.2.2.19 Under the subheading of Biodiversity, geodiversity and ecosystems, the PPG notes biodiversity opportunities in relation to green infrastructure provision.

2.2.2.20 Under the subheading of Landscape, paragraph 036 (Reference ID: 8-036-20190721) states:

"…*plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include nationally and locally-designated landscapes but also the wider countryside*."

2.2.2.21 Paragraph 036 also notes:

"*Where landscapes have a particular local value, it is important for policies to identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. Policies may set out criteria against which proposals for development affecting these areas will be assessed. Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully*."

2.2.2.22 Paragraph 037 supports the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding the character of the landscape and the relevant management plans for designated landscape for further information on character and beauty.

2.2.2.23 Paragraph 040 sets out that Management Plans for AONB help to *"set out the strategic context for development".*

2.2.2.24 Paragraph 042 gives information regarding development within the setting of National Parks, the Broads and AONB. It states that:

"*Land within the setting of these areas often makes an important contribution to maintaining their natural beauty, and where poorly located or designed development can do significant harm. This is especially the case where long views from or to the designated landscape are identified as important, or where the landscape character of land within and adjoining the designated area is complementary. Development within the settings of these areas will therefore need sensitive handling that takes these potential impacts into account*."

2.2.2.25 Paragraph 043 (Reference ID: 8-043-20190721) gives information regarding Heritage Coasts. It states that:

"*Heritage Coasts are stretches of our most beautiful, undeveloped coastline which are managed to conserve their natural beauty and, where appropriate, to improve access for visitors. Most of the defined Heritage Coast is covered (on land) by either Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park designations*."

Planning Practice Guidance for Light Pollution

2.2.2.26 PPG for 'Light Pollution' (Ref 2.2.12) sets out that:

"*Artificial lighting needs to be considered when a development may increase levels of lighting, or would be sensitive to prevailing levels of artificial lighting."*

2.2.2.27 Relevant to landscape and visual matters, the PPG sets out factors that can be considered when assessing whether a development proposal might have implications for light pollution. This includes the following points:

"*Will a new development, or a proposed change to an existing site, be likely to materially alter light levels in the environment around the site and/or have the potential to adversely affect the use or enjoyment of nearby buildings or open spaces?" and*

"Is the development in or near a protected area of dark sky or an intrinsically dark landscape where new lighting would be conspicuously out of keeping with local nocturnal light levels, making it desirable to minimise or avoid new lighting?"

Local Planning Policy

2.2.2.28 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme lies within the jurisdiction of Suffolk County Council. County planning guidance which is relevant to a study of landscape and visual matters and has informed the assessment of preliminary effects in this chapter are as follows.

Suffolk County Council Corporate Strategy for 2022 to 2026

2.2.2.29 The Suffolk County Council Corporate Strategy for 2022 to 2026 (Ref 2.2.13) includes a section on Protecting and Enhancing Our Environment. This includes "*promoting biodiversity and conserving natural habitats and open spaces*".

Suffolk's Nature Strategy

2.2.2.30 Suffolk's Nature Strategy (Ref 2.2.14) was published in 2015 by SCC, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Trust. The document sets out various recommendations and actions across three sections: natural environment, economic growth and health and wellbeing.

2.2.2.31 The Natural Environment section promotes partnerships and ensuring high quality in relation to protected landscapes, including Coast and Heaths AONB. It also notes that:

"*New woodland planting should be of the right trees in the right places, particularly where they can buffer and expand designated sites, enhance landscape character or improve the extent of natural green space close to where people live*".

2.2.2.32 The Economic Growth section states that:

"*New energy infrastructure should be sensitive to place. Relevant policies as well as national and local guidance, appropriate biological data and Suffolk's Landscape Character Assessment should be used to assess suitability of new energy infrastructures, and other developments, to particular places*".

2.2.2.33 The Health and Wellbeing section states that:

"*Suffolk County Council should seek opportunities to improve the connectivity of the public access network and the development and improvement of the public rights of way network*."

Local Plan

2.2.2.34 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary (refer to **Figure 1.1.2 Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary**) lies within the jurisdiction of East Suffolk Council. Local planning policy for East Suffolk Council consists of two parts; the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.15) and the Waveney Local Plan (Ref 2.2.16) (which cover the former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Districts).

2.2.2.35 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme Boundary lies within the boundary of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (adopted September 2020) (Ref 2.2.15). Local Plan policies which are relevant to landscape and visual assessment matters and will inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) in the ES are detailed in Table 2.2.4.

Table 2.2.4: Local Planning Policies relevant to landscape and visual

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Policy	Where this is covered in the PEIR
2.2: Strategic Infrastructure Priorities. This policy sets out various deliverables by the Council in relation to strategic infrastructure, including the *"provision of green infrastructure".*	Opportunities of connecting to and enhancement of green infrastructure within the outline landscape mitigation proposals are contained in Section 2.2.9 and shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter**

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Policy	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.
10.1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity This policy states that *"development will be supported where it can be demonstrated that it maintains, restores or enhances the existing green infrastructure network and positively contributes towards biodiversity and/or geodiversity". The policy notes the importance of creating new habitats, maintaining and enhancing green infrastructure links and the use of the mitigation hierarchy. The policy states that development should "provide environmental net gains in terms of both green infrastructure and biodiversity".*	Opportunities of connecting to and enhancement of green infrastructure within the outline landscape mitigation proposals are contained in Section 2.2.9 and shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**.
10.3: Environmental Quality This policy sets out that all development proposals will be expected to protect environmental quality. This includes light pollution, noise pollution and cumulative effects.	The proposed lighting for the Suffolk Onshore Scheme is presented in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project** and considered within the preliminary landscape and visual effects presented in this chapter. Preliminary cumulative landscape and visual effects are contained in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, Inter-project Cumulative Effects**.
10.4: Landscape Character This policy states that proposed developments should be sympathetic to the relevant published landscape character assessments and landscape evidence. The policy lists elements that the proposed development should protect and enhance, including special qualities and features, visual relationship around and landscape setting of settlements, distinctive landscape elements, sensitive views and green infrastructure network. The policy also notes the importance of the natural beauty and special qualities of the Coast and Heaths AONB and its setting. The policy also states to protect and enhance the public right of way network, tranquillity and dark skies.	Preliminary effects on landscape character as a result of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are presented in Section 2.2.10. They are based on the characterisation contained in the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (SCLCA) (Ref 2.2.17) published by East Suffolk Council in 2018 as well as the Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Natural Beauty and

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Policy	Where this is covered in the PEIR
	Special Qualities Indicators (Ref 2.2.18) published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2016 (see Section 2.2.8 and **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**).
11.1: Design Quality This policy states that the Council *"will support locally distinctive and high-quality design that clearly demonstrates an understanding of the key features of local character and seeks to enhance these features through innovative and creative means".* The policy also notes that proposals should take any important landscape features into consideration, aim to retain and enhance natural and semi-natural features on-site and use landscaping schemes to aid the integration of development into its surroundings.	The design of the Saxmundham Converter Station,in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for the building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detail proposals of the structure.Landscape mitigation proposals are identified in Section 2.2.9 and **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** and have been developed collaboratively with disciplines including cultural heritage and ecology.
11.2: Residential Amenity This policy sets out various criteria when considering the impact of development on residential amenity, this includes reference to visual aspects such as privacy and outlook.	Preliminary visual effects as a result of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are considered in Section 2.2.10 of this chapter.
11.8: Parks and Gardens of Historic Landscape Interest	Preliminary effects on landscape character including locally designated

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – Policy	Where this is covered in the PEIR
This policy sets out statutory and non-statutory heritage assets and notes extensive coverage of the historic parklands within the landscape. The policy notes that the *"delineated boundary of each of these locally listed historic parklands includes the area currently forming the visual extent of the parkland". The policy states that the Council will "encourage the preservation and enhancement of these parks and gardens of historic interest and their surroundings".*	landscapes, as a result of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are presented in Section 2.2.10.
SCLP 12.29: South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood. The proposed site for the converter station is located to the southeast of the settlement of Saxmundham. The policy sets out the strategy for a garden neighbourhood to the south of Saxmundham. The policy sets out requirements for the masterplan, including the "provision of green infrastructure, including informal and formal open spaces, circular walks, and retention and enhancement of the natural features on the site such as trees, woodland and hedgerows to be incorporated into the layout of the development". This development would extend the settlement of Saxmundham further south adjacent to the A12.	The Suffolk Onshore Scheme would not directly affect the South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood. The outline landscape plan presented on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** identifies the opportunity for wider green infrastructure connections which could connect with any future proposals to the south of Saxmundham.

Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document

2.2.2.36 The Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Ref 2.2.19) was published in April 2022 by East Suffolk Council (ESC). The document provides further detail and expands upon aspects within the adopted Local Plan. Relevant to landscape and visual matters, the document includes a section on the Natural Environment.

2.2.2.37 The Natural Environment section notes the importance of protecting and enhancing valued and designated landscapes. The section notes published guidance including the Local Plan and states that "*development proposals should include measures to enable a scheme to integrate into the landscape*". The section also makes reference to enhancing biodiversity, such as the provision of green corridors and tree planting, and the consideration of dark skies and tranquillity.

Environmental Guidance Note

2.2.2.38 The Environmental Guidance Note (Ref 2.2.20) was published in November 2020 by ESC as a response to the climate change emergency. Relevant to landscape and visual matters, the document includes a section on Nature and Wildlife which states that "*where possible, existing trees and established vegetation should be protected and enhanced when designing the layout of new developments*" and encourages the use of wildlife corridors to integrate into the wider green infrastructure network.

Settlement Sensitivity Assessment

2.2.2.39 The Settlement Sensitivity Assessment Volume 2: Suffolk Coastal (Ref 2.2.21) published in 2018 by ESC is not referred to as it is based upon two development scenarios which are housing and commercial developments, of which the Suffolk Onshore Scheme is not relevant to.

Leiston Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2029

2.2.2.40 The Leiston Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 2.2.22) was made in March 2017 to guide future development. The plan notes that the "*role of the energy sector in this location is important in the context of Leiston, the wider district and nationally*". The plan sets out a 'Vision for Leiston', which includes reference to protecting and enhancing the setting of the town and also in terms of the role of the town in relation to its rural hinterland. The policies set out within the plan are focused on development within the settlement of Leiston and are not relevant to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Draft 2022-2036

2.2.2.41 The submission draft of Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 2.2.23) was published in April 2022 to guide future development. The plan makes reference to the South Saxmundham Garden Neighbourhood, as referred to within the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.15) above. The plan sets out a 'Vision for Saxmundham' which notes the importance of enhancements to the green infrastructure network and biodiversity and ease of movement.

2.2.2.42 The plan also defines Objectives, including:

"*To protect and enhance the conservation area, the town's heritage, green spaces, natural features and rural setting, and to address the challenges of climate change*".

2.2.2.43 The plan includes Policy SAX1: General design principles, which notes the importance of retaining existing connections including natural features and public rights of way (PRoW). Policy SAX6: Improving connectivity notes the importance of retaining and improving connectivity, including reference to promoting green corridors to connect with neighbouring villages. Policy SAX7: Public Rights of Way states that existing PRoW should be protected and enhanced.

2.2.2.44 The plan includes Policy SAX13: Gateways, views and the landscape setting of Saxmundham which refers to 'Important local views (SAX13)'. Those relevant to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme includes the 'view towards the town from the B1119 (Leiston Road)', which states:

"*The approach from Leiston is across a wide-open plateau. Looking west at a point about 400m east of the access to Wood Farm the view of the tree line along the ridge becomes conspicuous, the town below is hidden, but the view of the trees and the change in the landscape is the first clear indication that the town is nearby*."

2.2.2.45 Also relevant includes 'view from the B1121 looking across to Hurts Hall and St John's Church', which states:

"*Looking northeast from a point approximately 200m south of the milestone. This is a panoramic view which includes open farmland in the foreground, Hurts Hall and St John's Church in the middle distance backed by wooded rising land*."

2.2.2.46 Policy SAX13 also makes reference to Green Gateways, which includes along the B1119 on the eastern approach to Saxmundham. The Policy states:

"*Proposals that would enhance the visual appearance of an entrance or 'gateway' to the town will be supported however where 'green' gateways or substantially undeveloped entrances currently exist, these should be maintained as 'soft' entrances to assist with the urban to rural transition.*

Where gateway enhancements are proposed, schemes should be designed to ensure that gateway enhancements do not detract from highway safety and visual amenity and should minimise the need for non-essential lighting.

Opportunities to improve the public realm at entrances to the town, through the use of appropriate hard or soft landscaping measures will also be supported where they include the use of vernacular materials and native planting."

2.2.2.47 Policy SAX14: Protection and enhancement of natural assets, refers to retaining existing features within the relevant published Landscape Character types and enhancement of biodiversity.

2.2.2.48 The outline landscape mitigation proposals are contained in Section 2.2.9 and the outline landscape plan presented on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**.

Relevant Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Planning Policy

2.2.2.49 The Suffolk Onshore Scheme study area (Section 2.2.6) lies partially within the Coast and Heaths AONB. The following planning guidance documents are considered to be relevant to landscape and visual matters and are summarised below.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan

2.2.2.50 The Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2018-2023 (Ref 2.2.24) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2018.

2.2.2.51 The primary purpose of AONBs is to "*conserve and enhance natural beauty*". The document states that AONBs are defined by their natural beauty and lists those attributes which Natural England considers when assessing land to be suitable for AONB designation, listed as follows:

- *"landscape quality;*
- *scenic quality;*
- *relative wildness;*
- *intrusiveness;*

- *natural heritage features;*
- *cultural heritage features; and*
- *associations".*

2.2.2.52 The document sets out how authorities should pay regard to the purposes of the AONB and sets out the purposes of AONBs, listed as follows:

- *"conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, ensuring they can meet the challenges of the future;*
- *support the economic and social well-being of local communities in ways which contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty;*
- *promote public understanding and enjoyment of the nature and culture of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and encourage people to take action for their conservation; and*
- *value, sustain and promote the benefits that the UK's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty provide for society, including clean air and water, food, carbon storage and other services vital to the nation's health and wellbeing".*

2.2.2.53 Regarding the setting of the AONB, the document states that:

"Areas in the setting of the AONB share many of the same landscape features and character of the designated landscape. Land management and development decisions within the setting can impact upon the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB. Decision makers should therefore consider the purposes of the AONB when making land management and development decisions in the setting of the AONB and note the AONB Partnership's position statement on development within the setting of the AONB".

2.2.2.54 The document gives information regarding the relationship of the AONB with the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The objectives of the Heritage Coast include *"conserving environmental health and biodiversity of inshore waters and beaches".*

2.2.2.55 The document sets out aspirations for indicators by 2038, which includes reference to conserving and enhancing natural beauty and special qualities and also retaining tranquillity and dark skies. The document also sets out key visions for different landscape areas, including protecting and enhancing the lowland coast, estuaries and heaths.

2.2.2.56 The document sets out Landscape Objectives for the AONB, as follows:

- *"L1: The landscape of the AONB is conserved and enhanced;*
- *L2: National and local plan policies recognise the need to conserve and enhance the designated landscape;*
- *L3: Features that contribute to the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB are conserved and enhanced; and*
- *L4: Statutory bodies, AONB partnership organisations, stakeholders and other organisations pay regard to the purposes of the AONB".*

Designation History Series Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

2.2.2.57 The Designation History Series Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (Ref 2.2.25) was published by the Countryside Commission (formerly Natural England) in 1999. This makes reference to the original area designated, including extensive saltings and marshes along the coast and inland sandy heathland and woodlands.

Development in the setting of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Position Statement

2.2.2.58 Development in the setting of the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Position Statement (Ref 2.2.26) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2015. With regard to the setting of the AONB, the document states that the AONB Partnership:

"*considers the setting, including the views into and out of the AONB, to be the area within which development and land management proposals, by virtue of their nature; size; scale; siting, materials or design can be considered to have an impact, positive or negative, on the natural beauty and special qualities of the nationally designated landscape*."

2.2.2.59 The document states that:

"*the setting of the AONB does not have a does not have a geographical border. The character, location, scale, materials or design of a proposed development or land management activity will determine whether it affects the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB*".

2.2.2.60 The document also sets out examples of adverse impacts, those relevant to landscape and visual matters are summarised as follows:

- *"development not appropriate to the landscape setting of the AONB;*
- *blocking or interference of views out of the AONB particularly from public viewpoints;*
- *blocking or interference of views of the AONB from public viewpoints outside the AONB;*
- *loss of tranquillity through the introduction of lighting, noise, or traffic movement;*
- *introduction of an abrupt change of landscape character;*
- *where development may be classified as temporary but would have long term (10-25 years) or medium-term impact as defined by Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;*
- *loss of biodiversity, particularly species of importance within the AONB;*
- *loss of features of historic interest, particularly if these are contiguous with features within the AONB; and*
- *reduction in public access to or within the AONB".*

Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators

2.2.2.61 The Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators (Ref 2.2.18) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2016. This document was developed by EDF Energy as part of preparatory work for the Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station, which has now been consented, however the document notes that the Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators set out in the document are described for the whole of the AONB and not just relating to Sizewell.

2.2.2.62 The document provides Coast and Heaths AONB indicators for each of the Natural Beauty criterion. Coast and Heaths AONB indicators relevant to landscape and visual matters and to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are summarised as follows:

Table 2.2.5: Coast and Heaths AONB Indicators

Natural Beauty indicators	Coast and Heaths AONB indicator
Landscape quality	• close-knit relationship of semi-natural and cultural landscapes and built heritage features; • important areas of heath and acid grassland; • strong overall character with some landscape in lower condition due to arable and pastoral agricultural use; and • *"A small number of large scale and long established elements on the coast of the AONB divide opinion, being regarded by some as incongruous features and by others as enigmatic; for example the complex military site at Orford Ness. The power stations at Sizewell also divide opinion in this way, however in many views, particularly of the B station, the apparent uncluttered simple appearance and outline as well as the lack of visible human activity, partially mitigate the adverse visual impacts".*
Scenic quality	• unique character defined by semi-natural and cultural landscapes and built heritage features; • contrast of sea cliffs and shingle beaches to flat heaths and farmland and varied habitats and land cover; • striking landform features; • opportunities for long distance and panoramic views along shingle beaches and shallow bays and more enclosed traditional farmland; and • Perceptual qualities include dark skies, bird sounds and big 'Suffolk skies'.

Natural Beauty indicators	Coast and Heaths AONB indicator
Relative wildness	• lightly trafficked access routes contribute to the relatively undeveloped character of the Suffolk coast; • pockets of relative wildness; • sense of openness and exposure in places and enclosure in others, including due to forestry plantations; and • isolated villages and built heritage assets contribute to character.
Relative tranquillity	• areas of semi-natural habitat with a general absence of development and apparent human activity, contributing to relative tranquillity; and • localised detractors include seasonal visitors, aircraft and urban fringe development.
Natural heritage features	• evidence visually of geology, sedimentation and geomorphology; and • nationally and internationally protected sites and species.
Cultural heritage	• presence of villages and small towns and built heritage assets; • historic field and settlement patterns and evidence of land reclamation dating back to the 12th century; • designed landscapes important, including at Thorpeness; • "*The Sizewell nuclear complex highlights evidence of time depth across the landscape. Both the nuclear complex and the nearby infrastructure associated with offshore energy generation are part of a developing story of the Suffolk's Energy Coast*"; • "*Some of the military structures by reason of their scale, design, and cultural importance have now become an accepted part of the landscape, such as the Martello towers or the pagodas. Whereas other infrastructure, such as electricity pylons and the power stations are still cited by some as visual detractors in the landscape, despite the test of time*"; • harmonious balance between rural landscape and smaller settlements;

Natural Beauty indicators	Coast and Heaths AONB indicator
	• landscape character and diversity of habitat types dependent on wide range of land management practices; and • associations with numerous writers, artists and composers.

2.2.2.63 The document also provides Coast and Heaths AONB Indicators for each of the AONB Special Qualities. Coast and Heaths AONB indicators relevant to landscape and visual matters and to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are summarised as follows.

Table 2.2.6: Coast and Heaths Special Quality Indicators

Special Quality Indicators	Coast and Heaths AONB Indicator
Health and well-being	• extensive recreational access and use, including the PRoW network and areas designated as open access land.
Community	• strong links between communities and their landscape.
Economy	• active promotion of Suffolk Coast as tourist destination founded on the species qualities of the area.
Ecosystem goods and services	• several broad habitat types which perform a range of ecosystem goods and services.

2.2.2.64 This document is a key resource for the LVIA when understanding potential effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme on the setting of the Coast and Heaths AONB.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Guidance on the selection and use of colour in development

2.2.2.65 Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Guidance on the selection and use of colour in development (Ref 2.2.27) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2019. The document splits the AONB into simplified Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and sets out the collection of colours identified during site survey work. It also offers colour guidance to aim to integrate new development into the landscape.

Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) State of the AONB Report

2.2.2.66 Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB State of the AONB Report (Ref 2.2.28) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2018. The purpose of the report is to:

"provide a compilation of information from various data sources which can form a baseline against which to monitor future change, identify current and potential forces for change in the landscape, make informed recommendations for monitoring and management and form a robust evidence base to inform and underpin Management Plan Policies".

2.2.2.67 Those headline findings from the report relevant to landscape and visual matters are summarised as follows:

- considerable increases in tourism in recent years;
- minor changes to the agricultural landscape character in recent years;
- coastal erosion is a key force for change; and
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are likely to have a considerable impact on the AONB.

2.2.2.68 The report includes a section on 'Visual and perceptual qualities', with levels of tranquillity, dark night skies and number of pylons included as indicators. The report notes that the majority of the AONB is highly tranquil, notably along areas of undeveloped coast, but with some less tranquil areas including Aldeburgh. The majority is characterised by dark night skies, with any light pollution concentrated around settlements. The report also sets out that 14 large scale pylons are located within the AONB and that large-scale pylons are *"visually prominent in the predominantly rural landscape of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB".*

Lighting Design Guide Dedham Value National Landscape and Coast and Heaths National Landscape

2.2.2.69 The Lighting Design Guide Dedham Value National Landscape and Coast and Heaths National Landscape (Ref 2.2.29) was published by Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership in 2023. The report provides "*guidance to reduce light pollution and protect our dark skies*". The report notes that "*lighting on…other developments have the potential to increase light pollution*" and that prominent sources of lighting for the Coast and Heaths include Sizewell Nuclear Power Station. The report also states that "*it is important…that development both inside and outside the boundaries properly considers good lighting practice to limit the impact of light pollution and protect good intrinsic areas of darkness within each landscape boundary*".

2.2.2.70 The report outlines dark sky design lighting principles, which are summarised as follows:

- Useful;
- Targeted;
- Low light;
- Controlled;
- Designed; and

- Colour.

2.2.2.71 The principles note that zero upward light is essential, asymmetric lights to be used where possible along with the use of switches, timers and sensors. The principles contained in this guide will be adopted when the lighting design is developed further at ES stage.

2.2.2.72 The preliminary assessment on the AONB should be referred to at Section 2.2.10.

2.2.3 Scoping Opinion and Consultation

Scoping

2.2.3.1 A Scoping Report for the Proposed Project was issued to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 24 October 2022 and a Scoping Opinion was received from the Secretary of State (SoS) on 1 December 2022. Table 2.2.7 sets out the comments raised in the Scoping Opinion and how these have been addressed in this PEIR or will be addressed within the ES. The Scoping Opinion takes account of responses from prescribed consultees as appropriate.

Table 2.2.7: Comments raised in the Scoping Opinion

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
3.1.1	The Scoping Report states this *[Alteration to landscape character and visual amenity as a result of operational lighting at the converter station (operation)]* is to be scoped out on the basis that "any additional lighting will be limited to maintaining site security and safety and would be within the context [of]existing settlement." It also acknowledges that should the approach to lighting change, this aspect will be scoped into the landscape and visual assessments. The Inspectorate does not agree that operational lighting of the convertor station can be scoped out at this stage due to the uncertainties regarding chosen location and in the absence of information confirming the type and location of any such lighting in the context of its surrounds. The ES should include an assessment of operational lighting on sensitive landscape and visual receptors, where likely significant effects could occur.	**Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project** provides details on the proposed lighting requirements at the Saxmundham Converter Station. The lighting would likely comprise security lighting and low level egress lighting. Potential effects associated with the proposed lighting on landscape character and visual amenity have been considered in the preliminary assessment of this chapter (see Section 2.2.10) and will be developed further at ES stage, when the lighting design is developed further.
3.1.2	This potential operational effect *[Alteration to landscape character and visual amenity as a result of operational lighting to the operational extension to the*	**Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project** provides details on the proposed

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	proposed Friston Substation (operation)] is scoped out on the basis that the extension will be minimal and within the context of existing energy infrastructure. However, it is acknowledged that should the design of the proposals at the proposed Friston Substation become more substantial operational effects will be scoped into the landscape and visual assessment. The Scoping Report contains limited detail with regards to proposed lighting at the substation. The ES should include a description of lighting and assess effects on landscape character and visual amenity as a result of lighting, where likely significant effects could occur.	lighting requirements at the Saxmundham Converter Station. The lighting would likely comprise security lighting on sensors and low level egress lighting. Potential effects associated with the proposed lighting on landscape character and visual amenity have been considered in the preliminary assessment of this chapter (see Section 2.2.10) and will be developed further at ES stage, when the lighting design is developed further.
3.1.3	[*Alteration to landscape character and visual amenity as a result of the HVAC and HVDC underground cables (operation*)] The Inspectorate agrees that in general the introduction of the underground HVAC and HVDC cables is unlikely to give rise to significant long-term effects on landscape character during operation of the Proposed Development. However, it is unclear whether any easement required would result in permanent landscape changes and the potential for such effects should be considered. The ES should assess the potential for significant short-term effects during the beginning of the operational phase, as proposed reinstatement measures mature along the cable route.	**Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A, Outline Code of Construction Practice** commits to the complete reinstatement of the HVDC corridor. However, the ES and the preliminary assessment contained in this chapter will consider the short-term operational effects on landscape character and visual amenity associated with the HVDC and HVAC corridors until they are reinstated (see Section 2.2.10).
3.1.4	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out these landscape character receptors [*Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the operational converter station on the following receptors (operation): Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (SCLCA) Local Character Area (LCA) 01 (Benhall Estate Sandlands) and Seascape Character Assessment of Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (SCASNE) Seascape Character Type (SCT) 3 (Nearshore Waters)*] from the assessment of the permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the	**Figures 2.2.2 Landscape Context and Designations, 2.2.5 Landscape Character – District** and **2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District** show the Suffolk Onshore Scheme with landscape designations, district LCAs and seascape character respectively. Section 2.2.8 identifies the landscape and seascape character areas which are scoped out of the preliminary

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	operational converter station (for all five converter site options) on the basis that the *"Suffolk Scoping Boundary does not lie within the LCA and SCT. Whilst there is the potential for indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCA and SCT there is less potential that the effects would be significant."* The Inspectorate considers that it would have been helpful to overlay the various site options with the landscape character areas and seascape types to aid interpretation of the scoping out of effects associated with the various sites. This similarly applies to the consideration of the AONB below. The Inspectorate is of the view that both SCLCA LCA 01 and SCASNE SCT 3 can be scoped out of the landscape assessment for these converter site options on the basis that potential effects are likely to be of limited scale or extent due to the relative distance between these character areas/types and the converter sites.	operational assessment along with a corresponding rationale. No further comment required.
3.1.5	The Scoping Report proposes to scope out operational effects on the AONB [*Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the operational converter station on the Coast and Heaths AONB*] as a result of the site 3 convertor station locations (emerging preference and alternatives) on the basis of proximity. The Inspectorate is of the view that operational effects on the AONB from the operation of converter site 3 (emerging preference or alternatives) can be scoped out of the landscape assessment on the basis that potential effects are likely to be of limited scale or extent due to the relative distance between these features and the AONB.	No further comment required.
3.1.6	[*Study Area*] The Inspectorate notes the current study area of 3km from the two emerging preferred converter station areas and 1km from the boundary for all other elements. It is unclear at this stage whether the Friston Substation would be included in the Proposed Development	Section 2.2.7 identifies the study area extents for the preliminary landscape and visual assessment contained in this chapter. A 3 km study area has been applied from Friston Substation, as there are unlikely to be significant landscape and visual effects

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	and thus whether a 3km study area from this substation (if applicable) is also to be applied. The ES should confirm this information and the Applicant should keep the preferred study area under review as the design and location of the Proposed Development evolves, so that the introduction of any additional visually intrusive elements, which may affect sensitive receptors can be properly taken account of in the assessment. The Applicant should make efforts to agree the study area with relevant consultation bodies. The study area in the ES must be defined sufficiently so that all potentially significant effects are assessed.	beyond this distance. The study area was agreed with stakeholders at the landscape thematic meeting on the 24 May 2023. The study area will continue to be reviewed as the Suffolk Onshore Scheme design evolves through to ES and DCO submission.
3.1.7	[*Suffolk Heritage Coast*] The ES should include an assessment of effects on the Heritage Coast, where significant effects are likely.	The preliminary effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme on the Suffolk Heritage Coast are presented in Section 2.2.10.
3.1.8	[Seascape Character] Figure 2.2.5 includes regional seascape character area SCT01: Inland Navigable Waters, which is not identified in the chapter text. The ES should include consideration of all relevant seascape character types.	SCT01 does not lie within the study area, therefore is not considered to be assessed as there is unlikely to be significant effects. **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District** and Section 2.2.8 identifies the seascape character areas considered in the preliminary assessment presented in this chapter.
3.1.9	[*Receptors – England Coast Path National Trail*] The Applicant's attention is directed to the comments of Suffolk County Council and Natural England at Appendix 2 to this Opinion with regards to the recent approval of the England Coast Path National Trail within Suffolk, which is located within the Suffolk Onshore Scoping Boundary. The ES should include an assessment of effects on this proposed National Trail, where likely significant effects could occur.	The preliminary visual assessment considers the potential effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme on views experienced by recreational users of the approved England Coast Path National Trail in representative viewpoint 13 (see Section 2.2.10).
3.1.10	[*Representative viewpoints]*	Viewpoints have been shared with Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council, Natural

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	The viewpoints to be used for assessment should be agreed with the relevant consultation bodies, including the Local Authorities and Natural England. It is unclear whether the works to the Friston Substation (whether the extension or entire build) have been included in the consideration of viewpoints, which focuses on the converter stations. The ES should include an assessment of impacts resulting from the proposals at Friston Substation.	England and the AONB Partnership as part of the landscape thematic meeting held on the 24 May 2023 and are presented on **Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations**. As noted in paragraph 2.2.4.20 of the scoping report, visual receptors have been identified to include potential effects from the proposed Friston Substation, as well as the other elements of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Viewpoints 6 - 9, shown on **Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations** have the potential to experience combined visibility of Friston Substation and the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The preliminary visual assessment contained in this chapter assesses four different assessment options which are set out in Section 2.2.6.
3.1.11	[*Viewpoints and cultural heritage receptors*] The Applicant is advised to include heritage specific viewpoints, as appropriate, to support the heritage assessment. Suitable cross referencing between the LVIA aspect chapter and Cultural Heritage aspect chapter should be included.	**Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage** identifies heritage specific viewpoints. Cross-referencing between this chapter and **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4 Cultural Heritage** has been carried out where appropriate to inform judgements on landscape value and historic landscape characterisation (see Section 2.2.8 and **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline**).
3.1.12	[*Receptors*] The Inspectorate notes that impacts of alterations to PRoW and users of PRoW are not identified in the potential impact pathway tables. It is further noted that Paragraph 2.2.1.3 does not reference the	The preliminary landscape and visual assessment presented in this chapter cross-refers to various aspect chapters as outlined in Section 2.2.1.

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	other aspect chapters that should be read in conjunction with the Landscape and Visual chapter. The ES should include appropriate cross-references to other relevant aspect chapters, such as Cultural Heritage, Traffic and Transport, and Noise and Vibration aspect chapters.	
3.1.13	[*Visualisations*] The Inspectorate notes the statement that no visualisations are proposed for the extension works to the proposed Friston Substation as the works are considered to be minor. The ES should include visualisations where the DCO application includes for the construction of the Friston Substation in full.	Visualisations are presented in **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages** and reflect the indicative maximum parameters of Friston Substation and the converter stations.

Consultation and Project Engagement

2.2.3.2 A thematic landscape and visual meeting was held on the 24 May 2023 with attendance from National Grid, AECOM, Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and Natural England. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on project since the Scoping Report was issued, and non-statutory consultation closed and also to clarify and agree landscape and visual related points. The agenda included the following points:

- Project Update;
- Viewpoints, Study Area and Photomontages;
- Approach to LVIA; and
- Landscape Mitigation Strategy.

2.2.3.3 A second thematic landscape and visual meeting was held on 29 June 2023 for attendees from Natural England and the AONB Partnership who could not attend the previous meeting held on 24 May 2023. The purpose of the meeting was the same as the 24 May 2023 meeting, with a particular focus on the Coast and Heaths AONB. The agenda included the following points:

- Project Update;
- Saxmundham Converter Station Location; and
- AONB Consideration in the Preliminary Assessment.

2.2.5 Approach and Methodology

2.2.5.1 **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology** sets out the overarching approach which has been used in developing the preliminary environmental information. This section describes the technical methods used to determine the baseline conditions, sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of effects and sets out the significance criteria that have been used for the preliminary landscape assessment and visual assessment.

Guidance specific to the landscape and visual assessment

2.2.5.2 The preliminary landscape and visual assessment has been carried out in accordance with the following good practice guidance documents:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition (GLVIA3) (Ref 2.2.1);
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations - Technical Guidance Note 02/21(Ref 2.2.29 Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership (2023). Lighting Design Guide. Dedham Value National Landscape and Coast and Heaths National Landscape
- Ref 2.2.30);
- Design Principles for National Infrastructure (Ref 2.2.31);
- Infrastructure - Technical Guidance Note 04/20 (Ref 2.2.32);
- Tranquillity - An overview – Technical Information Note 01/17 (Ref 2.2.33); and
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals – Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (Ref 2.2.34)

Baseline Data Gathering and Forecasting Methods

2.2.5.3 Field work has been undertaken by two Chartered Landscape Architects within winter 2022 and summer and winter 2023 to inform the scoping process, assess the existing character of the landscape and visit representative viewpoints. Viewpoint photography was captured from the 21 to 24 March 2023.

2.2.5.4 Data sources that have been used to inform the baseline data gathering include but are not limited to the following:

- planning policy and local plan evidence base documents;
- published landscape and seascape character documents;
- ordnance survey mapping;
- ZTV plans;
- aerial photography; and
- fieldwork photography.

Assessment Criteria

2.2.5.5 GLVIA3 (Ref 2.2.1) places a strong emphasis on the importance of professional judgement in identifying and defining the significance of landscape and visual effects. The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects who are experienced in undertaking and reporting assessments of similar types of projects. Professional judgement has been used in combination with structured methods and criteria to determine the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (informed by their value and susceptibility to change), the magnitude of effects[2] on those receptors (i.e., the nature of the effect), and the significance of effects.

2.2.5.6 The following section summarises the methodology for the LVIA which builds on the general assessment methodology presented in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**. For clarity and in accordance with good practice, the assessment of likely significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity, although closely related, are undertaken separately.

2.2.5.7 The method for the production of visualisations which support the completion of the assessment is set out in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.A, Photomontage Methodology**.

2.2.5.8 The LVIA methodology broadly follows the terminology described in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**, however, in order to provide the necessary level of assessment detail, additional levels of sensitivity and magnitude have been used to allow for a finer grain of preliminary assessment.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

2.2.5.9 Landscape receptors are described as components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. It is the interaction between the different components of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme and these landscape receptors which has potential to result in landscape impacts and effects (both, adverse and beneficial).

2.2.5.10 The sensitivity of the landscape receptor has been derived by combining of the value of the landscape (undertaken as part of the baseline study) and the susceptibility to change of the receptor to the specific type of development being assessed.

2.2.5.11 Landscape value is frequently addressed by reference to international, national, regional, and local designations. Absence of such a designation does not necessarily imply a lack of quality or value. Factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality, highly valuable as a local resource. The evaluation of landscape value has been informed by Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (Ref 2.2.29 Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership (2023). Lighting Design Guide. Dedham Value National Landscape and Coast and Heaths National Landscape

2.2.5.12 Ref 2.2.30) and undertaken considering the following factors and classified as very high, high, medium, low and negligible with evidence provided as to the basis of the evaluation:

[2] The GLVIA3 methodology uses ‘Magnitude of Effect’ rather than Magnitude of Impact/Change

- *"natural heritage – Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape;*
- *cultural heritage – Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape;*
- *landscape condition – Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure;*
- *associations – Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts;*
- *distinctiveness – Landscape that has a strong sense of identity;*
- *recreational – Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important;*
- *perceptual (scenic) – Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense;*
- *perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) – Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies; and*
- *functional - Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape."*

2.2.5.13 Landscape susceptibility relates to the ability of a particular landscape to accommodate the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. It is assessed through consideration of the baseline characteristics and attributes of the landscape, and in particular, the scale or complexity of a given landscape. Attributes relate to topography and landform, landcover, pattern, scale, complexity, perceptual aspects and it is the combination of these which make one landscape more susceptible to the type of development proposed compared with another. For example, a small scale, complex wooded landscape is going to be more susceptible to the introduction of the Proposed Project than one which is larger scale, simple with fewer vegetated features.

2.2.5.14 The evaluation of landscape susceptibility is defined as very high, high, medium, low and negligible and is supported by a clear explanation based upon the analysis of the landscape receptor and the extent to which it is able to accommodate the changes that would result from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

2.2.5.15 The overall sensitivity assessment of the landscape receptor has been made by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and negligible. Table 2.2.8 Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors below outlines indicators that inform landscape value, susceptibility, and sensitivity. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each landscape receptor (see Section 2.2.10).

Table 2.2.8: Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	A designated landscape (National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Scenic Area, World	Landscapes containing few if any notable elements / features, of poor condition

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
	Heritage Site) or a landscape in very good condition, exceptional scenic quality and high recreational opportunities or a high degree of rarity.	or containing several detracting features and limited aesthetic qualities. Landscapes which are not formally designated.
Susceptibility	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate change of the type proposed without fundamentally altering key characteristics.	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which are tolerant of a large degree of the type of change proposed without fundamentally altering the key characteristics.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

2.2.5.16 Sensitivity of visual receptors has been defined through an appraisal of the viewing expectation, or value placed on the view as identified in the baseline study, and its susceptibility to change.

2.2.5.17 Value of the view is an appraisal of the value attached to views and is often informed by the appearance on Ordnance Survey or tourist maps and in guidebooks, literature and art, or identified in policy. Value can also be indicated by the provision of parking or services and signage and interpretation. The nature and composition of the view and its scenic quality is also an indicator. The value of the view has been classified as very high, high, medium, low and negligible and is supported by evidenced, professional judgements.

2.2.5.18 The susceptibility of visual receptors to change has been established as a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view, and the extent to which their attention or interest is focussed on the view and the visual amenity they experience. For example, walkers whose interest may tend to be focused on the landscape or a particular view, or visitors at an attraction where views are an important part of the experience, indicate a higher level of susceptibility.

2.2.5.19 Conversely receptors engaged in outdoor sport where views are not important or receptors at their place of work are considered less susceptible to change.

2.2.5.20 Judgements about the susceptibility of visual receptors have been ascribed using very high, high, medium, low or negligible ratings using consistent and reasoned judgements.

2.2.5.21 The overall sensitivity assessment of the visual receptor has been determined by applying professional judgement to combine and analyse the identified value and susceptibility ratings. Overall visual sensitivity has been rated as very high, high, medium, low and negligible. Table 2.2.9 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors below outlines indicators that inform value of the view, susceptibility and sensitivity of visual receptors. The basis of the assessment is made clear in the evaluation of each visual receptor (see Section 2.2.10).

Table 2.2.9: Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	Views protected by designation, or nationally recognised, or recorded on maps / guidebooks or with cultural associations. Views which may be associated with internationally or nationally designated landscapes. Views that have high scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.	Views which are not documented or protected with minimal or no cultural associations. Views that exhibit low scenic qualities relating to the content and composition of the view.
Susceptibility	Viewers whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings, including: • residential properties and settlements where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and; • people engaged in outdoor recreation including users of cycle routes, long distance paths, PRoW and visitors to heritage assets where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience.	People whose attention or interest is not focused on their surroundings and where the view is incidental to their enjoyment including: • people travelling more rapidly on major roads, rail or transport routes not recognised as scenic routes; • people engaged in outdoor recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and • people at their place of work whose attention is not on their surroundings.

Landscape Magnitude of Effect

2.2.5.22 Landscape magnitude of effect refers to the extent to which the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would alter the existing characteristics of the landscape. It is an expression of the size or scale of change to the landscape, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility. The variables involved are:

- the extent of existing landscape elements that would be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;
- the extent to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by the addition of new components;
- whether the change alters the key characteristics of the landscape that are integral to its distinctive character;
- the geographic area over which the change will be experienced (for example within the application boundary, the immediate setting around that boundary, at the local LCA scale, or on a larger scale influencing broader areas of landscape character);
- the duration of the change (i.e., short-term, medium term, or long term), and its reversibility (i.e., whether it is permanent, temporary, or partially reversible); and
- landscape change can be both direct, through alteration of physical components, or indirect, resulting from changes to perceptual aspects of character and how it is experienced.

2.2.5.23 An overall assessment of the magnitude of landscape change resulting from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme on landscape receptors has been made by combining the above judgements using evidence and professional judgement. The levels of landscape magnitude of change are described as being very large, large, medium, small, negligible and none as defined in Table 2.2.10 below.

Table 2.2.10: Magnitude of Effect - Landscape Receptors

Magnitude	Criteria
Very Large	Substantial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Large	Large alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Medium	Partial alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a wide area or characteristics at a local level. May be medium term, permanent or reversible.
Small	Slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a restricted area and few key characteristics. May be short to medium term, permanent or reversible.
Negligible	Very slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a limited area or no key characteristics. May be short-term, permanent or reversible.
None	No change to the landscape receptor.

Visual Magnitude of Effect

2.2.5.24 Visual magnitude of effect relates to the extent to which the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would alter the existing view and is an expression of the size or scale of change in the view, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The variables involved are described below:

- the scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the form, scale, composition and focal points of the view;
- the nature of the view of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme in relation to the amount of time over which it will be experienced, and whether views of this will be visible fully, partially or glimpsed;
- the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme and the extent of the area over which the changes would be visible; and
- the duration of the change (i.e., short-term, medium term, or long-term), and its reversibility (i.e., whether it is permanent, temporary, or partially reversible).

2.2.5.25 An overall assessment of the magnitude of visual change resulting from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme on the visual receptor has been made combining the above judgements using evidence and professional judgement. The levels of visual magnitude of change are described as being very large, large, medium, small, negligible and none as defined in Table 2.2.11 below.

Table 2.2.11: Magnitude of Effect - Visual Receptors

Magnitude	Criteria
Very Large	A substantial change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Large	A pronounced change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term, permanent or reversible.
Medium	A noticeable change to the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the middle ground or indirectly. May be medium term, permanent or reversible.
Small	An unobtrusive change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background or obliquely. May be short to medium term, permanent or reversible.
Negligible	A barely perceptible change in the composition of the view or change that may be viewed in the background and/or very obliquely. May be short-term, permanent or reversible.
None	No change to the view.

Significance of effects

2.2.5.26 As set out in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Method** the general approach taken to determining the significance of effect in this preliminary assessment is only to state whether effects are likely or unlikely to be significant, rather than assigning significance levels. However, the detailed assessment at ES stage will follow the methodology and classification presented in Table 2.2.12: Significance of Effect.

2.2.5.27 Determination of the significance of landscape and visual effects has been undertaken by employing professional judgement and experience to combine and analyse the magnitude of effect against the identified sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors.

2.2.5.28 The landscape assessment has taken account of direct and indirect changes to existing landscape elements, features, key characteristics and evaluates the extent to which these would be lost or modified, in the context of their importance in determining the existing baseline character.

2.2.5.29 The visual assessment has taken account of the likely changes to the visual composition, including the extent to which new features would distract or screen existing elements in the view or disrupt the scale, structure, or focus of the existing view.

2.2.5.30 The significance of landscape and visual effects are described with reference to the criteria presented in Table 2.2.12 below. For the purposes of this assessment, effects rated as being of moderate or major significance are considered to be significant.

Table 2.2.12: Significance of Effect

Significance of Effect	Landscape	Visual
Major Beneficial	Alterations that result in a considerable improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be restored or reintroduced.	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced improvement in the existing view.
Moderate Beneficial	Alterations that result in a partial improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely restored or reintroduced.	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
Minor Beneficial	Alterations that result in a slight improvement of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially restored.	Alterations that typically result in a limited improvement in the existing view.
Negligible Beneficial	Alterations that result in a very slight improvement to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
Neutral	No alteration to any of the components that contribute to the existing landscape resource.	No change to the existing view.
Negligible Adverse	Alterations that result in a very slight deterioration to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.
Minor Adverse	Alterations that result in a slight deterioration of the existing landscape	Alterations that typically result in a limited

Significance of Effect	Landscape	Visual
	resource. Characteristic features would be partially lost.	deterioration in the existing view.
Moderate Adverse	Alterations that result in a partial deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely lost.	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.
Major Adverse	Alterations that result in a considerable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be wholly lost.	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced deterioration in the existing view.

Temporal Scope of Assessment

2.2.5.31 Landscape and visual effects can differ from one stage of the Proposed Project to the next and change over time as mitigation planting establishes and matures. Given the preliminary nature of the LVIA presented in this chapter, effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning have been grouped together, as maintenance and decommissioning effects are expected to be similar to those experienced during construction. Effects at operation year of opening have also been grouped together. Consideration of the effects once mitigation planting has been established, including advanced planting, will be fully considered at ES stage once the landscape mitigation has been fully developed in line with the Proposed Project design.

2.2.5.32 The ES assessment will, however, consider potential effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme at each of the following stages:

- construction: including consideration of introduction of construction activity including temporary compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting;
- operation year 1: including consideration of potential medium to longer term effects associated with the operational converter station, substation and reinstatement of the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation. This stage is intended to represent the potential worst-case operational effects prior to establishment of mitigation planting;
- operation year 15: including consideration of potential longer-term effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme 15 years after becoming operational. This stage is intended to help demonstrate how proposed mitigation planting will influence effects once established;
- maintenance: including consideration of maintenance of the substation and converter station and underground HVDC and HVAC cables, such as visual checks and refurbishment work mainly limited to overground parts of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; and
- decommissioning: including consideration of decommissioning works involved with the substation and converter station and underground HVDC and HVAC cables including dismantling and removal of elements of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The

lifespan of the substation and converter station equipment is anticipated to be 40 years but it is likely that during this period replacement would extend the lifespan.

2.2.5.33 Following construction of the landfall and the underground HVDC and HVAC cable routes, the working width along with construction compounds will be fully reinstated. Noting the time taken to reinstate boundary vegetation, requests within the Scoping Opinion and the potential for the loss of trees above the HVDC and HVAC cable routes, operational effects at year 1 are included within the assessment of effects associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes in the PEIR and will be presented in the landscape and visual chapter of the ES. Operational effects have been scoped out for the landfall.

Assumptions and Limitations

2.2.5.34 No technical difficulties or practical problems were encountered in producing the landscape and visual PEIR chapter. Fieldwork was undertaken in weather with good to moderate visibility of at least 3 km.

2.2.5.35 Site visits to inform the landscape and visual chapter for the ES will be conducted in both Winter and Summer, therefore allowing a comparison of visibility or visual effects over two seasons. This allows assessment based on broadleaf vegetation not in leaf and represents the most open views. Potentially significant differences between seasonal views will be outlined where relevant within the assessment and taken into consideration in assessing the impacts and reaching conclusions.

2.2.5.36 The information presented in the PEIR is preliminary and the final assessment of likely significant effects will be reported in the ES.

2.2.6 Basis of Assessment

2.2.6.1 This section sets out the assumptions that have been made in respect of design flexibility maintained within the Proposed Project and the consideration that has been given to alternative scenarios and the sensitivity of the preliminary assessment to changes in the construction commencement year.

2.2.6.2 Details of the available flexibility and assessment scenarios are presented in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project** and **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**.

Flexibility assumptions

2.2.6.3 The main preliminary assessments have been undertaken based on the description of the Proposed Project provided in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project**. To take account of the flexibility allowed in the Proposed Project, consideration has been given to the potential for preliminary effects to be of greater or different significance should any of the permanent or temporary infrastructure elements be moved within the LoD or draft Order Limits.

2.2.6.4 The assumptions made regarding the use of flexibility for the main assessment, and any alternatives assumptions are set out in Table 2.2.13 below. Should the flexibility assumptions alter the results of the preliminary assessment of effects, this has been noted within the preliminary assessment section (see Section 2.2.10).

Table 2.2.13: Flexibility Assumptions

Element of flexibility	Proposed Project assumption for initial preliminary assessment	Flexibility assumption considered
Lateral LoD HVDC cables	HVDC cables laid anywhere within the lateral LoD	The maximum flexibility has already been assessed under the preliminary assessment.
Lateral LoD Saxmundham Converter Station	Saxmundham Converter Station to be constructed within the lateral LoD based on the indicative location of converter station as shown in **Figure 1.4.2 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location**	Saxmundham Converter Station could be constructed anywhere within the lateral LoD
Vertical LoD Saxmundahm Converter Station	26 m maximum vertical LoD as explained in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**	The maximum flexibility has already been assessed under the preliminary assessment.

Consideration of Scenarios and Options

2.2.6.5 There are three scenarios which have been considered by the preliminary assessment. These are:

- Friston Substation is installed either under the current consent sought by Scottish Power Renewables (SPR) or as part of the Proposed Project, as explained in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project;** and
- Saxmundham Converter Station construction access is taken off the B1121 South Entrance (bellmouth BM09) or the B1121 Main Road (bellmouth BM12 via BM-11 and BM10), as explained in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**; and
- Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access is taken off the B1121 South Entrance (bellmouth BM09), B1121 Main Road (bellmouth BM12 via BM-11 and BM10) or off the B1121 The Street (bellmouth BM13), as explained in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**.

2.2.6.6 Table 2.2.14 details where these scenarios are relevant to the preliminary landscape and visual assessment and how they have been assessed and reported in Section 2.2.10, preliminary assessment of effects.

Table 2.2.14: Considerations of Scenarios

Assessment scenario	How it has been considered within the preliminary assessment
Friston Substation	Whether Friston Substation is built as part of the SPR consent (and therefore becomes part of the future baseline) or whether it forms part of the Proposed Project, has been considered in the preliminary assessment. Where the potential landscape or visual effect associated with this difference is considered to have the potential to result in a different magnitude of effect or significance for a specific receptor, this is identified in the preliminary assessment.
Saxmundham Converter Station construction access	The construction access options have been considered in the preliminary assessment. Where the potential landscape or visual effect associated with a specific access option is considered to result in a different magnitude of effect or significance for a specific receptor, this is identified in the preliminary assessment.
Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access	The permanent access options have been considered in the preliminary assessment. Where the potential landscape or visual effect associated with a specific access option is considered to result in a different magnitude of effect or significance for a specific receptor, this is identified in the preliminary assessment.

2.2.6.7 Within the landscape and visual chapter of the PEIR, there are four options considered which are summarised below. These options are relevant and referred to for those LCAs in which Friston Substation is located (i.e. LCA K3 and L1, see **Figure 2.2.5: Landscape Character – District**) and the representative viewpoints surrounding Friston Substation (i.e. viewpoints 6, 7 and 8, **see Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations**). Within the preliminary landscape and visual assessment, the option numbers below are referred to.

- Option 1: Proposed Project converter station and SPR Friston Substation – this assumes one converter station at Saxmundham and Friston Substation comes forward under the current SPR consent becoming part of the future baseline;
- Option 2: Proposed Project converter station and Proposed Project Friston Substation – this assumes one converter station at Saxmundham and that Friston Substation is built as part of the Proposed Project;
- Option 3: Proposed Project with co-location converter stations and SPR Friston Substation – this assumes three converter stations at Saxmundham and Friston Substation comes forward under the current SPR consent becoming part of the future baseline; and
- Option 4: Proposed Project with co-location converter stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation - this assumes three converter stations at Saxmundham[3] and that Friston Substation is built as part of the Proposed Project.

[3] The additional NGV projects' converter station(s) at Saxmundham would be subject to their own consent and would not form part of the Proposed Project.

Coordination including Co-location

2.2.6.8 The Proposed Project includes an option for co-location with National Grid Ventures proposed Nautilus and LionLink (formerly known as EuroLink) interconnector projects as explained in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4 Description of the Proposed Project** and **Part 1, 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**.

2.2.6.9 Table 2.2.15 details where the option of co-location is relevant to the preliminary landscape and visual assessment and how this option has been assessed and reported in Section 2.2.10, preliminary assessment of effects.

Table 2.2.15: Consideration of Co-location

Element of co-location	How it has been considered within the preliminary assessment
HVDC ducts	The HVDC ducts have been considered as part of the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project with Co-location within the preliminary assessment. The maximum working width for the HVDC corridor has been assessed for the Proposed Project at 40 m and the maximum working width for the HVDC corridor has been assessed for the Proposed Project with Co-location at up to 69 m.
HVAC ducts	The HVAC ducts have been considered as part of the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project with Co-location within the preliminary assessment. The maximum working width for the HVAC corridor has been assessed for the Proposed Project at 63 m and the maximum working width for the HVAC corridor has been assessed for the Proposed Project with Co-location at up to 112 m.
Saxmundham Converter Station	Saxmundham Converter Station has been considered as part of the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project with Co-location within the preliminary assessment as part of the consideration of scenarios identified in Table 2.2.14 above. Two landscaping strategy figures have been developed, based on one converter station for the Proposed Project (see **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy)** and also for three converter stations for the Proposed Project with Co-location Scenario (**Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location)**. These are based on the indicative locations of the converter stations shown in **Figure 1.4.2 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location** and **Figure 1.4.5 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location with Co-location** respectively. The converter stations associated with the National Grid Ventures Projects in the Co-location scenario would however be subject to their own consent.
Friston Substation	No option has been included for co-location as part of the Proposed Project. This is assessed cumulatively in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, Suffolk Onshore Scheme Inter-project Cumulative Effects**.
Suffolk landfall	The landfall has been considered as part of the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project with Co-location within the preliminary assessment. The LoD has been considered for both the Proposed Project and the Proposed Project with Co-location, therefore the maximum flexibility in landfall corridor width has been assessed.

Sensitivity Test

2.2.6.10 It is likely that under the terms of the draft DCO, construction could commence in any year up to five years from the granting of the DCO which is assumed to be 2026 subject to discharge to all of the relevant requirements. Consideration has been given to whether the preliminary effects reported would be any different if the works were to commence in any year up to year five. Where there is a difference, this is reported in Section 2.2.10, preliminary assessment of effects.

2.2.7 Study Area

2.2.7.1 The study area for the landscape and visual assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme comprises an area of 3 kilometres (km) from the draft Order Limits surrounding the proposed Saxmundham Converter Station, substation at Friston and 1km from the draft Order Limits around the proposed landfall (denoted as the high-water mark), HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and a small section of restringing of the existing overhead line (OHL). This excludes the construction access routes as this would result in a disproportionately large study area to assess potential landscape and visual effects. The study area is shown on **Figure 2.2.1 Topography** to **Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations**.

2.2.7.2 The extent of the study area has been informed by a review of the design of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, desk-based research, field-based appraisal, ZTV mapping and professional judgement. The study area was agreed with statutory consultees at scoping stage and again subsequently during the thematic landscape meeting on the 24 May 2023 (where LPAs and NE were present) to ensure a proportionate approach is followed which focusses on likely significant effects. It is important to note the study area defines the area within which it is judged that significant landscape and/or visual effects could occur, rather than the extent of visibility of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

2.2.7.3 The computer generated ZTVs (**Figure 2.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1)** to **2.2.11 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4)**) were run for the four options considered in this landscape and visual chapter of the PEIR including the converter station(s) and Friston Substation as these are the only permanent above ground infrastructure associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, as described in **Part 1, Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Project**. This is based on a maximum height of 26 m for the converter station and 18 m for the substation.

2.2.7.4 Initially four ZTVs were produced for the four options using a 'bare ground' digital terrain model (DTM) generated using Ordnance Survey (OS) Terrain 5, which does not take account of the screening effects of vegetation, buildings, or other structures, and therefore the true extent of visibility is likely to be less than is indicated. This has been used to inform the baseline data collection and initial analysis. These ZTVs were subsequently refined to incorporate screening from vegetation and buildings (**Figure 2.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1)** to **2.2.11 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4)**) and used in the preliminary assessment (see Preliminary Assessment of Effects) based on the following factors:

- existing buildings have been incorporated into the DTM from OS Open Map Local with an assumed height of 7.5m; and
- woodland from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) has also been incorporated into the DTM with an assumed height of 10m.

2.2.7.5 The ZTVs indicate areas from where it may be possible to view part of or the entire converter station site and / or the Friston Substation. However, the use of the ZTVs need to be qualified by the following considerations:

- the ZTVs are limited by the detail of the digital terrain model data used and do not take account of local topographic variations;
- some areas of theoretical visibility may comprise woodland (not accounted for in the NFI) or agricultural land, where there is effectively no public access and the likelihood of views being experienced is consequently low; and
- the ZTVs do not take account of the likely orientation of a viewer, such as the direction of travel and there is no allowance for reduction of visibility with distance, weather or light.

2.2.7.6 These limitations mean that the ZTVs tend to overestimate the extent of the visibility of the converter station and substation. Consequently, the ZTVs should be considered as a tool to identify areas of potential visibility for further targeted survey and assessment, and not a measure of the visual effect.

2.2.8 Baseline Conditions

Location and Context

2.2.8.1 The landscape varies considerably within the study area, which is illustrated on **Figure 2.2.1 Topography**. It includes parts of the low-lying and gently undulating coastline comprising marshland and heathland, within the Coast and Heaths AONB. Further inland medium to large-scale agricultural fields dominate across relatively higher, undulating land.

2.2.8.2 The landscape of the study area is settled, with a variety of towns, including Leiston and Aldeburgh, smaller villages, including Friston and Knodishall, small clusters of dwellings and scattered properties. Settlement is more frequent around the major road corridors that cross the landscape, including the A1094 and B1121, and along the North Sea coast.

2.2.8.3 The land use within the eastern and southern parts of the study area is largely associated with ecological conservation and comprises large areas of fenland and marshland alongside the coastline and River Alde. The land use within the remainder of the study area is predominantly agriculture and in particular arable crops.

2.2.8.4 The vegetation within the eastern part of the study area typically comprises heathland and scrubland, with large areas of mature woodland vegetation, including to the south-west of Thorpeness surrounding the Hundred River. The vegetation within the southern part of the study area largely consists of low-level scrub associated with the floodplain of the River Alde. The pattern of vegetation in the remainder of the study area is variable with pockets of woodland. The field boundaries comprise of a mixture of non-vegetated, hedgerow, hedgerow trees and individual trees.

Landscape and Seascape Overview

2.2.8.5 Landscape character is a composite of physical, cultural, perceptual and aesthetic elements (Ref 2.2.35). Landform, hydrology, vegetation, land cover, land use pattern, cultural and historic features and associations combine to create a common 'sense of place' and identity which can be used to categorise the landscape into definable types and areas. Seascape character, alike landscape character, is a composite of physical and cultural elements (Ref 2.2.36). Landform, geology, coastal processes, flora and fauna, coastal features, surface features, sunken features, use and past use of coast and sea and associations combine to create an identity definable types and areas. The level of detail and size of the types and areas can be varied to reflect the scale of definition required. It can be applied at a national, regional, and local level.

National Landscape Character

2.2.8.6 Natural England has identified and mapped landscape character at the national level by identifying National Character Areas (NCAs) (Ref 2.2.37) in 2013-15. Those NCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.3 Landscape Character - National and Regional.** Further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**.

Regional Landscape Character

2.2.8.7 At the regional scale, Landscape East published the East of England Landscape Character Typology (Ref 2.2.38) in 2010. The study defines LCTs which provide a regional level landscape characterisation. Those LCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.3 Landscape Character - National and Regional**. Further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**.

County Landscape Character

2.2.8.8 At the county scale, Suffolk County Council published the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 2.2.39) in 2011. The study defines LCTs which provide a county level landscape characterisation. Those LCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.4 Landscape Character – County. Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**.

District Landscape Character

2.2.8.9 At the district scale, East Suffolk Council published the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (SCLCA) (Ref 2.2.40) in 2018. The study defines LCTs and LCAs which provide a district level landscape characterisation which has been used as the basis of the preliminary landscape character assessment. Those LCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.5 Landscape Character – District.** Value judgements are given as follows for those LCAs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment) and further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

- B4: Fromus Valley: **High**
- D4: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh: **Very High**
- K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands: **Very High**
- L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands: **Medium**

Historic Landscape Character

2.2.8.10 The historic landscape character context within the landscape and visual study area includes various designated assets. These include listed buildings, both within the surrounding settlements and more rural settings outside of the main settlement areas. A review of non-designated assets revealed evidence of human activity in the area from the early prehistoric period through to the modern period, including both materials and cropmarks.

2.2.8.11 Regarding the agricultural heritage of the area, more intensive arable agriculture since the mid-20th century onwards has resulted in areas of woodland and field boundaries being removed to create large fields (for example the Converter Station Site near Saxmundham). Further details should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Cultural Heritage.**

National Seascape Character

2.2.8.12 At the national scale, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) published the Seascape Character Assessment of the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Ref 2.2.41) in 2012. The study defines Seascape Character Areas (SCAs). The SCA that the study area falls within is shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District.** Further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

Regional Seascape Character

2.2.8.13 At a regional scale, Suffolk County Council published the Seascape Character Assessment of Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (SCASNE) (Ref 2.2.42) in 2018. The study defines Seascape Character Types (SCTs). The SCTs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District.** Value judgements are given as follows for those SCTs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment) and further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

- SCT 03: Nearshore Waters: **Very High**

District Seascape Character and AONB Landscape Character

2.2.8.14 At the district scale, the Touching the Tide Partnership published the Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment (TTLCA) (Ref 2.2.43) in 2012. The study defines Coastal Character Areas (CCAs) which cover the coastline and extend inland. The CCAs have been used as the basis of the preliminary AONB assessment. Those CCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 2.2.6 Seascape Character – National, Regional and District.** Value judgements are given as follows for those SCTs scoped into the assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (see Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment) and further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

- CCA Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast: Very High.

Landscape and Seascape baseline for assessment

2.2.8.15 The published district level landscape character assessment and district level seascape character assessment information form the basis of the landscape baseline for assessment of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. Table 2.2.16 sets out which LCAs and CCAs are scoped in and out of the assessment of effects on landscape character at both construction, maintenance and decommissioning and operation. An explanation is provided in the text that follows below.

Table 2.2.16: LCAs scoped in and out of the preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character

Project Phase	Scoped in	Scoped out
Construction, maintenance, and decommissioning	SCLCA: LCAs B4, D4, K3, and L1 SCASNE: SCT 03	SCLCA: LCAs B5, J4 and O1 SCASNE: SCT 01
Operation	SCLCA: LCAs B4, D4, K3, and L1 SCASNE: SCT 03	SCLCA: LCAs B5, J4 and O1 SCASNE: SCT 01

2.2.8.16 SCLCA LCAs B5 and J4 and SCASNE SCT 01 are scoped out for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning and operation due to a lack of inter-visibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme such that effects on the setting or perceptual qualities of these LCAs and SCT would be limited with no significant residual effect.

2.2.8.17 Despite proximity to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, SCLCA LCA O1 has been scoped out for construction, maintenance, and decommissioning and operation based on limited theoretical visibility, field work and the nature of the landscape. There would be no direct effects and limited potential effects on the setting of this LCA as a result of the southern access road. At construction, there would be very localised effects on the setting of the LCA as a result of the haul road, however these are not considered to result in a significant residual effect.

2.2.8.18 As noted above the TTLCA will be used as part of the baseline for the preliminary assessment of the Coast and Heaths AONB. This will scope in Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast but scope out the Alde Estuary due to a lack of inter-visibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme such that effects on the setting or perceptual qualities of these LCAs would be limited with no significant residual effect.

Landscape Designations Overview

2.2.8.19 Landscapes can be designated for their special landscape or scenic qualities. These areas may be identified in development plans at the national, regional or local scale.

2.2.8.20 The following landscape designations have been identified within the study area; their locations are shown in **Figure 2.2.2 Landscape Context and Designations**.

- Coast and Heaths AONB;
- Suffolk Heritage Coast;
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs);
- ancient woodland; and
- Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest.

2.2.8.21 Further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**.

Landscape designations baseline for assessment

2.2.8.22 The Coast and Heaths AONB is specifically referred to within the preliminary assessment (see Section 2.2.10). As the Suffolk Heritage Coast is within the Coast and Heaths AONB within the landscape and visual study area, the Suffolk Heritage Coast is considered within the assessment of the AONB. The preliminary assessment considers the Coast and Heaths AONB Indicators and how the Proposed Project would affect the delivery of the AONB's statutory purpose, as referred to in Section Regulatory and Planning Context . This will be expanded upon within the ES.

Relevant Designations

2.2.8.23 In addition to the above, the study area also contains the following designations:

- Listed buildings;
- Registered Common Land – Aldringham Green;
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act Access Land;
- RSPB Reserve – North Warren;
- Special Protection Area (SPA) – Sandlings;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Leiston – Aldeburgh;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – The Haven, Aldeburgh;
- Registered Common Land – Knodishall Common;
- SPA – Alde-Ore Estuary;

- Ramsar Site – Alde-Ore Estuary; and
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) – Alde-Ore & Butley Estuaries.

2.2.8.24 Whilst effects on these designations will not be assessed in the LVIA as they will be considered in other discipline specific chapters, they will inform judgements of landscape value and in the case of CRoW Act 2000 Access Land and Registered Common Land, these areas are also an important recreational resource, views from which will be considered as part of the visual assessment.

2.2.8.25 Within the landscape and visual impact assessment, consideration of specific heritage, access or ecological assets has been restricted to the contribution the designations make to present-day landscape character and visual amenity. Further consideration of specific heritage, access or ecological assets is contained in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 2, Ecology and Nature conservation** and **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Cultural Heritage.**

Historic Landscape Designations

2.2.8.26 To understand the landscape baseline, it is also important to consider historic landscape designations. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, Incorporating the First Alteration (2001) (Ref 2.2.44) and the Second Alteration (2006) (Ref 2.2.45), has been superseded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.15). The former Suffolk Coastal Local Plan included locally designated Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). This was referred to within Policy AP13 which set out reasons for designation, limited to characteristics linking to river valley and historic parks and gardens. Policy AP13 stated:

"*The valleys and tributaries of the Rivers Alde, Blyth, Deben, Fynn, Hundred, Mill, Minsmere, Ore and Yox, and the Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest are designated as Special Landscape Areas and shown on the Proposals Map. The District Council will ensure that no development will take place which would be to the material detriment of, or materially detract from, the special landscape quality*".

2.2.8.27 Two previously designated SLAs are relevant to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, located on the edge of the settlement of Knodishall Common associated with the Hundred River corridor and to the north of Benhall Green associated with the River Fromus corridor. The Suffolk Onshore Scheme does not cross either of the SLAs.

2.2.8.28 This policy has now been superseded but the adopted Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.15) refers to the previously designated SLAs, stating:

"*Previous Local Plan documents included a county wide approach in the form of Special Landscape Areas (SLA) which originated from the Suffolk Structure Plan. The SLA designations primarily identified the river valleys and tributaries as areas with special landscape attributes that are particularly vulnerable to change*."

Visual Amenity Baseline

2.2.8.29 Visual amenity is defined in the GLVIA3 (Ref 2.2.1, p.158) as:

"*the overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area*"

Summary of visibility

2.2.8.30 The screened ZTVs (shown on **Figure 2.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Saxmundham Converter Station and SPR Friston Substation (Option 1)** to **2.2.11 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Proposed Project with Co-location Converter Stations and Proposed Project Friston Substation (Option 4)**) indicates theoretical visibility within the landscape and visual study area. This shows the majority of theoretical visibility with the central part of the study area characterised with dispersed woodland blocks and larger scale field enclosures. Visibility is considerably limited towards to the coast and Alde Estuary to the south due to intervening built form and blocks of woodland. Pockets of visibility extend into the northern and western parts of the study area, again screened where built form and blocks of woodland are intervening. The theoretical visibility has been tested during fieldwork to inform the baseline and the assessment of potential effects.

Summary of visual receptors

2.2.8.31 The below sets out a summary of the different types of visual receptors within the landscape and visual study area.

Residential receptors – settlement

- the settlements of Kelsale, Dorley's Corner, Benhall, Sternfield and the southern and eastern settlement edges of Saxmundham in the west of the study area;
- the settlement of Carlton in the west of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 14** is located on the southwestern settlement edge, with views northeast towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- the eastern settlement edge of Snape in the south of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 18** is located to the east of the settlement, with views northwards towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- the smaller settlements of Church Common and Snape Watering in the south of the study area;
- the settlement of Friston in the centre of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 8** is located on the eastern settlement edge of the settlement, with views northwest towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- the settlement of Knodishall Common and the smaller settlement of Knodishallcon in the east of the study area; and
- the western settlement edge of Leiston in the east of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 17** is located to the west of the settlement, with views southwest towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Residential receptors – scattered properties

- scattered properties are located across the study area.

Recreational

- users of the PRoW network;

- the England Coast Path, which runs north to south on the eastern edge of the study area along the coast. Representative **viewpoint 13** is located along this route between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, with views south towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
- the Suffolk Coast Path, which runs north to south on the eastern edge of the study area along the coast, and around the western boundary of Aldeburgh. Representative **viewpoint 18** is located along this route to the east of Snape, with views towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; and
- the Sandlings Walk, which runs east to west through the study area, from Friston to Thorpeness.

- Recreational aspects of the study area, including those using or visiting:
  - the Coast and Heaths AONB, which is located within the southeast of the study area. Representative **viewpoints 11, 12, 13 and 18** are located within the AONB, and representative **viewpoint 10** is located on the boundary with views to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
  - Aldeburgh Golf Course, which is located within the southeast of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 10** is located on the northern edge of the golf course, with views northwest towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme;
  - Knodishall Common, which is located within the east of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 9** is located on the western boundary of the common, with views west towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; and
  - Aldeburgh Holiday Park, which is located within the east of the study area, on the northern settlement edge of Aldeburgh.

Road and railway users

- major ‘A’ roads, including the users of:
  - A1094, which runs northwest to southeast in the south of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 10** is located along the route, with view northeast towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.
- ‘B’ roads and the local (unclassified) road network, including:
  - B1119, which runs north to south in the north of the study area between Saxmundham and Leiston. Representative **viewpoints 1 and 4** are located adjacent to the B1119, with views to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; and
  - B1121, which runs northwest to southeast in the centre of the study area. Representative **viewpoint 2** is located adjacent to the B1121, with views east to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.
- passengers on the railway route between Saxmundham and Ipswich and Saxmundham and Leiston.

Workers in employment facilities within the area

- Those working on farmsteads.

Representative Viewpoint Locations

2.2.8.32 Table 2.2.17 outlines the 18 representative viewpoints chosen to represent the receptors described above within the landscape and visual study area, including the value for each of the viewpoints. These are illustrated on **Figure 2.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations**. Further detail is given in **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 3.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline.**

Table 2.2.17: Representative viewpoint locations

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
Viewpoint 1: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 23), east of Saxmundham	263027	639230	Representative of users of the local road network, including the B1119, on the approach to the settlement of Saxmundham, the local PRoW network to the east of Saxmundham and residential receptors on the eastern edge of Saxmundham. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 2: B1121, south of Saxmundham	262419	638551	Representative of users of the local road network and local PRoW network between the settlements of Saxmundham and Benhall Green. Representative of users of the East Suffolk railway line between	**High**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
			Saxmundham and Wickham Market. Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.	
Viewpoint 3: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 29), east of Saxmundham	262750	640728	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network to the east of the settlement of Saxmundham and a nearby residential property of the B1119. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 4: Public bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10) south of the B1119, southeast of Saxmundham	262435	640522	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between Saxmundham and Friston, road users along the B1119 and nearby residential receptors. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 5: Public bridleway (Sternfield	261620	640036	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW	**Medium**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
491, route 10), east of Sternfield			network to the north of the settlement of Friston and residential property in close proximity. Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley, near to the boundary of SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	
Viewpoint 6: Public footpath (Friston 260, route 17), east of Sternfield	261654	640886	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network within the landscape to the north of Friston. Also representing views from nearby residential and commercial receptors. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 7: Grove Road, north of Friston	261601	641775	Representative of users of the local road network, including Grove Road, on the approach to the settlement of Friston and nearby residential	**Medium**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
			receptors off Grove Road. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	
Viewpoint 8: Public bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston	260514	641649	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network and residential receptors on the northeastern edge of the settlement of Friston. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 9: Knodishall Common and public footpath (Knodishall 354, route 18), west of Knodishall	261003	642938	Representative of recreational users within Knodishall Common, CRoW Access Land and the local PRoW network. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 10: Aldeburgh Road (A1094), and public bridleway (Aldeburgh 103, route 12a)	258968	643015	Representative of users of the local road network between the settlements of Aldeburgh along the coastline and Friston, the	**High**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
			local PRoW network to the south of Knodishall and nearby properties limited to upper storey views. Representative of receptors on the boundary of the Coast and Heaths AONB. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.	
Viewpoint 11: Public footpath (Aldeburgh 103, route 16), north of Aldeburgh Golf Club	258639	644525	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Knodishall Common and users of the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.	**Very High**
Viewpoint 12: Leiston Road, north of Aldeburgh	258346	645587	Representative of local road users and residential properties in close proximity.	**Very High**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
			Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Friston Sandlands.	
Viewpoint 13: Approved England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness	258650	646901	Representative of recreational users of the approved England Coast Path between the settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh and residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Located within SCLCA LCA D4: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh.	**Very High**
Viewpoint 14: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 37), north of Saxmundham	264221	638149	Representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Carlton and Saxmundham and residential receptors on the edge of Carlton. Representative of users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of	**High**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
			Historic or Landscape Interest. Located within SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.	
Viewpoint 15: Clayhills Road and public footpath (Kelsale-cum-Carlton, route 34), east of Carlton	264165	639647	Representative of users of the local road network and recreational users of the local PRoW network to the east of the settlement of Carlton. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands, near to the boundary of SCLCA LCA B4: Fromus Valley.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 16: Abbey Lane to north of Knodishall Green	264048	641512	Representative of users of the local road network between Saxmundham and Leiston and nearby residential receptors. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	**Medium**
Viewpoint 17: Saxmundham Road (B1119) and public	262756	643122	Representative of users of the local road network and	**Medium**

Viewpoint Description	Approximate Northing	Approximate Easting	Reason for Selection	Value
footpath (Leiston-cum-Sizewell, route 3), on the edge of Leiston			PRoW network on the edge of the settlement of Leiston. Located within SCLCA LCA L1: Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands.	
Viewpoint 18: Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, east of Snape	258258	640801	Representative of recreational users of the Suffolk Coast Path recreational route to the east of the settlement of Snape. Representative of receptors within the Coast and Heaths AONB and the edge of the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Located within SCLCA LCA K3: Aldringham and Freston Sandlands.	**High**

2.2.8.33 Winter baseline photography has been captured from all of the above representative viewpoints and is contained in **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages**.

Future Baseline

2.2.8.34 Predicting the future baseline involves a degree of speculation and uncertainty as acknowledged at paragraph 5.33 in GLVIA3 (Ref 2.2.1). It requires projecting forward any trends in change and considering how they may affect the landscape over time. The nature of the future baseline is influenced by a combination of natural and human processes, including climate change. Scoping and consented development proposals are able to influence the future baseline and are discussed in the cumulative assessment in **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, Suffolk onshore Scheme Inter-Project Cumulative Effects.**

2.2.8.35 As noted in Section 2.2.6, under Options 1 and 3, Friston Substation would be built by SPR, so would form part of the future baseline. This is not relevant to Options 2 and 4.

2.2.8.36 The landscape of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme study area is predominantly characterised by arable farmland. The landscape has varied sized pockets of woodland, which are typically larger in the southern and western part of the study area. Hedgerow and other types of vegetation is sometimes sparse, which allows long distance framed views across the typically flat or gently rolling wider landscape, with screening available from settlement areas and woodland blocks. The layered vegetation network will continue to mature but the inherent character and the contribution that they make to views and visual amenity is unlikely to substantially change.

2.2.8.37 Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Ref 2.2.15) notes that the "*Suffolk Coast is at the forefront of electricity energy generation across the country both in respect of onshore and offshore energy. It is essential that major energy infrastructure projects are delivered in a planned way which takes into account the potential impact of constructing, operating and decommissioning large and nationally significant infrastructure in East Suffolk*". It is therefore likely that energy related infrastructure has the potential to expand in this area.

2.2.8.38 The coastline around Thorpeness and Aldeburgh will continue to be managed to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area due to its nationally designated status as within the Coast and Heaths AONB. Actions set out within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan (Ref 2.2.24) are likely to have an impact on the AONB landscape.

2.2.9 Mitigation

2.2.9.1 As set out in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, PEIR Approach and Methodology**, mitigation measures fall into one of the three categories: embedded measures; control and management measures; and mitigation measures.

Embedded Measures

2.2.9.2 Embedded measures have been integral in reducing the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Project. Measures that that have been incorporated are:

- Sensitive routeing and siting of infrastructure and temporary works; and
- Commitments made within **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.F, Outline Schedule of Environmental Commitment and Mitigation Measures**.

Control and Management Measures

2.2.9.3 The following measures have been included within **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 1.4.A, Outline Code of Construction Practice** relevant to the control and management of impacts that could affect landscape and visual receptors:

- GG03: A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be produced prior to construction;

- GG05: A suitably experienced Environmental Manager will be appointed for the duration of the construction phase. In addition, a qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be available during the construction phase to advise, supervise and report on the delivery of the mitigation methods and controls outlined in the CEMP. The ECoW will monitor that the works proceed in accordance with relevant environmental DCO requirements and adhere to the required good practice and mitigation measures. The ECoW will be supported as necessary by appropriate specialists, including ecologists and arboriculturists;
- GG07: A full photographic and descriptive record of condition (pre-condition survey) will be carried out of the working areas that may be affected by the construction activities prior to those works commencing. This record will be available for comparison following completion of reinstatement works to ensure that the standard of reinstatement at least meets that recorded in the pre-condition survey, and is agreeable with landowners affected by the works;
- GG08: Land used temporarily will be reinstated where practicable to its pre-construction condition and use, unless agreed otherwise. Hedgerows, fences and walls (including associated earthworks and boundary features) will be reinstated to a similar style and quality to those that were removed, with landowner consultation;
- GG09: Where sensitive features are to be retained within or immediately adjacent to the Order Limits, an appropriate protective area will be established using appropriate fencing and signage and will be inspected, repaired and replaced as necessary. The protective areas will be shown on the Retention and Reinstatement Plans contained within the LEMP;
- GG19: Earthworks and stockpiled soil will be protected by covering, seeding or using water suppression where appropriate;
- GG22: Construction lighting will be of the lowest levels necessary to safely perform each task. It will be designed, positioned and directed to reduce the intrusion into adjacent properties, protected species and habitats;
- GG27: Working areas will be appropriately fenced. The type of fencing installed will depend on the area to be fenced and will take into consideration the level of security required in relation to the surrounding land and public access, rural or urban environment and arable or stock farming. For some locations the fence used may also serve to provide acoustic and visual screening of the work sites and reduce the potential for disturbance of users in the surrounding areas. Fencing will be regularly inspected and maintained and removed as part of the demobilisation unless otherwise specified;
- LV01: The contractor(s) will retain vegetation where practicable. Where vegetation is lost and trees cannot be replaced in situ due to the restrictions associated with land rights required for operational safety, native shrub planting approved by National Grid will be used as a replacement, in accordance with the outline vegetation reinstatement plans included within the LEMP;

- LV02: The contractor(s) will apply the relevant protective principles set out in British Standard (BS) 5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. This will be applied to trees within the Order Limits which will be preserved through the construction phase, and to trees outside of the Order Limits where such measures do not hinder or prevent the use of the relevant working width for construction. All works to high grade trees, including trees under Tree Preservation Orders and veteran trees, will be undertaken or supervised by a suitably qualified arboriculturist;
- LV03: A five-year aftercare period will be established for all reinstatement and mitigation planting;
- LV04: Separation and storage of subsoil and topsoil to ensure no degradation in quality and reinstatement undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction of each section/area of works;
- LV05: Temporary and separate placement of topsoil and subsoil will be stored adjacent to the trench with the additional height of the subsoil storage used on whichever side requires greater screening benefit, where practicable;
- B04: To control the spread of invasive weeds in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, any plant or machinery that has been used in areas infested with invasive species (both terrestrial and aquatic), such as Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, will be thoroughly cleaned. Water used to clean vehicles will be controlled to prevent the spread of the plant (through seeds, rhizomes, fragments, etc.). The area will be cordoned off to prevent any inadvertent spreading;
- B07: Where the works require the crossing or removal of hedgerows, the gap will be reduced to a width required for safe working. Where hedge removals are necessary, 'dead hedging' should be used, where practicable, in the interim periods to retain connectivity during construction. Dead hedging can comprise vegetation arisings or artificial provision, such as willow screening panels or Heras fencing covered in camouflage netting. New hedgerow planting will contain native, woody species of local provenance;
- W03: Riverbank and in-channel vegetation will be retained where not directly affected by installation works. Natural substrate will be provided through temporary watercourse crossings box culverts; and
- TT03: All designated PRoW will be identified, and any potential temporary and/or permanent diversions applied for/detailed in the DCO. All designated PRoWs crossing the working area will be managed with access only closed for short periods while construction activities occur. Any required diversions will be clearly marked at both ends with signage explaining the diversion, the duration of the diversion (for temporary diversions) and a contact number for any concerns.

Mitigation Measures

2.2.9.4 Mitigation measures are additional topic and site-specific measures that have been applied to mitigate or offset any likely significant effects. Mitigation measures included that are relevant to landscape and visual receptors are:

- The design of the Saxundham Converter Station, in terms of the building form and the external materials, will be developed alongside consultation and stakeholder feedback. A Design Code for this building will be provided with the application for development consent. The Design Code will provide guidance regarding the design intent and design principles that will be adopted and embedded into the detailed proposals of this structure. These would include:
  - Locating the Saxmundham Converter Station as far as practicable within the southern extent of the site, away from the B1119 and the gateway approach into Saxmundham and to maximise the opportunity for landscape integration planting and screening to improve landscape fit and minimise visual impact (see **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy**);
  - Consideration of the orientation and massing of the Saxmundham Converter Station in order that existing landscape features can be retained and enhanced (woodland, hedgerow planting); and
  - Designing and arranging the converter station building to be sympathetic to their surroundings and be integrated into the landscaped setting of the site. Buildings will be clad in appropriate material and colours designed to appear recessive within the landscape, to help integrate the building into the landscape and views.
  - Further details are provided in **Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4, Description of the Proposed Project**.
- Landscape design opportunities within the AONB: the temporary works within the AONB associated with the landfall and HVDC would be fully reinstated in accordance with Control and Management Measures;
- Landscape design principles: an outline landscape strategy has been prepared for Saxmundham Converter Station and co-location which provides a collaborative approach to delivering landscape and biodiversity mitigation as well as BNG (the latter to be developed post PEIR). They are presented on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy** and **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location**. This outline strategy has been developed in recognition of the local landscape policies and landscape character, considering the opportunities for local landscape and biodiversity enhancement. It will continue to be developed as part of the iterative process of design and assessment. The principles of the outline landscape strategy, which will inform the future design development for DCO submission, seek to:
  - Respond to both the immediate landscape pattern of the site as well as the wider landscape character;

- Strengthen the existing landscape framework of the site, extending and enhancing the woodland planting along the western and southern boundaries with native woodland planting to provide structural screening to the converter station(s);
- Introduce native hedgerow and tree planting along sections of the B1119 to partially screen views of the converter station(s) whilst maintaining some views of the planted edge of Saxmundham (identified in the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an important aspect of the setting and in views when approaching along the B1119 from the east);
- Enhance the historic setting of Wood Farm listed building;
- Advanced planting to establish areas of mitigation planting prior to construction commencing;
- Monitoring and maintenance of new planting and seeding to ensure successful establishment; and
- Under co-location scenario, measures may include re-establishment of the historic pattern of field boundaries and woodland (as illustrated on the OS 1885 mapping) with copses and shelterbelt woodland planting providing connectivity with existing boundary features which are effective in providing integration and partial screening.

2.2.10 Preliminary Assessment of Effects

2.2.10.1 The preliminary assessment of the effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme described in this section considers the embedded, control and management and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9.

2.2.10.2 Photomontages have been prepared in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06-19 (Ref 2.2.34) from all of the representative viewpoints other than viewpoints 10, 11, 12 and 13 which are not associated with operational elements of the Proposed Project. The photomontages are contained in **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages**. This includes Type 1: annotated, baseline viewpoint photographs and Type 3: photomontages. Further detail should be referred to within **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.A, Photomontage Methodology** for the Type 3 photomontages and Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06-19 (Ref 2.2.34 for the difference between Type 1 and Type 3 visualisations). Note that the Type1 baseline photography shows the approximate horizontal extent of the Proposed Project and that the Year 1 photomontages show the horizontal and vertical maximum parameters of the Proposed Project, Co-location and Friston Substation, where visible in the view.

2.2.10.3 The photomontages illustrate the various scenarios regarding the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project and Co-location and Friston Substation. For viewpoint 6, photomontages have been produced from two directions to illustrate views towards Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation, following field work and requests during stakeholder correspondence (see **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages**).

2.2.10.4 The preliminary landscape and visual assessment of the effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme is presented in the following tables. The landscape and visual value judgements are explained within the landscape and visual baseline sections of this chapter, see Section 2.2.8 and **Volume 2, Part 2, Appendix 2.2.B, Landscape and Visual Baseline**. For the Proposed Project with Co-location sections of the following tables, only aspects of the Proposed Project with Co-location that have the potential to give rise to a higher magnitude than those considered for the Proposed Project alone are noted in the text.

2.2.10.5 The landscape and visual chapter within the ES will also include a summary of potential effects on the visual receptor groups within the study area, as outlined in the baseline above, as well as the representative viewpoints as set out below.

2.2.10.6 For those viewpoints that are located on public bridleways, it is acknowledged that slightly elevated views towards the Proposed Project would be possible relative to those travelling on foot. If this should alter the magnitude of effect, then it will be stated in the preliminary visual assessment below. If not, it is assumed that the magnitude of change remains the same.

2.2.10.7 The operational preliminary assessment of effects as follows is focused on year 1 in which mitigation planting is assumed to be minimal and not established. The year 15 assessment within the landscape and visual chapter in the ES will include reference to anticipated growth rates of mitigation vegetation. A precautionary approach will be adopted taking into account the climatic conditions prevalent in Suffolk.

Construction, Maintenance and Decommissioning

2.2.10.8 Table 2.2.18 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA B4.

Table 2.2.18: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA B4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA B4 Fromus Valley
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to landscape character from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: High

	Preliminary assessment
	Susceptibility: Medium due to the large-scale field pattern in close proximity to the Proposed Project which reduces the susceptibility. There is also infrastructure present, including the B1121. The parkland vegetation and pattern is also acknowledged, including near to Hurts Hall, which is susceptible to the type of development proposed. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct effects in a localised geographic area of the LCA due to vegetation removal and temporary alteration from arable farmland due to construction activity relating to the two Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options and a small section of the HVAC cable route. This would be located on the edge of the LCA, which is noted in the published study as being influenced by road and rail infrastructure. This lessens the effect of construction activity, notably in close proximity to the busy B1121. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in the loss of woodland and mixed vegetation, which is noted in the description of the LCA to the north of Saxmundham. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in the loss of plantation vegetation and temporary alteration to the parkland landscape, which is a special quality and feature of the LCA. The construction activity would have an impact upon the southern approach to Saxmundham, but would not affect the historic connection between Hurts Hall and the church. There would also be direct effects within a small part of the LCA due to a construction compound located near to Saxmundham Converter Station construction access bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option. This would be a temporary displacement of arable land. There would be effects on the setting of the parkland landscape near to Hurts Hall due to construction activity in the adjacent LCA relating to the converter station. There would be a limited effect on the Saxmundham Conservation Area and its setting as well as the Carlton Park locally designated Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, due to intervening vegetation and

	Preliminary assessment
	built form. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as a similar extent of the LCA and construction machinery and activity is likely for the two. Construction activity associated with the Friston Substation is not likely to be perceptible from this LCA, therefore there is no difference in magnitude. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this is unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.9 Table 2.2.19 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA D4.

Table 2.2.19: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA D4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA D4 Thorpeness to Aldeburgh
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to landscape character from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: Very High as despite the large-scale, open landscape, the coastal landscape and associated vegetation are more susceptible to accommodate the type of development. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	The open coastal landscape and vegetated shingle between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness within the LCA would be directly unaffected by the construction of the landfall as a trenchless crossing technique would be used beneath the coastal landscape for the entirety of the LCA. The eastern extent of the landfall construction compound is located within a very small part of the LCA and would result in a temporary displacement of heathland. Due to a lack of inter-visibility from intervening vegetation and built form, perceptual effects from construction activity associated with the remainder of the Proposed Project, including the HVDC and HVAC cable routes, would be barely perceptible. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different

	Preliminary assessment
	Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options are not relevant to this LCA. Construction activity associated with the Friston Substation is not likely to be perceptible from this LCA, therefore there is no difference in magnitude. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this is unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.10 Table 2.2.20 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA K3.

Table 2.2.20: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA K3

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to landscape character from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: High as whilst parts of the landscape comprise large-scale field enclosures, the flat, gently rolling farmland interspersed with varied vegetation is more susceptible to the proposed type of development. The presence of the existing overhead line lowers the susceptibility. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct effects across a localised geographic area within the LCA associated with the temporary displacement of predominantly arable land for the laying of HVDC and a very small section of HVAC cables. Other land uses with small-scale, temporary displacement include the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh and potentially heathland closer to the coastline within the Coast and Heaths AONB. The HVAC and HVDC cable routes would result in the temporary removal of field boundary vegetation, where the routeing has been unable to avoid such vegetation. Part of a plantation woodland would be removed to the north-west of Aldeburgh, to avoid adjacent native woodland removal. The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC corridors would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the

landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic.

There would be several construction compounds located within the LCA, which will also temporarily displace arable land. Several PRoW and recreational routes would be temporarily stopped up or diverted to allow for construction activity to take place, which would directly impact the recreational opportunities within the LCA for a short period of time.

For Option 2, the construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, would be a direct effect on a very small part of the LCA. There would also be indirect effects on the northern part of the LCA from the construction of the remainder of the Friston Substation. There would be effects on the perceptual qualities such as relative tranquillity and scenic quality however noting the context of the existing OHL and towers.

For Option 1, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in this part of the LCA. The consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would remain largely unaffected with a small section of planting removed for all options to facilitate cable laying associated with the Proposed Project. The different options are not considered to alter the magnitude of change.

The LCA may indirectly be impacted by tall plant associated with the construction of Saxmundham Converter Station and the remainder of the HVAC cable route which lies beyond the LCA. However, this part of the LCA is already partially influenced by the detracting presence of the OHL. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude as their potential indirect effects are likely to be similar.

Magnitude: Small

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this is unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.11 Table 2.2.21 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA L1.

Table 2.2.21: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCLCA LCA L1

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to landscape character from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term

	Preliminary assessment
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Medium as the typically large-scale field pattern is considered to have the ability to accommodate this type of development. The woodland blocks and layered vegetation in the wider landscape have the ability to be backcloths to development. The landform is relatively level, which would result in less landform interventions, but also noting the potential for perceptual effects due to the flat landform. Sensitivity: Medium
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct effects in a localised geographic area of the LCA associated with construction plant and activity for the Saxmundham Converter Station, HVAC and HVDC cable routes, four construction compounds and Friston Substation. There would be construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. The construction activity would involve the temporary displacement of predominantly arable farmland and the temporary removal of field boundary vegetation, where the routeing has been unable to avoid such vegetation. The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC corridors would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. The construction activity within the LCA would be located in a part of the LCA which is already influenced by the existing OHL, intrusion from modern development including the busy B1119, large-scale agricultural buildings and land uses such as juvenile commercial plantation not typical of the arable farmland characteristic across the LCA, which lessens the change of key characteristics. The wider LCA would be largely unaffected by construction activity and the perceptual qualities would remain largely unaffected. Dependent on construction timescales of Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation, there may be a localised increase in construction activity across different parts of the LCA,

but this would remain for a short period and in a localised geographic area of the overall LCA.

Several PRoW would be temporarily stopped up or diverted to allow for construction activity to take place, which would directly impact the recreational opportunities within the LCA for a short period of time.

Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in the temporary loss of arable farmland and hedgerow vegetation within the LCA. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in the temporary loss of arable farmland and a small section of trees near to Wood Farm.

For Option 2, the construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, would be a direct effect on a very small part of the LCA. There would also be indirect effects on the southern part of the LCA from the construction of the Friston Substation. There would be effects on the perceptual qualities such as relative tranquillity and scenic quality however noting the context of the existing OHL and towers.

For Option 1, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in this part of the LCA. The consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would remain largely unaffected with a small section of planting removed for all options to facilitate cable laying associated with the Proposed Project. The different options are not considered to alter the magnitude of effect. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as a similar extent of the LCA and construction machinery and activity is likely for the two.

Magnitude: Very Large

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this is unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.12 Table 2.2.22: Preliminary assessment of seascape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCASNE SCT 03 presents the preliminary assessment of seascape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCASNE SCT 03. Whilst the defined boundary of SCT 03 stops at the high tide mark, the preliminary assessment also takes into the consideration the interface between marine and terrestrial.

Table 2.2.22: Preliminary assessment of seascape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for SCASNE SCT 03

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCASNE SCT 03 Nearshore Waters
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to seascape character from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting

	Preliminary assessment
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: Medium as the large-scale seascape has the ability to accommodate the type of development. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct effects on a very localised geographic area of the expansive extent of seascape due to the temporary presence of the cable laying barge. This would be in the context of occasional large-scale marine vessels out at sea and offshore wind farms. The landfall construction activity would slightly affect the visual relationship with the predominantly rural coastline, however in a localised geographical area. The seascape surrounding Sizewell to the north, would be unaffected by the cable and landfall operations due to the very limited inter-visibility and the presence of largescale infrastructure including structures in the water. Further south, there is also a lack of inter-visibility due to the built form within Aldeburgh. Due to a lack of inter-visibility from intervening vegetation and built form, perceptual effects from construction activity associated with the remainder of the Proposed Project would be barely perceptible. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term and temporary. Associated lighting is expected to be localised to the landfall construction compound and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options are not relevant to this LCA. Construction activity associated with the Friston Substation is not likely to be perceptible from this LCA, therefore there is no difference in magnitude.

	Preliminary assessment
	Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this is unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.13 Table 2.2.23 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 1.

Table 2.2.23: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 1

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 1
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements,

	Preliminary assessment
	topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors on the edge of Saxmundham and Wood Farm, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station in the foreground and middle ground, which would include construction plant and construction compounds within the large-scale arable field. This would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent movement and the existing OHL in the distance. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in a wider horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity and further obstruction of long-distance views of arable farmland to the north. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in further construction activity to the south of the view, however further to the southwest where the option extends south of Hurts Hall, would be predominantly screened by existing intervening mature vegetation.

	Preliminary assessment
	The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC cable routes is likely to be visible in the middle ground seen in the context of larger scale construction plant and activity associated with the converter station. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.14 Table 2.2.24 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 2.

Table 2.2.24: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 2

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 2
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: High Susceptibility: Medium as the surroundings are an important visual contributor the experience of those using the local PRoW network, however this is currently dominated by the busy B1121 which detracts from the visual experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be oblique views of construction activity across the rising arable and parkland estate associated with Saxmundham Converter Station. The views would be partially screened by mature woodland vegetation to the east of Hurts Hall. Tall construction plant would be visible above the tree line and construction activity through the break in vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall. Views of the activity would not be the focus of the receptors moving along and adjacent to the B1121 and would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via

	Preliminary assessment
	BM11 and BM10 option would not be visible due to intervening landform, built form and vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in vehicles moving across a proportion of the view where there is a break in woodland planting along the skyline. This option would also include the removal of part of the plantation vegetation and mature tree vegetation on the skyline. It should be noted that the viewpoint is taken from a point along the B1121 where there is a break in the hedgerow vegetation, denoted by the whips in the foreground. Further along the B1121, views would be partially screened towards the construction activity by roadside vegetation. Furthermore, the location of the public footpath is set behind hedgerow vegetation on the western edge of the B1121, therefore further reducing views to construction activity, however, tall plant would remain visible in oblique views. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation, HVDC and HVAC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However,

	Preliminary assessment
	this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.15 Table 2.2.25 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 3.

Table 2.2.25: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 3

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 3
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening pockets of mature vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station in the foreground and middle ground. This would include construction plant and construction compounds within the large and medium-scale arable and commercial plantation fields. The construction compounds would lie immediately adjacent to the B1119, so views would predominantly be direct due to little intervening vegetation. The construction activity would occupy parts of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent vehicle movement, albeit less noticeable from this location due to the arable landform falling towards the B1119, and the existing OHL in the distance. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in a wider horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity. This would be partially screened by a pocket of mature vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option is likely to be screened by construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station. The construction activity associated with the HVAC cable routes is likely to be visible in the middle ground. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical machinery on arable fields. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation and HVDC cables would be limited to distant views of taller construction plant in the context of the existing OHL due to intervening landform and vegetation. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access

	Preliminary assessment
	options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.16 Table 2.2.26 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 4.

Table 2.2.26: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 4
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements,

	Preliminary assessment
	topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening pockets of mature vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station in the foreground and middle ground. This would include construction plant and construction compounds within the large and medium-scale arable and commercial plantation fields. The construction compounds would lie immediately adjacent to the B1119, so views would predominantly be direct due to little intervening vegetation. The construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view. This would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent movement and the existing OHL in the distance. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in a wider horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity. This would be partially screened by pockets of mature vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option is likely to be screened by construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station.

	Preliminary assessment
	The construction activity associated with the HVAC cable routes is likely to be visible in the middle ground. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation and HVDC cables would be limited to distant views of taller construction plant in the context of the existing OHL due to intervening landform and vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction. Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.17 Table 2.2.27 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 5.

Table 2.2.27: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 5

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 5
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground which would be set against the horizon. This would include construction plant behind the agricultural buildings and vegetated field boundary on the skyline. The scale of the activity would be emphasised due to the scale of the agricultural buildings which would appear comparatively small in comparison. This would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view and would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery within the view. Such views would be within the context of the existing OHL in the distance but would entirely alter the composition of a view.

	Preliminary assessment
	Construction compounds are likely to be largely screened by intervening existing vegetation to the northeast of the viewpoint location but would be partially visible through and either side of this vegetation. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option are likely to be screened by intervening landform, vegetation and construction activity associated with the converter station. The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC cable routes would be visible in the middle ground across the tarmac track. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC corridors would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. Views towards the upper parts of tall construction plant and activity associated with the Friston Substation and HVDC cables might possibly be visible in the opposite direction (successive view), which would further extend the horizontal extent of successive views experienced from this location within the context of the existing OHL. The PRoW would be temporarily diverted during the construction period associated with the HVAC cable route. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**

	Preliminary assessment
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.18 Table 2.2.28 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 6 based on the indicative location of the converter station(s) shown in **Figure 1.4.2 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location** and **Figure 1.4.5 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location with Co-location**. This is currently reported as a 'Non-Significant' effect (Option 1) in the table below. Relating to the consideration of the Flexibility Assumptions associated with the lateral LoD of Saxmundham Converter Station (see Table 2.2.1), if the converter station was located further east within the LoD, and therefore a wider horizontal extent of construction activity would be visible from the viewpoint location, there is the potential for Option 1 to result in a '**Significant**' effect.

Table 2.2.28: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 6

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 6
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements,

	Preliminary assessment
	topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	Field boundary vegetation in the foreground and middle ground would largely screen views associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station to the northwest of the viewpoint. Tall construction plant would be visible in the distance above intervening vegetation for a small section of the horizontal extent of the view. This would be within the context of the wood pole lines and large-scale agricultural buildings. There may also be partial views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, both the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by intervening vegetation. The construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes would be visible in the foreground and middle ground through the arable land. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity associated with the HVDC/HVAC corridors would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic.

	Preliminary assessment
	For Option 2, views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, would be directly visible in the middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view. This would extend the horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity. This would be dependent on the phasing of construction but is assumed to be the worst case and that the construction of both Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation could occur at the same time. For Option 1, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape. A small part of the consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would be partially removed for all options for cable laying associated with the Proposed Project. The PRoW would be temporarily stopped up or diverted during the construction period associated with the HVAC cable route. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Magnitude for Option 1: Small Magnitude for Option 2: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above. In addition to the impacts described above, the horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity would be increased, due to the converter stations. This would be apparent in successive directions. There is likely to be greater construction traffic in the locality, which is not present currently. Magnitude for Option 3: Small Magnitude for Option 4: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Effect for Option 3: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.19 Table 2.2.29 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 7. The preliminary assessment for representative viewpoint 7 reports a preliminary significant effect for Option 2. This differs from the non-significant effect reported by Scottish Power Renewable's (SPR's) EA1 and 2 in relation to viewpoint 3. It should be noted that SPR's viewpoint 3 is located further north along Grove Road, benefiting from additional screening, and does not take into account the additional impact from the HVDC cables associated with the Proposed Project.

Table 2.2.29: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 7

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 7
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Medium as representative of users of the local road network where their attention is not focussed on the landscape but noting that Grove Road is denoted as a ‘quiet lane’. Also representative of nearby residential receptors but noting that these properties are generally well screened by vegetation. Sensitivity: Medium
Preliminary magnitude	Due to intervening mature vegetation, there are unlikely to be views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station or construction access options. If views are available, they would be limited to the upper extents of tall construction plant and would be barely discernible. The construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes would be visible in the foreground and middle ground. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC corridors would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the

	Preliminary assessment
	presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. For Option 2, views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation would be visible in the middle ground and would extend across a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Such activity would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers. For Option 1, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. A small part of the consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would be partially removed for all options for cable laying associated with the Proposed Project. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude for Option 1: Small Magnitude for Option 2: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.

	Preliminary assessment
	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Magnitude for Option 3: Small Magnitude for Option 4: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Effect for Option 3: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.20 Table 2.2.30 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 8.

Table 2.2.30: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 8

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 8
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors on the edge of Friston with open views across the arable landscape. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Due to intervening mature vegetation, there are unlikely to be views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station or construction access options. If views are available, they would be limited to the upper extents of tall construction plant and would be barely discernible. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be visible in the middle ground across the large-scale arable field. Properties along the northern edge of Friston are oriented towards this view and would have direct views. This would cross the Sandlings Way recreational route for a short section. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity associated with the HVDC corridor would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. A construction compound would also be visible in the distance, to the southeast of the viewpoint location and also within large-scale arable fields. For Option 2, views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation and HVAC cables would be visible in the middle ground and would extend across a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The activity would be largely screened by mature field boundary vegetation in the middle ground. It should be noted that the viewpoint photography is taken at a break in the vegetation, such that views further along the route and from the settlement edge of Friston would be limited. It should also be noted that the properties on the settlement edge of Friston are not orientated towards Friston Substation. Such activity would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers.

	Preliminary assessment
	For Option 1, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape. The construction activity associated with the HVAC cable would be predominantly screened by the existing Friston Substation and vegetation, therefore limited to views of tall construction plant in the middle distance. A small part of the consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would be partially removed for all options for cable laying associated with the Proposed Project. The PRoW would be temporarily stopped up or diverted during the construction period associated with the HVAC cable route. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude for Option 1: Small Magnitude for Option 2: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above. There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Magnitude for Option 3: Small Magnitude for Option 4: Small

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Effect for Option 3: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.21 Table 2.2.31 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 9.

Table 2.2.31: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 9

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 9
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: High as representative of users of the local PRoW network and the edge of Knodishall Common, where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary magnitude	There would be very distant, glimpsed views to tall construction plant associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and the HVAC cable route. This would be above the agricultural buildings and vegetation in the middle distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be visible in the middle ground in the large-scale arable field. This would also include some tree and field boundary vegetation loss. The construction activity associated with the HVDC corridor would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.

	Preliminary assessment
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.22 Table 2.2.32 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 10.

Table 2.2.32: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 10

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 10
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: High Susceptibility: High as representative of users of the local PRoW network, where views are an important part of the experience and residential receptors with upper storey views across the landscape, where such views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and the HVAC cable routes from this viewpoint. There would be glimpsed, and distant views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable

	Preliminary assessment
	route through intervening vegetation. The construction activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields. There would also potentially be views of the upper parts of taller construction plant within the construction compound to the north of the viewpoint location, however this would be largely screened by the reservoir embankments and vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.23 Table 2.2.33 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 11.

Table 2.2.33: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 11

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 11
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: High as representative of users of the golf course and the local PRoW network, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and the HVAC cable routes. There would be direct views associated with the construction of the HVDC cable route in the foreground and middle ground for a large proportion of the horizontal extent of view. This would include the removal of part of the overgrown hedgerow adjacent to the public footpath in the foreground and plantation woodland in the middle ground. The PRoW would be temporarily stopped up or diverted during the construction period associated with the HVDC cable route. Those viewing the construction activity from the golf course would have glimpsed views that would not be static in nature.

	Preliminary assessment
	The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.24 Table 2.2.34 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 12.

Table 2.2.34: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 12

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 12
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements,

	Preliminary assessment
	topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, as well as the local road network. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and the HVAC cable routes. There would be direct views associated with the construction of the HVDC cable route in the foreground and middle ground for a proportion of the horizontal extent of view for a very temporary period of time. This would include the removal of mature coniferous vegetation on the northern edge of Leiston Road and southern boundary of the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh. Such views would be within the context of Sizewell infrastructure in the distance. There may be glimpsed views of the cable laying barge at sea but this would be seen in the distance in a very small part of the overall panorama, and would not be dissimilar to existing marine vessels at sea. There would be partially screened views of the landfall transition joint pit and construction compound in the middle ground. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Small

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.25 Table 2.2.35 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 13.

Table 2.2.35: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 13

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 13
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term

	Preliminary assessment
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness and the approved England Coast Path where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There would not be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and the HVAC cable routes. There would be views of the cable laying barge out at sea associated with the landfall construction in the middle ground. This is not considered to be too dissimilar to the presence of marine vessels which can be typically seen out at sea. It should be noted that from the approved England Coast Path, views are limited towards the sea due to the rising shingle landform along the foreshore. The construction compound, the landfall transition joint pit and construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be visible in the middle ground beyond the linear belt of pine trees. No vegetation would be removed within the view. The construction activity would be an unobtrusive change to the composition of the view as any activity would be set against a solid backcloth of woodland, it would be located within a small extent of the horizontal extent of the view and views of receptors would be focused on the coastline and walking between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Small

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.26 Table 2.2.36 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 14.

Table 2.2.36: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 14

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 14
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term

	Preliminary assessment
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: High Susceptibility: Very High as representative of residential receptors on the edge of Carlton and the local PRoW network and users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Any views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station or HVAC cables would be limited to possible, occasional tall construction plant which might be visible above the tree line in the middle ground. This would comprise a very small part of the overall view and would be barely perceptible in the view. There would be no views of construction activity associated with the Friston Substation or HVDC cables. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option is located in the middle ground, however is largely screened by intervening mature vegetation and built form, such that any glimpsed views of activity would be barely perceptible. As with the above, views towards the bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by intervening vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High

	Preliminary assessment
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.27 Table 2.2.37 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 15.

Table 2.2.37: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 15

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 15
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium

	Preliminary assessment
	Susceptibility: Medium as representative of users of a short section of the local PRoW network where views of the surroundings are a partial contributor to experience as this is at a junction with a minor road. Residential receptors in the vicinity are set behind mature vegetation. Sensitivity: Medium
Preliminary magnitude	There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVAC cables. This would be predominantly located in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the middle ground and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break. Construction activity would break the skyline. Tall construction plant associated with the construction of the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVDC/HVAC cables would be visible, the ground plane screened by intervening vegetation and the embankment of the railway line. Construction activity would be in the context of occasional movement along the Saxmundham Road and the existing OHL in the distance and would be located in a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, both the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by mature intervening vegetation and construction activity associated with Saxmundham Converter Station. Partial views through vegetation to the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option may be available in the middle distance. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction.

	Preliminary assessment
	Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.28 Table 2.2.38 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 16.

Table 2.2.38: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 16

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 16
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting

	Preliminary assessment
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: High as representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents but noting that views are oblique, as well as of the local road network. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVDC/HVAC cables near to the converter station. This would be predominantly located in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the long distance and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break. Construction activity would break the skyline. Tall construction activity associated with the construction compounds associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVAC cables would be visible, the ground plane screened by intervening vegetation. Construction activity would be in the context of occasional movement along Abbey Lane and would be located in a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, both the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by mature intervening vegetation and construction activity associated with Saxmundham Converter Station. Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation, the remainder of the HVAC cables and HVDC cables would be limited to tall construction plant above the mature vegetated treeline and would be

	Preliminary assessment
	within the context of the existing OHL in the distance. The duration for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.29 Table 2.2.39 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 17.

Table 2.2.39: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 17

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 17
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Medium Susceptibility: High as representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience and the local road network and residential receptors on the edge of Leiston, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be heavily filtered views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVDC/HVAC cables near to the converter station. This would be located in the distance and would be limited to tall construction plant above the mature tree line. It would be located in a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. There may also be glimpses of taller construction plant associated with the remainder of the HVAC cable, HVDC cables and Friston Substation, but this would be barely perceptible in the view. All potential views of construction activity would be seen within the context of the existing OHL in the distance. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options, both the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by mature intervening

	Preliminary assessment
	vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. The two different Saxmundham Converter Station construction access options would not result in a difference in magnitude at construction as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.30 Table 2.2.40 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 18.

Table 2.2.40: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for representative viewpoint 18

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 18
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to visual amenity from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting.
Proposed Project phase	Construction maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: High Susceptibility: Very High as representative of users of the Suffolk Coast Path recreational route where views are an important part of the experience. Sensitivity: High
Preliminary magnitude	Any construction activity associated with the Proposed Project would be barely perceptible within the view. It would be limited to glimpses of tall construction plant within and above the mature vegetation treeline on the skyline and would be within the context of the existing OHL. Other intervening vegetation would appear taller than any construction activity. Associated lighting is not expected to be perceptible at this distance. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High

	Preliminary assessment
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.31 Table 2.2.41 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at construction, maintenance and decommissioning for the Coast and Heaths AONB. The preliminary assessment takes into account the Natural Beauty indicators and the relevant associated Coast and Heaths AONB indicators to landscape and visual matters, as outlined in Section 2.2.2 of this chapter.

Table 2.2.41 Preliminary assessment of effects on the Coast and Heaths AONB at construction, maintenance and decommissioning

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Coast and Heaths AONB
Potential Impact	Temporary alteration to the Coast and Heaths AONB from the introduction of construction activity including compounds, temporary accommodation and access tracks, construction plant and vehicle movements, topsoil stripping and earthworks, storage of materials and lighting
Proposed Project phase	Construction, maintenance and decommissioning
Duration	Short-term
Mitigation	GG03, GG05, GG07, GG08, GG09, GG19, GG21, GG25, LV01, LV02, LV03, LV04, LV05, B04, B07, W03 and TT03
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Value: Very High

	Preliminary assessment
	Susceptibility: Very High as despite the large-scale, open landscape in part, the coastal landscape and heathland vegetation are more susceptible to accommodate the type of development. Sensitivity: Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Landscape quality: The construction of the Proposed Project would temporarily displace small areas of heathland within the AONB, including at the landfall construction compound. The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heaths AONB Indicators (see Section 2.2.2 throughout for Coast and Heath Indicators). Scenic quality: The construction of the Proposed Project would not affect the opportunities for long distance and panoramic views across the AONB and the open landscape between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness due to the proposed trenchless technique at the landfall, but would introduce construction plant and machinery into views, however this is often limited due to an intervening layered network of vegetation, landform and built form. The removal of small sections of boundary features would not affect the general enclosure of farmland as effects would be localised. Lighting associated with the Proposed Project is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods and is not considered to alter the dark skies of the AONB. The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators. Relative wildness: The construction of the Proposed Project would introduce elements of uncharacteristic machinery into the AONB and its setting for a temporary period of time. This would be within the context of detracting existing features, including the OHL, and construction activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery on arable fields and the seasonal disturbance of soils which is characteristic of arable land. Construction vehicles would increase traffic on routes. The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators. Relative tranquillity: The construction of the Proposed Project would affect localised tranquillity within the

	Preliminary assessment
	AONB and its setting due to additional human activity, increased traffic along local roads and machinery. The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators. Natural heritage features: The construction of the Proposed Project would include the temporary removal of small sections of boundary vegetation. The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators relevant to landscape and visual matters. Further information on potential effects to natural heritage should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Ecology and Biodiversity**. Cultural heritage: The construction activity is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators relevant to landscape and visual matters. Further information on potential effects to cultural heritage should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage**. The duration of change for all activity would be temporary and short-term. Associated lighting is expected to be localised and limited to temporary periods. Magnitude for landscape quality: Small Magnitude for scenic quality: Negligible Magnitude for relative wildness: Small Magnitude for relative tranquillity: Small Magnitude for natural heritage features: Small Magnitude for cultural heritage: None
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for landscape quality: **Not Significant** Effect for scenic quality: **Not Significant** Effect for relative wildness: **Not Significant**

	Preliminary assessment
	Effect for relative tranquillity: **Not Significant** Effect for natural heritage features: **Not Significant** Effect for cultural heritage: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would require a slightly wider construction swathe for the additional ducts associated with co-location. However, this would not result in a perceptible change to the overall magnitude of effect described above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

Operation

2.2.10.32 Table 2.2.42 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA B4.

Table 2.2.42: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA B4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA B4 Fromus Valley
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the operational converter station, substation, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to

	Preliminary assessment
	landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	All three proposed permanent access routes options for the Saxmundham Converter Station would have a direct impact on the LCA within a localised geographic area. This would result in the permanent removal of woodland and mixed vegetation for the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option, which is noted in the description of the LCA to the north of Saxmundham, as well as a swathe of arable farmland. The bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would also include a permanent bridge crossing, resulting in a new element of infrastructure in a small part of the LCA, however this would be within the context of the existing railway line. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in the loss of plantation vegetation and temporary alteration to the parkland landscape, which is a special quality and feature of the LCA. The bellmouth BM13 option would result in minimal vegetation loss as it operates along an existing track for the majority, with a small part of arable farmland lost. The operational converter station infrastructure would have perceptual effects on the setting of the parkland landscape near to Hurts Hall. This would be within the context of road and rail infrastructure influencing this part of the LCA, including the busy B1121. The permanent infrastructure would not impact upon the relationship between Hurts Hall and the church on the approach to Saxmundham. There would be a very limited effect on the Saxmundham Conservation Area and its setting as well as the Carlton Park locally designated Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, due to intervening vegetation and built form. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

	Preliminary assessment
	The operational Friston Substation would not be perceptible from this LCA and therefore does not alter the magnitude. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as a similar extent of the LCA and permanent land use alteration is likely for the three. Landscape planting on the western edge of the converter station site, which, once matured, would create separation between the LCA and permanent infrastructure. See **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the presence of the permanent converter stations would have a greater influence on the perceptual qualities of the LCA due to the larger geographic area of permanent infrastructure. See **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location** for indicative locations of landscape planting. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**

	Preliminary assessment
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.33 Table 2.2.43 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA D4.

Table 2.2.43: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA D4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA D4 Thorpeness to Aldeburgh
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be reinstatement of the small amount of heathland temporarily lost due to the landfall construction compound. Due to a lack of inter-visibility from intervening vegetation and built form, perceptual effects from the operational infrastructure associated with the Proposed Project and reinstatement of the HVDC cable route would be barely perceptible. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting with the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Ssubstation is not relevant to this LCA. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station are not relevant to this LCA.

	Preliminary assessment
	The operational Friston Substation would not be perceptible from this LCA and therefore does not alter the magnitude. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** There are opportunities for enhancement with the Coast and Heaths AONB landscape, including heathland planting and further protection of sea pea within the vegetated shingle along the coastline.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.34 Table 2.2.44 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA K3.

Table 2.2.44: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA K3

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA K3 Aldringham and Friston Sandlands
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the operational converter station, substation, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to

	Preliminary assessment
	landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9.
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVDC and HVAC corridor, however, otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. It should be noted that any reinstatement of heathland within the Coast and Heaths AONB either associated with the HVDC cable route or construction compounds, may take longer for reinstatement than other arable farmland within the LCA. The recreational routes and local PRoW network through the LCA would be unaffected as any routes would be diverted if required. For Option 2, a very small part of the Friston Substation infrastructure would be located within the LCA, which would permanently displace agricultural land. There would be indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCA, including tranquillity and scenic quality, associated with the new Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation infrastructure, however both of which are within the context of the existing OHL and towers. For Option 1;, Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in this part of the LCA. For all options, the partial removal of a small section of the SPR mitigation planting would be replaced with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. The different options are not considered to alter the magnitude of change. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

	Preliminary assessment
	Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation. The bellmouth BM13 option lies in closer proximity, however, is in the context of the B1121. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** There are opportunities within the LCA to reinstate areas of heathland, notably within the Coast and Heaths AONB.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above as a result of co-location.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above as a result of co-location.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.35 Table 2.2.45 presents the preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA L1.

Table 2.2.45: Preliminary assessment of landscape character effects at operation for SCLCA LCA L1

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCLCA LCA L1 Heveningham and Knodishall Estate Claylands
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to landscape character as a result of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct effects in a localised geographic area of the LCA associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, which would permanently displace part of a large-scale arable field and would introduce a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature in the local landscape. The local PRoW network through the LCA would be unaffected as any routes would be diverted if required. The permanent infrastructure within the LCA would be located in a part of the LCA which is already influenced by the existing OHL, intrusion from modern development including the busy B1119, large-scale agricultural buildings and land uses not typical of the arable farmland typically across the LCA, including juvenile commercial plantation, which lessen the change of key characteristics within the LCA. The wider LCA would be largely unaffected by the Saxmundham Converter Station and the perceptual qualities would remain largely unaffected. The permanent infrastructure of both Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation would result in a localised connectivity of large-scale energy infrastructure which is not present currently, however this would remain to be in a small section of the overall LCA which is influenced by detracting features such as

the existing OHL and key characteristics would largely remain intact.

There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVAC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which would take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process.

All three permanent access routes to the Saxmundham Converter Station would have a direct impact on the LCA within a very localised geographic area. This would result in permanent loss of arable farmland and reinstatement of hedgerow vegetation for the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option. The bellmouth BM09 option would result in the loss of arable farmland and a small section of trees near to Wood Farm. The bellmouth BM13 option would result in a small part of arable farmland lost.

For Option 2, a small part of the Friston Substation infrastructure would be located within the LCA, which would permanently displace agricultural land. There would be direct and indirect effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCA, including tranquillity and scenic quality.

For Option 1 Friston Substation would already be constructed so would add further reference to energy infrastructure in this part of the LCA. For all options, the partial removal of the SPR mitigation planting would be replaced with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. The different options are not considered to alter the magnitude of change. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Associated lighting is likely to comprise security lighting on sensors and low level egress lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as a similar extent of the LCA and permanent land use alteration is likely for the three.

	Preliminary assessment
	Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities within the LCA to increase biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network as well as placemaking on the Saxmundham Converter Station site.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the presence of the permanent converter stations would have a greater direct influence on the LCA due to the larger geographic area of permanent infrastructure. This would include three large-scale, uncharacteristic converter stations in the local landscape. Indicative planting arrangements are shown on **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.36 Table 2.2.46 presents the preliminary assessment of seascape character effects at operation for SCASNE SCT 03. Whilst the defined boundary of SCT 03 stops at the high tide mark, the preliminary assessment also takes into the consideration the interface between marine and terrestrial.

Table 2.2.46: Preliminary assessment of seascape character effects at operation for SCASNE SCT 03

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	SCASNE SCT 03 Nearshore Waters
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to seascape character as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to landscape character for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be no change to the landscape receptor at operation. Magnitude: None
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	Magnitude: None
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**

	Preliminary assessment
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.37 Table 2.2.47 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 1.

Table 2.2.47: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 1

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 1
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substationand HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of the Saxmundham converter station in the foreground to the east of Wood Farm. This would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, limiting part of the long-distance views of arable farmland. The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view, which is emphasised by the smaller scale of Wood Farm within the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would have a backcloth of woodland and would break the skyline. This would appear at a similar height to the existing OHL in the distance. The majority of the long-distance views across arable farmland would still be available. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, the bellmouth BM12 via

	Preliminary assessment
	BM11 and BM10 option would result in occasional movement along the route and permanent displacement of the arable field to the north of the view. The bellmouth BM09 option would appear in the context of the Saxmundham Converter Station and further to the southwest where the option extends south of Hurts Hall, would be predominantly screened by existing intervening mature vegetation. The bellmouth BM13 option would largely be screened by the Saxmundham Converter Station. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVAC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views in the middle ground, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities to increase biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network. There are opportunities to reinstate former woodland blocks on the Saxmundham Converter Station site, which were removed to facilitate large-scale arable farmland and are

	Preliminary assessment
	characteristic in the local landscape. There are also opportunities relating to placemaking on the Saxmundham Converter Sation. There are also opportunities for advanced planting to assist in mitigating operational effects.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would occupy a larger horizontal extent of the view. Views would still be available across long-distance arable fields but would be within a smaller proportion of the view. Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.38 Table 2.2.48 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 2.

Table 2.2.48: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 2

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 2
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substationand HVAC and HVDC cable corridors.

	Preliminary assessment
	Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	The Saxmundham Converter Station would appear within a small part of the horizontal panorama in a break in vegetation in the middle ground. It would be partially screened by existing mature woodland vegetation and would break the skyline. It would appear at a similar scale to Hurts Hall but would be out of character in the existing view. Views of the permanent infrastructure would not be the focus of the receptors moving along and adjacent to the B1121 and would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would not be visible due to intervening landform, built form and vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option would be visible in the foreground and middle ground, which would result in the permanent removal of part of the mature vegetation on the skyline and allow direct views to the Saxmundham Converter Station. There would be occasional movement along the route and permanent displacement of part of the arable field to the east of the view. The bellmouth BM13 option would not be visible due to intervening landform and vegetation. It should be noted that the viewpoint is taken from a point along the B1121 where there is a break in the hedgerow vegetation, denoted by the whips in the foreground. Further along the B1121, views would be partially screened towards the Saxmundham Converter Station and bellmouth BM09 option permanent access route. Furthermore, the location of the public footpath is set behind hedgerow vegetation on the western edge of the B1121.

	Preliminary assessment
	Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVDC and HVAC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The proposed three different permanent access options to Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of effect at operation. Indicative planting is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** The vegetation whips in the foreground would assist in screening views of the operational converter station and bellmouth BM09 option permanent access route. Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities for native woodland planting to the east of Hurts Hall, which once established, would lessen views towards the Saxmundham Converter Station from this location.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, this scenario would result in a larger horizontal extent of converter stations that would be visible in the break in vegetation on the skyline. Views would continue to be oblique. For landscape planting opportunities, see **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Large

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.39 Table 2.2.49 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 3.

Table 2.2.49: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 3

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 3
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substationand HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The converter station would break the skyline and would be partially screened by lower-level mature vegetation. The majority of the view would be unaffected and views towards the vegetation planting on the edge of Saxmundham would remain. The Saxmundham Converter Station would be uncharacteristic and large-scale, emphasised by the contrast in scale with the individual residential properties in the wider landscape. The majority of farm buildings and residential properties in the landscape are

	Preliminary assessment
	associated with shelterbelt planting, which the converter station would not be. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in occasional movement along the route and permanent displacement of the arable field to the north of the view. This would be partially screened by a pocket of mature vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option would be screened by the Saxmundham Converter Station, intervening mature vegetation and existing built form. The bellmouth BM13 option would largely be screened by intervening vegetation. There would be a small loss of trees associated with the HVAC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location due to intervening landform and vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different permanent access options to the Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities to increase biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network. There are opportunities to reinstate former woodland blocks on the

	Preliminary assessment
	Saxmundham Converter Station site, which were removed to facilitate large-scale arable farmland and are characteristic in the local landscape. In addition, there are opportunities relating to placemaking on the Saxmundham Converter Station and advanced native planting along the B1119. The commercial plantation, which is not characteristic of the local landscape character, could also be replaced with native woodland planting.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Station and NGV projects converter stations would occupy a larger horizontal extent of the view and would appear closer to the B1119. This would lessen screening from the layers of existing intervening vegetation. Views would still be available towards the vegetation planting along the edge of Saxmundham in the distance but would be within a smaller proportion of the view. Indicative landscape planting, see **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the Saxmundham Converter Station and the NGV projects converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.40 Table 2.2.50 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 4.

Table 2.2.50: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 4

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 4
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The converter station would break the skyline and would be partially screened by lower-level mature vegetation. The majority of the view would be unaffected and the framed view towards the vegetation planting on the edge of Saxmundham would remain. The converter station would be uncharacteristic and large-scale. The majority of farm buildings and residential properties in the landscape are associated with shelterbelt planting, which the converter station would not be. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option would result in occasional movement along the route and permanent displacement of the arable field to the north of the view. This would be partially screened by pockets of mature vegetation. The bellmouth BM09 option would be screened by the Saxmundham Converter Station, intervening mature vegetation and existing built form. The bellmouth BM13 option would largely be screened by intervening vegetation.

	Preliminary assessment
	There would be a small loss of trees associated with the HVAC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location due to intervening landform and vegetation. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different permanent access options to the Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities to increase biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network. There are opportunities to reinstate former woodland blocks on the Saxmundham Converter Station site, which were removed to facilitate large-scale arable farmland and are characteristic in the local landscape. There are opportunities relating to placemaking on the Saxmundham Converter Station and advanced native planting along the B1119 and on the converter station site to assist in mitigating operational effects. The commercial plantation, which is not characteristic of the local landscape character, could also be replaced with native woodland planting.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.

	Preliminary assessment
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Station and NGV projects converter stations would occupy a larger horizontal extent of the view and would appear closer to the B1119. This would lessen screening from the layers of existing intervening vegetation. The new infrastructure would entirely dominate the view and alter the current composition. A small part of the framed view would still be available towards the vegetation planting along the edge of Saxmundham in the distance. Indicative landscape planting is shown on **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.41 Table 2.2.51 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 5.

Table 2.2.51: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 5

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 5
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable

	Preliminary assessment
	corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground. The converter station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view. This would be set behind the agricultural buildings present on the skyline, which would emphasise the contrasting size and scale of the converter station, and would be set against the horizon. The Saxmundham Converter Station would have minimal screening from existing boundary vegetation on the skyline as it would appear in a break where the vegetation is less mature. The converter station would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, but views would remain available through pockets to the long distance. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by the converter station and intervening landform and vegetation. The bellmouth BM13 option would be located along the route of the public bridleway in which the viewpoint is located, so would be directly impacted by occasional traffic. This is not considered to be too dissimilar to the existing vehicles moving along this track to the nearby farm. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVAC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance

	Preliminary assessment
	framed views in the middle ground, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. Views towards the operational Friston Substation would be screened by intervening landform and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cable routes may be visible but would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and landform, would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** However, there are opportunities to increase biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network. There are opportunities to reinstate former woodland blocks on the Saxmundham Converter Station site, which were removed to facilitate large-scale arable farmland and are characteristic in the local landscape, however this would be subject to further consultation with the landowner. There are also opportunities relating to placemaking associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, including landscape planting and new recreational access.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.

	Preliminary assessment
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Station and the NGV projects' converter stations would occupy a larger horizontal extent of the view. Cumulatively, the converter stations would be partially screened by intervening mature vegetation. Framed views would still be available to the long-distance. Indicative landscape planting, to mitigate views are shown **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Very Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.42 Table 2.2.52 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 6 based on the indicative location of the converter station(s) shown in **Figure 1.4.2 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location** and **Figure 1.4.5 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Location with Co-location**. This is currently reported as a 'Non-Significant' effect (Option 1) in the table below. Relating to the consideration of the Flexibility Assumptions associated with the lateral LoD of Saxmundham Converter Station (see Table 2.2.1), if the converter station was located further east within the LoD, and therefore would be visible from the viewpoint location, there is the potential for Option 1 to report a '**Significant**' effect.

Table 2.2.52: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 6

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 6
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston

	Preliminary assessment
	Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	Field boundary vegetation in the foreground and middle ground would heavily filter views to the Saxmundham Converter Station to the northwest of the viewpoint (see **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages FB**). Any glimpsed views would be a very small part of the panorama and would be within the context of the wood pole lines and large-scale agricultural buildings. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, both the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option and bellmouth BM09 option would largely be screened by intervening field boundary vegetation. The bellmouth BM13 option may be visible but would not be dissimilar from the vehicles currently travelling along this track to the nearby farm. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridors, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. The loss of trees has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. For Options 1 and 2, there would be direct views of the operational Friston Substation in the middle ground (see **Figure 2.2.12 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages FA**). The substation would be located in a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views across arable land and towards St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston remaining to be available. The substation would permanently displace

	Preliminary assessment
	the arable land and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers. The substation would break the skyline in parts and be set in front of a wooded backcloth. For Option 1, Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline, so would give context to any views towards other parts of the Proposed Project, which results in a difference in magnitude for Options 1 and 2. The SPR mitigation planting would be replaced with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation. The three different permanent access options to the Saxmundham Converter Station would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude for Option 1: Negligible Magnitude for Option 2: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would be visible beyond the treeline in the distance to the northwest of

	Preliminary assessment
	the viewpoint location. For Option 3, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would remain to be noticeable in the composition of the view but would be within the context of the built Friston Substation in the local landscape and the existing OHL. Indicative landscape proposals to mitigate views are shown in **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** For Option 4, operational built form, which is not characteristic of the local character would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Magnitude for Option 3: Medium Magnitude for Option 4: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 3: **Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.43 Table 2.2.53 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 7. The preliminary assessment for representative viewpoint 7 reports a preliminary significant effect for Option 2, whereas SPR's viewpoint 3 relating to EA1 and 2 reported a non-significant effect. SPR's viewpoint 3 is located further north along Grove Road, benefiting from additional screening, and does not take into account the HVDC cables associated with the Proposed Project.

Table 2.2.53: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 7

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 7
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation

	Preliminary assessment
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	Due to intervening mature vegetation, there are unlikely to be views towards the Saxmundham Converter Station or permanent access options. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridors, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. For Options 1 and 2, there would be direct views of the operational Friston Substation in the middle ground. The substation would be located in a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views towards the wooded skyline remaining to be available. The substation would permanently displace the arable land and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers. The substation would break the skyline and be set in front of a wooded backcloth. For Option 1, Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline, so would give context to any views towards other parts of the Proposed Project, which results in a difference in magnitude for Options 1 and 2. The SPR mitigation planting would be replaced with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation. Magnitude for Option 1: Negligible Magnitude for Option 2: Medium

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Magnitude for Option 3: Negligible Magnitude for Option 4: Medium
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Effect for Option 3: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.44 Table 2.2.54 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 8.

Table 2.2.54: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 8

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 8
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors.

	Preliminary assessment
	Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Due to intervening mature vegetation, there are unlikely to be views towards the Saxmundham converter station or permanent access options. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVDC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. For Options 1 and 2, there would be filtered views of the operational Friston Substation in the middle ground in the break in the mature vegetated field boundary in the middle ground. The substation would be located in a very small part of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views towards the wooded skyline remaining to be available. The Friston Substation would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers and would break the skyline. For Option 1, Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline, so would give context to any views towards other parts of the Proposed Project, which results in a difference in magnitude for Options 1 and 2. The SPR mitigation planting would be replaced with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation.

	Preliminary assessment
	Magnitude for Option 1: Negligible Magnitude for Option 2: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for Option 1: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 2: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Magnitude for Option 3: Negligible Magnitude for Option 4: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above. Effect for Option 3: **Not Significant** Effect for Option 4: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.45 Table 2.2.55 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 9.

Table 2.2.55: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 9

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 9
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation and the reinstatement of the HVAC cable routes. There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVDC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views and breaks in the hedgerow network, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.

	Preliminary assessment
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.46 Table 2.2.56 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 10.

Table 2.2.56: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 10

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 10
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9.
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation and the reinstatement of the HVAC cable routes.

	Preliminary assessment
	There would be a very small loss of trees associated with the HVDC corridor, however otherwise the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. This would result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. The reinstatement of the arable land on which the construction compound would have been located would be barely discernible in the view due to the reservoir embankment and layers of intervening vegetation within the local landscape. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.47 Table 2.2.57 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 11.

Table 2.2.57: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 11

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 11
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation and the reinstatement of the HVAC cable routes. There would be a larger break in the central part of the view between the plantation vegetation and woodland, due to part of the plantation vegetation that would be permanently removed. This is an unobtrusive change due to the backcloth of woodland in the distance which the plantation vegetation is currently set against. The hedgerow along which the public footpath lies against has existing breaks, so the degree of contrast to the existing view would be minimal. Otherwise, the former grassland land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. The former grassland land use would be more prominent during reestablishment compared with arable land which has seasonal changes. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to

	Preliminary assessment
	directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** There are opportunities to plant native hedgerow along either side of the public footpath and where the small section of plantation woodland would be removed in the middle distance. There are also opportunities to plant species rich grassland within the grassland field in the foreground and middle ground.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.48 Table 2.2.58 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 12.

Table 2.2.58: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 12

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 12
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9.
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation and the reinstatement of the HVAC cable routes. There would be a gap on the northern edge of Leiston Road due to the permanent removal of coniferous vegetation. This would be a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view due to the existing character of mature individual trees with breaks along the remainder of Leiston Road. Otherwise, the former grassland land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. The former grassland land use would be more prominent during reestablishment compared with arable land which has seasonal changes. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.**

	Preliminary assessment
	Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** There are opportunities to replace the post and wire fencing in the foreground of the view with native hedgerow, which would connect into the native hedgerow either side of the existing fencing. There is an opportunity in the gap where coniferous trees would be permanently removed on the northern edge of Leiston Road with native hedgerow and native trees around the HVDC cable. There are also opportunities for habitat enhancement within the Coast and Heaths AONB within the draft Order Limits, including potentially scrub, heathland and appropriate trees subject to landowner agreement.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.49 Table 2.2.59 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 13.

Table 2.2.59: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 13

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 13
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be no operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation and the reinstatement of the HVAC and HVDC cable routes. There are also opportunities for habitat enhancement within the Coast and Heaths AONB within the draft Order Limits, including potential scrub and heathland. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.50 Table 2.2.60 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 14.

Table 2.2.60: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 14

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 14
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are unlikely to be any views of the Proposed Project within the view due to intervening mature vegetation and landform. Magnitude: None
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.

	Preliminary assessment
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.51 Table 2.2.61 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 15.

Table 2.2.61: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 15

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 15
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground. The converter station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view and would break the skyline. It would

	Preliminary assessment
	occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would appear at a similar height to the existing OHL in the distance. The converter station would be predominantly located in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the middle ground and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break. This vegetation would appear taller than the roofline of the converter station. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, all three options would largely be screened by intervening mature vegetation. There may be filtered views to vehicles along the bellmouth BM12 via BM11 and BM10 option in the middle distance, however this would not be considered to be dissimilar to occasional movement along Saxmundham Road. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different Saxmundham converter station permanent access options would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are also opportunities for advanced planting to assist in mitigating operational effects.

	Preliminary assessment
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Medium
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would occupy a slightly larger horizontal extent of the view. Indicative landscape planting is shown on **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.52 Table 2.2.62 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 16.

Table 2.2.62: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 16

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 16
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term

	Preliminary assessment
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the long distance. The converter station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view and would break the skyline. It would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and the scale would be emphasised by an agricultural building in the view. The converter station would be predominantly located in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the middle ground and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break. This vegetation would appear taller than the roofline of the converter station. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, all three options would largely be screened by intervening mature vegetation. Any filtered views to vehicles would not be considered to be dissimilar to occasional movement along Abbey Lane. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar. Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Large

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** There are opportunities to reinstate former woodland blocks on the Saxmundham Converter Station site, which were removed to facilitate large-scale arable farmland and are characteristic in the local landscape. There are also opportunities for advanced planting to assist in mitigating operational effects.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would occupy a slightly larger horizontal extent of the view. Indicative landscaping is shown on **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Large
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.53 Table 2.2.63 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 17.

Table 2.2.63: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 17

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 17
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There would be distant views to the Saxmundham Converter Station in the long distance, which would occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This would comprise the upper extent of the large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view due to intervening mature vegetation. The converter station would appear lower in height than the surrounding layered mature vegetation network and the composition of the view is not considered to change. Relating to the Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options, all three options would largely be screened by intervening mature vegetation. Views towards the operational Friston Substation and reinstatement associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables are not considered to be perceptible from this location. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation. The three different Saxmundham Converter Station permanent access options would not result in a difference in magnitude of change at operation as the alteration to the composition of the view is considered to be similar.

	Preliminary assessment
	Indicative landscape planting which would help mitigate impacts is shown on **Figure 1.4.3 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy.** Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** There are also opportunities for advanced planting to assist in mitigating operational effects.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	In addition to the impacts described above, the Saxmundham Converter Stations would occupy a slightly larger horizontal extent of the view. Indicative landscaping are shown on **Figure 1.4.6 Saxmundham Converter Station Indicative Landscaping Strategy with Co-location.** Magnitude: Small
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant** The opportunity for advanced planting remains but would be less due to the larger footprint of the converter stations.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.54 Table 2.2.64 presents the preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 18.

Table 2.2.64: Preliminary assessment of visual amenity effects at operation for representative viewpoint 18

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Representative viewpoint 18
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to visual amenity as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration to visual amenity for directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9.
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	Any views of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation would be barely perceptible within the view. This would be limited to glimpses of infrastructure within and above the mature vegetation treeline on the skyline and would be within the context of the existing OHL. Other intervening vegetation would appear taller than any operational infrastructure. Associated lighting is not expected to be perceptible at this distance. Magnitude: Negligible
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	High
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.10.55 Table 2.2.65 presents the preliminary assessment of effects at operation for the Coast and Heaths AONB. The preliminary assessment takes into account the Natural Beauty indicators and the relevant associated Coast and Heaths AONB indicators to landscape and visual matters, as outlined in 2.2.2 of this report.

Table 2.2.65: Preliminary assessment of effects at operation for the Coast and Heaths AONB

	Preliminary assessment
Receptor	Coast and Heaths AONB
Potential Impact	Permanent alteration to the AONB as a result of the operational Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation and HVAC and HVDC cable corridors. Permanent alteration as a result of directional lighting associated with the converter station and substation.
Proposed Project phase	Operation
Duration	Long-term
Mitigation	See embedded and mitigation measures described in Section 2.2.9
Proposed Project	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High
Preliminary magnitude	Landscape quality: The small sections of heathland that would be displaced to facilitate the construction activity of the Proposed Project within the AONB would be reinstated, including the landfall construction compound. This may take longer compared with other displaced land uses, including arable farmland vegetation. The operational elements of the Proposed Project are not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators (see Section 2.2.2 for Coast and Heath indicators throughout). There are opportunities to enhance existing areas and potentially create new areas of heathland within the draft Order Limits, notably where

the condition of the AONB is lower due to arable and pastoral agricultural use.

Scenic quality: The operational Proposed Project would not affect the opportunities for long distance and panoramic views across the AONB and the open landscape between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The removal of small sections of boundary features would not affect the general enclosure of farmland as effects would be localised and reinstatement where possible. This has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. Lighting associated with the Proposed Project is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation and is not considered to alter the dark skies of the AONB. The operational elements of the Proposed Project are not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators.

Relative wildness: The operational Proposed Project is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators.

Relative tranquillity: The operational Proposed Project is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators.

Natural heritage features: The operational Proposed Project would reinstate the majority of the small sections of boundary vegetation that were removed to facilitate the construction. A small number of trees would be permanently lost, and this has been avoided where possible as part of the routeing process. The coastline vegetation, including the vegetated shingle, would be unaffected by the Proposed Project. There are opportunities to improve biodiversity through native planting and integration into the wider, currently fragmented, green infrastructure network. The operational Proposed Project is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators relevant to landscape and visual matters. Further information on potential effects to natural heritage features should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 3, Ecology and Biodiversity**.

Cultural heritage: The operational Proposed Project is not considered to alter any of the other relevant Coast and Heath Indicators relevant to landscape and visual

	Preliminary assessment
	matters. Further information on potential effects to cultural heritage should be referred to **within Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 4, Cultural Heritage**. The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Associated lighting is expected to be limited to directional lighting relating to the converter station and substation which is unlikely to be apparent from within the AONB. Magnitude for landscape quality: Negligible Magnitude for scenic quality: Negligible Magnitude for relative wildness: None Magnitude for relative tranquillity: Negligible Magnitude for natural heritage features: Small Magnitude for cultural heritage: None
Preliminary likely significance of effect	Effect for landscape quality: **Not Significant** Effect for scenic quality: **Not Significant** Effect for relative wildness: **Not Significant** Effect for relative tranquillity: **Not Significant** Effect for natural heritage features: **Not Significant** Effect for cultural heritage: **Not Significant**
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	High
Proposed Project with co-location	
Preliminary sensitivity	Very High

	Preliminary assessment
Preliminary magnitude	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Preliminary likely significance of effect	There are not anticipated to be any differences to the preliminary assessment above.
Sensitivity Test	There would be no difference in the preliminary effects assessed if the construction were to commence in any year up to year five.
Confidence in prediction	Medium

2.2.11 Summary

2.2.11.1 Table 2.2.66 below presents a summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project at construction, maintenance and decommissioning. For representative viewpoints 6, 7 and 8, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to Options 1 and 2. For the AONB, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to the Coast and Heaths Indicators.

Table 2.2.66: Summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project at construction, maintenance and decommissioning

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
LCA B4	High	Medium	**Significant**
LCA D4	Very High	Negligible	Not significant
LCA K3	Very High	Small	Not significant
LCA L1	Medium	Very Large	**Significant**
SCT 03	High	Negligible	Not significant
VP1	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP2	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP3	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP4	High	Large	**Significant**
VP5	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP6[4]	High	Small (Option 1) / Large (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / **Significant (Option 2)**

[4] For Representative viewpoint 6, relating to the consideration of the Flexibility Assumptions associated with the lateral LoD of Saxmundham Converter Station (see Table 2.2.13), if the converter station was located further east within the LoD, and therefore a wider horizontal extent of construction activity would be visible from the viewpoint location, there is the potential for Option 1 to report a '**Significant**' effect.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
VP7	Medium	Small (Option 1) / Medium (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / **Significant (Option 2)**
VP8	Very High	Small (Option 1) / Small (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / Not Significant (Option 2)
VP9	High	Small	Not Significant
VP10	High	Small	Not Significant
VP11	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP12	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP13	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP14	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP15	Medium	Medium	**Significant**
VP16	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP17	High	Small	Not Significant
VP18	High	Negligible	Not Significant
AONB	Very High	Negligible / Small	Not Significant

2.2.11.2 Table 2.2.66Table 2.2.67 below presents a summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project with Co-location at construction, maintenance and decommissioning. For representative viewpoints 6, 7 and 8, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to Options 3 and 4. For the AONB, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to the Coast and Heaths Indicators.

Table 2.2.67: Summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project with Co-location at construction, maintenance and decommissioning

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
LCA B4	High	Medium	**Significant**
LCA D4	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
LCA K3	Very High	Small	Not Significant
LCA L1	Medium	Very Large	**Significant**
SCT 03	High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP1	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP2	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP3	High	Medium	**Significant**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
VP4	High	Large	**Significant**
VP5	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP6	High	Small (Option 3) / Large (Option 4)	Not Significant (Option 3) / **Significant (Option 4)**
VP7	Medium	Small (Option 3) / Medium (Option 4)	Not Significant (Option 3) / **Significant (Option 4)**
VP8	Very High	Small (Option 3) / Small (Option 4)	Not Significant (Option 3) / Not Significant (Option 4)
VP9	High	Small	Not Significant
VP10	High	Small	Not Significant
VP11	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP12	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP13	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP14	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP15	Medium	Medium	**Significant**
VP16	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP17	High	Small	Not Significant
VP18	High	Negligible	Not Significant
AONB	Very High	Negligible / Small / None	Not Significant

2.2.11.3 Table 2.2.68 below presents a summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project at operation. For representative viewpoints 6, 7 and 8, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to Options 1 and 2. For the AONB, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to the Coast and Heaths Indicators.

Table 2.2.68: Summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project at operation

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
LCA B4	High	Medium	**Significant**
LCA D4	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
LCA K3	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
LCA L1	Medium	Large	**Significant**
SCT 03	High	None	Not Significant

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
VP1	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP2	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP3	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP4	High	Medium	**Significant**
VP5	High	Large	**Significant**
VP6[5]	High	Negligible (Option 1) / Large (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / **Significant (Option 2)**
VP7	Medium	Negligible (Option 1) / Medium (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / **Significant (Option 2)**
VP8	Very High	Negligible (Option 1) / Small (Option 2)	Not Significant (Option 1) / Not Significant (Option 2)
VP9	High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP10	High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP11	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP12	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP13	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP14	Very High	None	Not Significant
VP15	Medium	Large	**Significant**
VP16	High	Large	**Significant**
VP17	High	Small	Not Significant
VP18	High	Negligible	Not Significant
AONB	Very High	Negligible/ None/ Small	Not Significant

2.2.11.4 Table 2.2.69 below presents a summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project with Co-location at operation. For representative viewpoints 6, 7 and 8, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to Options 3 and 4. For the AONB, the differences in magnitude and significance of effect relate to the Coast and Heaths Indicators.

[5] Relating to the consideration of the Flexibility Assumptions associated with the lateral LoD of Saxmundham Converter Station (see Table 2.2.1), if the converter station was located further east within the LoD, and therefore would be visible from the viewpoint location, there is the potential for Option 1 to report a '**Significant**' effect.

Table 2.2.69: Summary of the preliminary assessment of landscape character and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Project with Co-location at operation

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of Effect
LCA B4	High	Medium	**Significant**
LCA D4	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
LCA K3	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
LCA L1	Medium	Large	**Significant**
SCT 03	High	None	Not Significant
VP1	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP2	High	Large	**Significant**
VP3	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP4	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP5	High	Very Large	**Significant**
VP6	High	Medium (Option 3) / Large (Option 4)	**Significant (Option 3)/ Significant (Option 4)**
VP7	Medium	Negligible (Option 3) / Medium (Option 4)	Not Significant (Option 3) / **Significant (Option 4)**
VP8	Very High	Negligible (Option 3) / Small (Option 4)	Not Significant (Option 3) / Not Significant (Option 4)
VP9	High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP10	High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP11	Very High	Small	Not Significant
VP12	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP13	Very High	Negligible	Not Significant
VP14	Very High	None	Not Significant
VP15	Medium	Large	**Significant**
VP16	High	Large	**Significant**
VP17	High	Small	Not Significant
VP18	High	Negligible	Not Significant
AONB	Very High	Negligible / None / Small	Not Significant

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