

The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume: 2

Part 3 Kent Onshore Scheme

Appendix 3.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline

Version A

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nationalgrid

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3.2.B Landscape and Visual Baseline

3.2.B.1 Landscape and Seascape Character Overview

- 3.2.B.1.1 Landscape character is a composite of physical, cultural, perceptual and aesthetic elements (Ref 3.2.B.1). 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. 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 range of scale from national to local level.
- 3.2.B.1.2 Seascape character, alike landscape character, is a composite of physical and cultural elements (Ref 3.2.B.2). 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

- 3.2.B.1.3 Natural England has identified and mapped landscape character at the national level by identifying National Character Areas (NCAs) (Ref 3.2.B.3) in 2013-15. The Kent Onshore Scheme falls within the North Kent Plain (NCA 113) as shown on **Figure 3.2.3 Landscape Character - National and County** and described in Table 3.2.B.1. This NCA is not specifically assessed in relation to the Kent Onshore Scheme due to its scale but is described to provide context.

Table 3.2.B.1: National Character Areas

National Character Area	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
113: North Kent Plain (NCA 113)	NCA 113 is described as being “an open, low and gently undulating landscape, characterised by high quality, fertile, loamy soils dominated by agricultural land uses”. The River Stour and its tributaries, which flow into the North Sea, are important features of the eastern NCA, with associated wetland habitats. The study notes that a “diverse coastline, made up of cliffs, intertidal sand and mud, salt marshes, sand dunes and shingle beaches” are included in the NCA. Much of the coastal hinterland has been modified by construction of sea walls, harbours and piers and urban infrastructure is visually prominent in the landscape.

County Landscape Character

- 3.2.B.1.4 At the county scale, Kent County Council (KCC) published The Landscape Assessment of Kent (Ref 3.2.B.4) in 2004. The study defines Kent Character Areas (KCAs) which provide a county level landscape characterisation. Those KCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 3.2.3 Landscape Character - National and County** and are described in Table 3.2.B.2. These KCAs are not specifically assessed in relation to the Kent Onshore Scheme due to their scale but are described to provide context.

Table 3.2.B.2: County Landscape Character

County KCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
Thanet	This KCA is defined as an open, large scale landscape, with long views over mainly arable land. It is an exposed landscape with open, bleak cliff tops and settlements have a suburban character. Key landscape actions include restoring the importance of historic, ancient and natural features and restoring and enhancing sea views from key locations.
The Wantsum and Lower Stour Marshes	This KCA is defined as a flat, open and remote landscape with a regular field pattern fringed with dykes and drainage ditches. River courses within the area cause flooding and waterlogging issues and flood defences are characteristic. Key landscape actions include restoring ecological and visual interest of drainage systems and creating new habitats such as wetland, marshland, grassland and reed beds.
East Kent Horticultural Belt	This KCA is defined as a small scale farming landscape, enclosed by hedgerows and shelterbelts, with small isolated linear settlements. The key landscape actions include reinforcing the distinctive farming and drainage patterns as functional and visual elements within the landscape and reinforcing the character of the marsh edges by creating wetland areas.

District Landscape Character

- 3.2.B.1.5 At a district scale, Thanet District Council (TDC) published the Thanet District Council Landscape Character Assessment (TDLCA) (Ref 3.2.B.5) in 2017. The study defines Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (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 3.2.4 Landscape Character - District** and are described in Table 3.2.B.3. A value judgement is given for those LCAs scoped into the assessment of the Kent Onshore Scheme and the other LCAs within the study area are described to provide context.

Table 3.2.B.3: Thanet District Landscape Character

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
A1: Manston Chalk Plateau	<p>This LCA is defined as an <i>“elevated, flat landform with gently rolling undulations between 40-55m AOD”</i>, with <i>“predominantly regular, medium to large scale arable and horticultural fields”</i>. Key guidelines include maintaining the openness of views towards the sea, managing arable land to enhance biodiversity of farmland birds and conserving the sense of tranquillity and rurality.</p>
B1: Wantsum North Slopes	<p>This LCA is defined as a <i>“large scale and open landscape”, with a “regular, rectilinear field pattern with few defining boundary features between fields”</i>. The LCA comprises arable fields with localised areas of tree planting and scattered farmsteads. The LCA contains settlements in a grid pattern with modern linear additions rising up the landform but generally contained by trees creating a largely undeveloped ridgeline and slopes. The LCA includes long views over the marshes as well as sea views. The LCA has a strong historic character as former port villages of the Wantsum Channel are located in the landscape.</p> <p>Key guidelines include conserving the open rural character, long interrupted views across adjacent marshes and the managed farmland character.</p> <p>The value of LCA B1 is considered to be medium. The cultural heritage is increased with reference to the former Wantsum Channel and the presence of Minster Abbey Grade I listed building. Woodland and tree belts are generally dispersed within the large scale, open arable landscape which lessens the natural heritage value and there are some recreational opportunities, including the National Cycle Network (NCN). The relatively sparse development outside the villages results in some sense of tranquillity and wildness and the woodland block edges increase scenic quality.</p>
E1: Stour Marshes	<p>This LCA is defined as a <i>“low-lying and flat marshland landscape”, with “huge skies, extensive views and a strong rural, even remote, character”</i>. The LCA comprises limited tree cover with occasional small wooded copses and <i>“long uninterrupted views across the marshes and Pegwell Bay”</i>. Irregular arable fields, defined by drainage ditches which represent an ancient enclosure pattern dominate the landscape, with few roads or buildings.</p> <p>Key guidelines include conserving the intact undeveloped rural character, enhancing the drainage network and conserving panoramic views across the open landscape.</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<p>The value of LCA E1 is considered to be medium. A small section of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) extends into this LCA which increases the natural heritage and functional value. The long-uninterrupted views across the marshes and to the coast increases the perceptual value, however this is somewhat decreased by the presence of the overhead line (OHL) and Richborough Energy Park including Richborough Substation and Nemo Converter Station. The Saxon Shore Way recreational route on the southern boundary of the LCA increases recreational opportunities along with the historic droves which now form rights of way which cross the marsh. The characteristic drainage ditches in the marshland landscape offers a sense of identity and distinctiveness.</p>
F1: Pegwell Bay	<p>This LCA is defined as <i>“flat expanses of marshes and mudflats. Mudflats at low tides contrast with high tide waters with the slack tide keeping the bay full of sea water for longer”</i> with a high biodiversity value and strong sense of remoteness. The River Stour / Wantsum Channel provides a strategic entry point in history as well as <i>“long, panoramic views seaward across the Dover Strait”</i>.</p> <p>Key guidelines include conserving, enhancing and managing the diversity of coastal, wetland and intertidal habitats, conserving the open, remote character of Pegwell Bay and considering opportunities for restoring and enhancing the hoverport in the bay.</p> <p>The value of LCA F1 is considered to be high. The LCA covers multiple ecological designations, including a SSSI, Ramsar Site, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and National Nature Reserve (NNR) which increases the natural heritage. The strategic River Stour / Wantsum Channel enhances the cultural heritage value. The landscape offers recreational opportunities, including Pegwell Bay Country Park, the Thanet Coastal Path recreational route, the England Coast Path and coastal margin access land. The landscape has a strong sense of identity relating to the flat marshland, remoteness and open views which increase the perceptual quality.</p>
G1: Ramsgate and Broadstairs Cliffs	<p>This LCA is defined as <i>“a continuous stretch of low white chalk cliffs containing small sandy bays”</i>. It is a popular coastline for recreation and tourism, with seaside attractions and coastal paths, as well as ecological designations. There are long views across the Dover Strait, <i>“with inland views restricted by urban development”</i> as well as <i>“offshore views include the Thanet wind farm”</i>.</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<p>Key guidelines include conserving the sandy bays and chalk cliffs and enhancing nationally and internationally designated coastal habitats.</p> <p>The value of LCA G1 is considered to be high. The LCA covers multiple ecological designations, including a SSSI and SAC which increases the natural heritage. The cultural heritage is also increased by numerous listed buildings, including Grade II* fringing the coastline. The LCA includes recreational opportunities, including the England Coast Path, Thanet Coastal Path recreational route and coastal margin access land. Relatively lower tranquillity and wildness due to the heavily developed coastal hinterland and busy tourist activity, which reduces the perceptual value.</p>

3.2.B.1.6 At a district scale, Dover District Council (DDC) published the Dover District Council Landscape Character Assessment (DDLCA) (Ref 3.2.B.6) in 2020. 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 3.2.4 Landscape Character - District** and are described in Table 3.2.B.4. A value judgement is given for those LCAs scoped into the assessment of the Kent Onshore Scheme.

Table 3.2.B.4: Dover District Landscape Character

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
A2: Ash Levels	<p>This LCA is described as a “<i>flat, low-lying marshland around 2-3m AOD</i>”, with a network of drainage ditches that line arable and some small pasture fields and comprises limited tree cover. It is an “<i>open, visually exposed landscape with long views including to the large-scale buildings of the Discovery Park and development associated with the former Richborough power station</i>”, but with few roads or buildings within the LCA. The Saxon Shore Way passes through the LCA. It forms part of the former Wantsum Channel and is crossed by historic droves running north to south which now form Public Rights of Way (PRoW).</p> <p>Key management guidance includes conserving and enhancing the wildlife associated with wetlands and agricultural fields and conserving the open landscape.</p> <p>The value of LCA A1 is considered to be medium. Recreational opportunities include PRoW within the marshes and the Saxon Shore Way recreational route on the northern boundary of the LCA. The drainage ditches in</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<p>the landscape offer a sense of identity. The open landscape increases the perceptual value however this is somewhat decreased by the presence of the OHL and views to large-scale buildings associated with Discovery Park and the former Richborough Power Station. The former Wantsum Channel and historic droves increases the cultural heritage value.</p>
<p>B1: Great Stour Sandwich Corridor</p>	<p>This LCA is described as a <i>“flat, low-lying former marshland”</i> and <i>“Land use is dominated by industrial estates including Discovery Park”</i>. The Great Stour River and Stonar Lake are popular for walking and fishing, with several long-distance footpaths running through the area. The LCA formed part of the Wantsum Channel and includes important historic sites. The LCA includes wetland habitats and broad-leaved trees. The LCA is predominantly open but visually enclosed by large scale development which is a <i>“contrast of developed and natural landscape in close proximity”</i>.</p> <p>Key management guidance includes conserving and restoring former grazing marsh, fen and reedbed habitats, ensuring build form references local character and protecting the recreational use of landscape.</p> <p>The value of LCA B1 is considered to be low predominantly due to the dominance of industrial land use and the A256 through the LCA, which reduces scenic quality, wildness and tranquillity. Key characteristics which increase value somewhat include natural heritage comprising broad-leaved trees and wetland habitats, recreational opportunities including coastal margin land and cultural heritage comprising the former Wantsum Channel.</p>
<p>C1: Sandwich Bay</p>	<p>The LCA is described as an <i>“area of flat, low-lying salt marsh, mud-flats, shingle beach and shallow waters forming a wide sweeping bay that transitions to an open seascape in the east”</i>. The LCA includes ecological designations, arable farming and three golf courses. The LCA is strategically important for historic cross channel landings and generally open with influence from adjacent urban areas. There is also a sense of remoteness and wildness in places.</p> <p>Key management guidance includes conserving and enhancing the ecologically important wetland and coastal habitats, maintaining a sense of openness and protecting and managing recreational use of the landscape.</p> <p>The value of LCA C1 is considered to be high. Recreational opportunities include the Stour Valley Walk recreational route, England Coast Path and golf courses. Cultural</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
D1: Preston Horticultural Belt	<p>heritage value is enhanced by the associated historic cross channel landings. Natural heritage value is increased by various ecological designations, including NNR, SAC, Ramsar site and SSSI. The openness and sense of remoteness and wildness increases the perceptual value, with limited development, albeit reduced by the adjoining urban areas.</p> <p>The LCA is described as an <i>“area of gradually sloping landform, between the Ash Ridge in the south and south west and Stour Valley marshes but generally perceived as being generally flat”</i>. Rectilinear agricultural fields dominate, with settlement scattered across the area, connected by a dense network of public rights of way. The LCA comprises conservation area designations. There is an overriding rural character, albeit eroded in places, and a mixture of openness within larger fields and enclosure around orchards. Regarding views, these <i>“are generally limited across the LCA due to the relatively flat topography and enclosure by hedgerow and shelterbelts, although some longer-distance views are available from higher ground”</i>.</p> <p>Key management guidance includes managing and enhancing the wildlife of agricultural fields and woodland cover, protecting the recreational use of landscape and conserving local distinctiveness.</p> <p>The value of LCA D1 is considered to be medium. The rural character enhances the scenic quality, but condition is eroded in places. The conservation areas increase the cultural heritage value. The LCA offers recreational opportunities within the PRoW network and Stour Valley Walk recreational route. The orchards increase the sense of identity. The generally rural character increases the sense of wildness and tranquillity.</p>
H1: Richborough Bluff	<p>The LCA is described as a <i>“locally prominent knoll rising from 2m to 19m AOD”</i>, with small scale fields bound by native hedgerows and limited development. Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre, designated as a Scheduled Monument, creates a popular tourist attraction. The LCA lies within a former island in the Wantsum Channel and has extensive views of the surrounding landscape. The LCA comprises an open and peaceful area however the <i>“sense of remoteness is reduced in the east due to proximity to development at Discovery Park and the A256”</i>.</p> <p>Key management guidance includes managing and enhancing the wildlife interest of agricultural fields and boundaries, conserving the character of Richborough</p>

District LCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<p>Roman Fort and Amphitheatre and conserving the open landscape and wide views.</p> <p>The value of LCA H1 is considered to be high. Recreational opportunities include Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre, the PRow network, NCN and Saxon Shore Way recreational route on the eastern boundary. The scenic quality and sense of wildness and tranquillity is reduced in part due to proximity to industrial and road infrastructure. The cultural heritage value is high due to the presence of Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre and the association with the Wantsum Channel. The landscape has a strong sense of identity as it rises above the surrounding landform with extensive views outwards.</p>

Historic Landscape Character

- 3.2.B.1.7 The historic landscape character context within the landscape and visual study area includes various designated assets. These include listed buildings and a Scheduled Monument at Richborough Castle, which consists of a Saxon Shore Fort, Roman Port and other associated remains dating from the Iron Age through to the medieval period. The former Wantsum Channel also falls within the study area, which consists of a former navigable channel. Consultation with the Kent County Archaeologist highlighted significant early Roman remains that had been discovered immediately north of Ebbsfleet Farm on the north bank of the former Wantsum Channel. Further details should be referred to within **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 3, Cultural Heritage**.

National Seascape Character

- 3.2.B.1.8 At the national scale, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) published the Seascape Character Area Assessment East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Ref 3.2.B.7) in 2012. The study defines South East Marine Character Areas (MCAs). The study area falls within the Goodwin Sands and North Dover Strait (MCA 11) as shown on **Figure 3.2.5 Seascape Character - National and Regional** and described in Table 3.2.B.5. This MCA is not specifically assessed in relation to the Kent Onshore Scheme due to its large scale but is described to provide context.

Table 3.2.B.5: National Seascape Character

National MCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
11: Goodwin Sands and North Dover Strait	<p>The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“North easterly and south easterly facing coastline of Kent characterised by chalk cliffs separated by a shore of mud, sand and shingle;</i>

National MCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the River Stour flows into Pegwell Bay forming a wide sweeping bay of intertidal mud, sand flats and shallow waters rich in invertebrate life and supporting waterfowl;</i> • <i>extensive freshwater marshes at Sandwich Bay provide further contrast and habitat diversity; and</i> • <i>the 59km (37 miles) stretch of the England Coast Path from Folkstone to Ramsgate is approved and open to the public providing recreation opportunities along the coast and views across this seascape”.</i>

Regional Seascape Character

3.2.B.1.9 At the regional scale, KCC published the Seascape Character Assessment for the Dover Strait (SCADS) (Ref 3.2.B.8) in 2015. The study defines Seascape Character Types (SCTs) and Seascape Character Areas (SCAs) at a regional scale which have been used as the basis of the preliminary seascape character assessment. The SCAs that the study area falls within are shown on **Figure 3.2.5 Seascape Character - National and Regional** and described in Table 3.2.B.6. A value judgement is given for those SCAs scoped into the assessment of the Kent Onshore Scheme.

Table 3.2.B.6: Regional Seascape Character

Regional SCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
C3C: Ramsgate Harbour	<p>The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“south and south east facing coastline of the Isle of Thanet, consisting of sandy beaches and relatively low chalk cliffs;</i> • <i>high biodiversity value recognised by designations;</i> • <i>a heavily developed coastal hinterland, with the town of Ramsgate, forming part of the almost continuous conurbation along the Thanet coast;</i> • <i>the port of Ramsgate and Royal Harbour provides protection from the severe channel weather and safe anchorage for large numbers of recreational vessels;</i> • <i>the commercial port was built on reclaimed land to the west of the Royal Harbour, in the 1970s. Until recently it operated ferry services to Dunkerque and Ostende and has become a construction and operational base for three offshore wind farms;</i>

Regional SCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>wide, simple and unrestricted views along the coastline including to Pegwell Bay to the south, from high points such as West Cliff;</i> ● <i>the Thanet Coastal Path follows the cliff tops along the coast and provides long ranging views out;</i> ● <i>in view from the sea the looming shapes of the Pegwell Bay Hotel and golf clubhouses are dominant in this flat open coastal landscape, with long shingle beach evident;</i> ● <i>the Royal Harbour is a busy tourist and leisure attraction; and</i> ● <i>the popularity of Ramsgate as a seaside resort was captured in a famous painting by William Powell Frith ‘Ramsgate Sands (Life at the Seaside)’ (1851 – 54)”.</i> <p>The value of SCA C3C is considered to be high. The SCA covers multiple ecological designations, including a SSSI and SAC which increases the natural heritage. The cultural heritage is also increased by numerous listed buildings, including Grade II* on the coastline. The SCA includes recreational opportunities, including the England Coast Path, Thanet Coastal Path recreational route and coastal margin access land. Relatively lower tranquillity and wildness due to the heavily developed coastal hinterland and busy tourist activity, which reduces the perceptual value. There are also associations with artists.</p>
C5A / I1A: Sandwich and Pegwell Bays	<p>The relevant key characteristics defined in the study include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>“shallow inlet onto the Strait at estuary of the River Stour strategic entry point to the river and inland;</i> ● <i>huge intertidal area of extensive area of mud and sandflats and shallow offshore waters;</i> ● <i>distinguished by distinct area of sedimentary sandstone and mudstone extending out from the bay;</i> ● <i>flat coastal land and inshore waters enclosed by prominent chalk and flint cliffs at Ramsgate to the east creating distinctive bay with wave cut platform;</i> ● <i>complex mosaic of habitats – including extensive inter tidal mudflats, salt marsh, shingle beach and dunes;</i> ● <i>distinctive stretch of low lying windswept coast invoking strong sense of remoteness and wildness;</i>

Regional SCA	Summary of description in published study relevant to the study area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recorded in a famous landscape painting by William Dyce in 1858 depicting the area as a popular Victorian pleasure resort; • shallow seas create a safe place for recreational watersports; and • in view from the sea the looming shapes of the Pegwell Bay Hotel and golf clubhouses are dominant in this flat open coastal landscape, with long shingle beach evident”. <p>The value of SCA C5A / I1A is considered to be high. The SCA covers multiple ecological designations, including a SSSI, Ramsar Site, SAC and NNR which increases the natural heritage. The landscape offers recreational opportunities, including Pegwell Bay Country Park, the Thanet Coastal Path recreational route, the England Coast Path and coastal margin access land. The landscape has a strong sense of identity relating to the flat marshland, open views and a sense of remoteness and wildness which increase the perceptual quality. There are also associations with artists.</p>

3.2.B.2 Landscape Designations Overview

3.2.B.2.1 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.

3.2.B.2.2 The following landscape designations have been identified within the study area; their locations are shown on **Figure 3.2.2 Landscape Context and Designations**:

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
- Coastal Margin Access Land.
- Pegwell Bay Country Park.
- Open Space (designated within DDC adopted Core Strategy (Ref 3.2.B.9)).

Tree Preservation Orders

3.2.B.2.3 A TPO is an “order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity” (Ref 3.2.B.10). Within the study area, there are pockets of TPOs including to the west and north of Minster and on the southern cliffs of Ramsgate.

3.2.B.2.4 Within the landscape assessment, consideration of specific arboricultural assets has been restricted to the contribution TPOs make to present-day landscape character and visual amenity. Further consideration of arboricultural assets will be referred to within an arboricultural impact assessment in the development consent application.

Coastal Margin Access Land

- 3.2.B.2.5 The Folkestone to Ramsgate stretch of the Coastal Margin Access Land is located within the east of the study area (shown on **Figure 3.2.2 Landscape Context and Designations**). This open access land is associated with the England Coast Path that runs north to south through the area. The Coastal Margin Access Land provides publicly accessible land, part of Natural England's scheme to improve public access to, and enjoyment of the English coastline, so long as there are no specific restrictions, such as danger zones or potential to damage property or the landscape.

Pegwell Bay Country Park

- 3.2.B.2.6 Pegwell Bay Country Park is located within the east of the study area, to the west of Pegwell Bay and forms part of the Sandwich and Pegwell Bay NNR. It provides a destination for people and nature with a network of paths, birdwatching hide, interpretation panels, play areas and picnic areas.

Open Space

- 3.2.B.2.7 There are two areas of Open Space (designated in the DDC adopted Core Strategy (Ref 3.2.B.9)) that provide recreational value to the area; the sports fields to the west of Pegwell Bay and the Monks Well Nature Reserve. DDC's adopted Core Strategy notes that 'the basis for the council's approach towards open space is to protect from alternative uses', and that 'open space and outdoor recreation-sites make an important contribution to the district's network of green infrastructure and changes to their quantity and quality should be considered within the overall context'.

Relevant Designations

- 3.2.B.2.8 In addition to the above, the study area also contains the following designations:

- Listed buildings;
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act Access Land;
- National Nature Reserve (NNR) - Sandwich and Pegwell Bay;
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR) - Prince's Beachlands;
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - Sandwich Bay to Hacklinge Marshes;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Ramsar Site - Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay; and
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Sandwich Bay.

- 3.2.B.2.9 Whilst effects on these designated areas would not be assessed in the LVIA as they would be considered in other discipline specific chapters, they will inform judgements of landscape value and in the case of CRoW Act Access Land and Coastal Margin Access Land, these areas are also an important recreational resource, views from which would be considered as part of the visual assessment.

- 3.2.B.2.10 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 3, Chapter 2, Ecology and Nature conservation** and **Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 3, Cultural Heritage**.

3.2.B.3 Visual Amenity Baseline

- 3.2.B.3.1 Visual amenity is defined in the GLVIA3 (Ref 3.2.B.11p.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

- 3.2.B.3.2 The screened ZTV (shown on **Figure 3.2.7 Representative Viewpoint Locations and Screened Zone of Theoretical Visibility**) indicates theoretical visibility within the landscape and visual study area. This shows the majority of theoretical visibility across the relatively lower landform across the Minster Marshes and Ash Level. Theoretical visibility is limited to the north of the A299 by the landform of the Manston Chalk Plateau, to the north-east by existing built form on the edge of Ramsgate and only pockets visible along the coastline due to intervening vegetation and existing built form, largely associated within Richborough Energy Park. The theoretical visibility has been tested during fieldwork to inform the baseline and the assessment of potential effects.

Representative Viewpoint Locations

- 3.2.B.3.3 The below Table 3.2.B.7 outlines the 14 representative viewpoints chosen to represent the receptors described above within the landscape and visual study area. These are illustrated on **Figure 3.2.6 Representative Viewpoint Locations**.

Table 3.2.B.7: Representative viewpoint locations

Viewpoint description	Approximate Easting	Approximate Northing	Reason for selection
Viewpoint 1: Jutes Lane, north of Ebbsfleet Roundabout	633469	162513	Representative of the local road users, including Jutes Lane and the A256 route. Representative of the workers in the Solar Energy Farm. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area E1: Stour Marshes.
Viewpoint 2: Pegwell Bay Country Park along England	634329	163184	Representative of recreational users within Pegwell Bay Country Park, users of England

Viewpoint description	Approximate Easting	Approximate Northing	Reason for selection
Coast Path, northeast of Richborough Energy Park			Coast Path and nearby users along NCN route 15. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area F1: Pegwell Bay, close to the boundary of Local Character Area E1: Stour Marshes.
Viewpoint 3: Saxon Shore Way, west of Richborough Energy Park	633256	161604	Representative of recreational users along Saxon Shore Way recreational route and receptors at work within Richborough Energy Park. Located on the boundary of DDLCA LCA A2: Ash Levels and LCA B1: Great Stour Sandwich Corridor.
Viewpoint 4: Public footpath (boundary of 0173/TE40/1 and 0173/TE37/2), east of Minster	632170	164051	Representative of recreational users including users of PRoW in the landscape to the east of Minster within the Minster Marshes. Representative of users of the local railway network along the Kent Coast Line and Ashford-Ramsgate railway lines. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area E1: Stour Marshes, close to the boundary of TDLCA Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes.
Viewpoint 5: Junction of Grinsell Hill and Ebbsfleet Lane North	633108	164456	Representative of users of the local road network, including along the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail along Grinsell Hill. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes.
Viewpoint 6: Public footpath (0173/TE32/1), south of Minster	630389	163925	Representative of recreational receptors including PRoW and users of the local railway network along the Kent Coast Line and Ashford-Ramsgate railway lines. Representative of residential receptors on the southern edge of the settlement of Minster.

Viewpoint description	Approximate Easting	Approximate Northing	Reason for selection
			Located within TDLCA Local Character Area E1: Stour Marshes, in close proximity to the boundary of Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes.
Viewpoint 7: Sandwich Bay, adjacent to England Coast Path	635304	161602	Representative of recreational users along the Stour Valley Walk recreational route, Coastal Margin Access Land and users of Prince's Golf Club. Located within DDLCA LCA C1: Sandwich Bay.
Viewpoint 8: Viewing tower within Richborough Roman Fort ¹	632461	160188	Representative of visitors to Richborough Roman Fort. Located within DDLCA LCA H1: Richborough Bluff, in close proximity to the boundaries of LCA A2: Ash Levels and LCA B1: Great Stour Sandwich Corridor.
Viewpoint 9: Richborough Road, between Lower Gladstone and Richborough	630277	160906	Representative of users of the local road network along Richborough Road and users of NCN route 1. Representative of scattered residential receptors between the settlements of Lower Goldstone and Richborough. Located within DDLCA LCA D1: Preston, in close proximity to LCA A2: Ash Levels.
Viewpoint 10: Saxon Shore Way, on the River Stour, southwest of Minster	629850	162960	Representative of recreational users along the Saxon Shore Way recreational route. Located on the boundary of TDLCA Local Character Area E1: Stour Marshes and DDLCA LCA A2: Ash Levels.
Viewpoint 11: Thorne Hill, south of the A299	632730	165480	Representative of scattered residential receptors to the east of the settlement of Minster and roads users including from Way

¹ To note: Viewpoint 8 will be moved to the viewing platform at Richborough Fort for the ES. The viewing platform was not accessible when undertaking winter site photography for the purposes of the PEIR.

Viewpoint description	Approximate Easting	Approximate Northing	Reason for selection
			Hill, Thorne Hill and the A299 corridor. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area A1: Manston Chalk Plateau, in close proximity to Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes.
Viewpoint 12: Public Bridleway (0173/TE29/1), north of Minster	630642	165510	Representative of recreational users including PRoW and users of the local road network, including the A299 route. Representative of residential receptors on the northern edge of the settlement of Minster. Located on the boundary of TDLCA Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes and Local Character Area A1: Manston Chalk Plateau.
Viewpoint 13: Traffic-free cycle route along Chalk Hill (NCN route 15), west of Ramsgate	635873	164707	Representative of recreational users along Chalk Hill and NCN route 15. Representative residential receptors and users of allotments on the southwestern edge of Ramsgate and users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail. Located within TDLCA Local Character Area B1: Wantsum North Slopes.
Viewpoint 14: England Coast Path, West Cliff, Ramsgate	636975	164082	Representative of recreational users of the England Coast Path and the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail, at West Cliff, Ramsgate. Located on the edge of TDLCA LCA G1: Ramsgate and Broadstairs Cliffs.

3.2.B.3.4 Winter baseline photography has been captured from all the above representative viewpoints and is contained in **Figures 3.2.8 Representative Viewpoint Photography and Photomontages**.

Representative Viewpoint Baseline

- 3.2.B.3.5 The below Table 3.2.B.8 outlines the value and the winter baseline description for each of the representative viewpoints. The summer baseline description will be updated post Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) once site work and photography has been captured.

Table 3.2.B.8: Representative viewpoint winter baseline description

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
Viewpoint 1: Jutes Lane, north of Ebbsfleet Roundabout, looking west	The view is heavily managed and comprises detracting features including solar panels, both in the foreground and distance, which reduce scenic qualities relating to content and composition of the view. The value of this view is appraised as being negligible .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of the local road users and workers within the Solar Energy Farm.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a large-scale field occupied by a Solar Energy Farm, with rows of solar panels extending into the middle distance. The field is bound by metal fencing along the eastern boundary, which lies in the foreground of the viewpoint. The local landform is generally flat, which together with vegetation, combine to limit distant views.</p> <p>A low hedgerow extends from the metal fencing in the foreground, along the southern boundary of the Solar Farm, into the middle distance. Another low hedgerow runs perpendicular to the rows of solar panels across the middle distance, scattered with isolated small trees and shrubs, which provides a layered view. Wooden electricity poles follow the line of this hedgerow.</p> <p>Dense woodland forms the skyline in the distance, above the Solar Energy Farm. Several vertical structures break the skyline, including a turbine, two electricity masts and overhead wires to the west of this viewpoint. The tops of buildings associated with Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works to the northwest of this viewpoint are also visible above the woodland.</p>
Viewpoint 2: Pegwell Bay Country Park along England Coast Path, northeast of Richborough Energy Park, looking north	The viewpoint is located within a designated country park and exhibits scenic qualities associated with the coastal location. The distance from the tall tower block and urbanising features	<p>The viewpoint is representative of the recreational users of Pegwell Bay Country Park, users of the England Coast Path and users of the nearby NCN Route 15.</p> <p>The route of the England Coast Path extends from the foreground on the left-hand side of the view, into the distance. The route denotes the boundary between Pegwell Bay Country Park to the west and Pegwell Bay and associated sand and mud flats to the east.</p> <p>A grass verge, scrubby vegetation and shrubs occupy the left-hand side of the view, on the western boundary of the England Coast Path, screening long distance views to the northwest. To the east of the England Coast</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
	<p>associated with Ramsgate limit the impact on the composition of the view, and the value of the view is therefore appraised as being high.</p>	<p>Path, an open view comprises large areas of sand and mud flat associated with Pegwell Bay within the foreground and middle ground, which extends along the coastline in the distance, to the northeast.</p> <p>Buildings along the southern edge of Cliffsend are visible in the distance within the centre of the view, whilst the northern part of the settlement is largely screened by blocks of woodland. The white cliffs at Ramsgate are visible in the distance to the northeast of this viewpoint, with the southern settlement edge of Ramsgate visible on top of the cliffs. A tall block of flats and two tall vertical electricity masts are visible above the cliffs which break the skyline. Ramsgate Port is also visible, located to the south of the cliffs, and comprises several vertical floodlight structures.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 3: Saxon Shore Way, west of Richborough Energy Park</p>	<p>The view contains typical large-scale agricultural land. The influence of vertical detracting features and energy infrastructure reduces the scenic quality of the view, and the value of the view is appraised as being low.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Saxon Shore Way.</p> <p>The foreground and middle ground comprise a large-scale pastoral field, bound by post and wire fencing and individual shrubs. To the east of the viewpoint, scrubby vegetation and shrubs line the River Stour, with buildings within Richborough Energy Park visible above the vegetation.</p> <p>In the distance, pastoral land extends to the route of the River Stour, which is bound by low growing shrubby vegetation. Buildings within the north of Richborough Energy Park are visible above lower vegetation in the distance, as well as glimpsed views of structures within Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works. Tall, vertical structures in the middle and long distance, including a turbine, two electricity masts and the existing OHL break the skyline. Denser vegetation and blocks of woodland dominate the skyline to the northwest of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Filtered views towards buildings on higher ground to the north of the A299 are visible above the dense vegetation in the distance.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
Viewpoint 4: Public footpath (boundary of 0173/TE40/1 and 0173/TE37/2), east of Minster	Rural landscape features dominate the foreground and middle ground, which create a high scenic quality. However, influences from surrounding energy infrastructure and tall vertical structures are detracting features in the distance, and the value of view is appraised as being medium .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network and users of the railway.</p> <p>The foreground comprises an undulating, large-scale arable field, which extends to the middle ground, bounded by individual trees and shrubs. Arable land use extends to the distance, creating layers of individual trees and hedges, which provides a filtered view towards dense woodland blocks on the skyline. Buildings within Richborough Energy Park and the Solar Energy Park on Jutes Lane are visible between gaps in vegetation to the southeast of the viewpoint. In the distance, tall vertical structures dominate the skyline, including a turbine, two electricity masts and the existing OHL.</p>
Viewpoint 5: Junction of Grinsell Hill and Ebbsfleet Lane North	The content of the view has some scenic quality, with landscape features promoting a rural character. The tall vertical features have influence on the composition of the view, however this is reduced due to the distance from these structures. The value of the view is appraised as being medium .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of local road users and users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail along Grinsell Hill.</p> <p>The foreground and middle ground comprise a large-scale arable field, bound by linear tree belts to the northwest and south of the viewpoint. In the middle distance, the railway track runs along the southern boundary of the arable field in the foreground, bound by hedgerow and scattered hedgerow trees. Wooden electricity poles break the skyline in the middle distance to the southeast of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Arable fields extend into the distance, with filtered views through layered linear belts of vegetation and woodland blocks. Buildings within Richborough Energy Park are visible on the left-hand side of the view, to the southeast of the viewpoint, through gaps in vegetation. Tall vertical structures, such as a turbine, two electricity masts and the existing OHL break the skyline in the distance.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
Viewpoint 6: Public footpath (0173/TE32/1), south of Minster	Located within Minster Marshes, the composition and content of the view has high scenic qualities. Vertical features in the view have some influence on the character of the view but at a distance from the viewpoint. The value of the view is appraised as being medium .	<p>The viewpoint is representative of users of the local PRoW network and the local railway network.</p> <p>The foreground and middle ground comprise small to medium scale arable fields lined with drainage ditches and long grass within the Minster Marshes. Small pockets of isolated scrub and small shrubs scatter the field boundaries. The flat landform creates an open view in the middle ground.</p> <p>In the distance, dense woodland dominates the skyline, screening much of Richborough Energy Park. One building within Richborough Energy Park, the Nemo Converter Station, is visible above the vegetation in the distance to the centre of the view. Tall vertical structures, including a turbine, two electricity masts and the existing OHL break the skyline on the right-hand side of the view, to the southeast of the viewpoint.</p>
Viewpoint 7: Sandwich Bay, adjacent to English Coast Path	Located on Sandwich Bay, with the cliffs at Ramsgate as the backdrop, the content and composition of the view has high scenic qualities and creates a sense of place. The distance from the prominent tower block on the skyline limits the impact on the overall composition of the view. The value of the view is	<p>The viewpoint is representative of the recreational users of the English Coast Path, users of the Coastal Margin Access land and users of the Princes Golf Club.</p> <p>The foreground comprises a shingle and sand beach. The sand and shingle extend into the middle and long distance in the centre of the view. In the middle distance, the Pegwell and Sandwich Bays comprise the right-side of the view, to the northeast of the viewpoint and tufts of grass and scrubby vegetation occupy the left-side of the view, to the northwest of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The landform in the foreground and middle ground is generally flat, with land gently rising to the northwest which, along with layers of vegetation, screens long distance views in this direction. However, tall vertical structures including a turbine and two electricity masts, rise above the vegetation to the northwest, breaking the skyline.</p> <p>In the distance, the settlement of Cliffsend is visible in the centre of the view, with the white cliffs at Ramsgate forming a distinctive backdrop to the northeast of the viewpoint. Above the white cliffs, the settlement edge of</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
	appraised as being high .	Ramsgate is visible, with a tall tower block within the town breaking the skyline. Blocks of mature vegetation scatter the skyline in the distance.
Viewpoint 8: Viewing tower within Richborough Roman Fort	The content of the view has elements of scenic quality, due to the rural landscape with layers of vegetation. The presence of several vertical structures within the view detracts from the scenic quality of the view. The view has cultural associations with Richborough Fort, located behind the viewpoint location. The value of the view is appraised as being high .	<p>The baseline description is based on footpath immediately to the north of Richborough Castle. Viewpoint 8 will be moved to the viewing platform at Richborough Fort for the Environmental Statement (ES) and Development Consent Order (DCO) submission. The viewing platform was not accessible when undertaking winter site photography for the purposes of the PEIR. The views are expected to be more elevated and panoramic of the surrounding landscape and Fort.</p> <p>The viewpoint is representative of visitors to Richborough Roman Fort. The foreground comprises agricultural land, divided by post and wire fencing, with a metal gate on the western edge of the view, and scrub vegetation. The landform is generally flat in the foreground and middle ground, rising to a high point in the distance to the north near to the A299, which forms the skyline. Agricultural land, enclosed by a combination of scrub vegetation and hedgerow trees, creates a layered, vegetated view. Properties within Minster and scattered properties to the east of Minster on Thorne Hill are visible through vegetation, on the rising land to the north and northwest of the viewpoint.</p> <p>Mature vegetation blocks are located to the northeast of the viewpoint in the middle to long distance, creating a wooded skyline and limiting long distance views towards Ramsgate. However, a block of flats within Ramsgate, a building located in Richborough Energy Centre and the western settlement edge of Cliffsend are visible above the vegetation. Several tall, vertical structures break the skyline in the middle to long distance, including a turbine, two electricity masts and the OHL.</p>
Viewpoint 9: Richborough Road, between Lower	The content of the view is typical agricultural land and long-distance views	The viewpoint is representative of the local road users, recreational users of NCN route 1 and properties. The foreground and middle ground comprise large-scale agricultural land. The landform falls towards the middle ground, which comprises a linear hedgerow and tree belt, which

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
Gladstone and Richborough	<p>are only partially available through vegetation within the middle ground.</p> <p>Vertical features and energy infrastructure in the distance have limited influence on the view, due to the distance and intervening vegetation. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>denotes the field boundary. A distinctive row of tall, poplar trees occupy the western part of the tree belt.</p> <p>Arable fields extend into the distance, bound by low hedgerows, with buildings within glimpsed views of Minister visible through layers of vegetation. However, distant views are heavily filtered by the tree belt in the middle ground.</p> <p>Vertical structures break the skyline in the distance, including a turbine, two electricity masts and the OHL which is visible between vegetation in the middle ground. Large-scale structures within Richborough Energy Park, to the northeast, are also visible above the vegetation on the right-side of the view.</p>
Viewpoint 10: Saxon Shore Way, on the River Stour, southwest of Minster	<p>Located along the River Stour, the foreground of the view possesses high scenic qualities, associated with the watercourse and the marginal vegetation. However, the composition and content of the view is partially degraded due to the OHL and other vertical structures. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Saxon Shore Way. The foreground and middle ground comprise grassland with patches of scrubby vegetation, which forms the southern bank of the River Stour. The River Stour occupies the centre of the view, extending eastwards from the foreground, and into the middle ground. It is lined with marginal vegetation and individual scattered trees.</p> <p>The landform is generally flat in the surrounding landscape. The flat landform, vegetation on the northern bank of the River Stour and layers of tree belts and hedgerows in the middle to long distance, combine to limit long distance views. There are, however, glimpsed views of a wooded skyline through layers of vegetation. Vertical features break the skyline in the middle to long distance, including the OHL, a turbine, two electricity masts and a block of flats in Ramsgate. Buildings within Ramsgate are visible in the context of a wooded skyline in the long distance, to the northeast of the viewpoint location, but are barely perceptible.</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
Viewpoint 11: Thorne Hill, south of the A299	<p>Located on elevated land relative to the surrounding area, long distance views over an agricultural landscape creates scenic quality. Several detracting features, such as Richborough Energy Park, buildings in the Solar Energy Park, a turbine and two electricity masts reduce the scenic quality but noting their distance and a minor part of the overall panorama. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of scattered residential receptors to the east of the settlement of Minster and road users of Way Hill, Thorne Hill and the A299 corridor.</p> <p>Due to the elevated position of the viewpoint, this allows long distance views over a predominantly agricultural landscape with pockets of energy infrastructure. The foreground comprises large-scale agricultural fields, with limited boundary features. In the middle distance, linear scrubby hedgerows and hedgerow trees denote the boundaries of Grinsell Hill Road and the railway line which run east to west across the view. Mature vegetation, associated with properties on Ivy Cottage Hill, comprises the right-side of the view in the middle distance.</p> <p>The large-scale agricultural fields extend into the middle and long distance, with linear boundary features comprising hedgerow and hedgerow trees, creating layered vegetation. Due to the landform, buildings within the Richborough Energy Park and the Solar Energy Farm on Jutes Lane are visible in the distance to the southeast, above layers of vegetation and associated woodland in the local landscape. Pegwell Bay and Stonelees and St Augustine's Golf Clubs are also visible to the southeast of the viewpoint at a considerable distance.</p> <p>Tall vertical features break the wooded skyline in the distance, including a turbine, two electricity masts, chimneys in Richborough Energy Park and the existing OHL.</p>
Viewpoint 12: Public Bridleway (0173/TE29/1), north of Minster	<p>Located on elevated land relative to the surrounding landscape, long distance views are available over a well vegetated agricultural landscape to the south, increasing the scenic quality.</p>	<p>The view is representative of recreational users of the public bridleway and users of the local road network, including the A299, as well as residential receptors on the northern edge of the settlement of Minster.</p> <p>The foreground comprises temporary heras fencing, that is unlikely to be a permanent part of the view in the long term. It runs alongside the route of the public bridleway, which extends from the foreground to the middle distance towards the northwest settlement boundary of Minster. Behind the fencing, an agricultural field extends from the foreground to middle ground to Minster, with wooden electricity poles transecting the field. The landform</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
	<p>However, residential development in the middle ground and structures associated with the industrial land uses in the distance partially erode the scenic qualities of the view. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>slopes down towards Minster and the Minster Marshes beyond, to the south of the viewpoint.</p> <p>The settlement of Minster is visible in the middle ground, including the spire of St Mary the Virgin, with blocks of vegetation on the northern settlement edge. The settlement of Minster and associated vegetation screen long distance views to the southeast, on the left-side of the view. However, long distance views towards a well vegetated, agricultural landscape are visible beyond Minster in the centre and right-side of the view, due to the elevated position of the viewpoint. Glimpsed views of Richborough Energy Park are available over Minster. Long distance views of an agricultural landscape, with layers of vegetation and scattered properties, are available to the south of the viewpoint location, on the right-side of the view. Tall vertical structures, such as a turbine, an electricity mast and the OHL, break the wooded skyline to the northeast.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 13: Traffic-free cycle route along Chalk Hill (NCN route 15), west of Ramsgate</p>	<p>The view comprises typical agricultural land with longer distance views predominantly screened by built form and vegetation. Pegwell Bay Country Park and the coastline are visible, which exhibits scenic qualities, albeit in the long distance. The eastern settlement edge of Cliffsend is visually detracting and erodes the scenic</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along Chalk Hill, NCN route 15 and users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail. It is also representative of residential receptors and users of allotments on the southwestern settlement edge of Ramsgate.</p> <p>The foreground comprises arable and pastoral land, and pastoral land use extends into the middle ground to the southwest of the viewpoint. The pastoral grazing land is divided into small-scale enclosures by post and wire fencing. Small wooden structures for agricultural purposes are located within the field enclosures.</p> <p>A row of coniferous trees to the south of the viewpoint, on the cliff edge, screen long distance views to the south across Pegwell and Sandwich Bays. Built form within the settlement of Cliffsend, blocks of mature vegetation and the falling landform beyond the settlement limits long distance views to the west.</p> <p>In the long distance, in the centre of the view, there are framed views to Pegwell Bay Country Park and Stonelees and St Augustine’s Golf Courses in the gap between coniferous vegetation and the eastern settlement edge</p>

Viewpoint	Value	Existing view
	<p>composition of the view. Long distance views of tall, vertical structures also detract from the scenic qualities of Pegwell Bay. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>of Cliffsend. Due to the elevated position of the view, there are very distant views to the agricultural landscape beyond.</p> <p>Tall, vertical structures, such as a turbine and two electricity masts break the skyline to the southwest of Pegwell Bay in the distance.</p>
<p>Viewpoint 14: England Coast Path, West Cliff, Ramsgate</p>	<p>There is scenic quality within the view due to long distance views across the coastline and Pegwell and Sandwich Bays. The scenic quality and composition of the view is somewhat detracted by the metal fencing in the foreground and buildings within Richborough Energy Park and Discovery Park in the long distance. The value of the view is appraised as being medium.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the England Coast Path and the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail, at West Cliff, Ramsgate.</p> <p>The foreground and middle ground comprise West Cliff in the centre of the view, which is covered by vegetation and bound by a metal fence along the cliff edge. To the south, at the base of the cliffs, the promenade along Royal Harbour Approach is visible in the middle ground. To the north of the cliff edge, a footpath denotes the route of the England Coast Path in the foreground, in the centre of the view. Westcliff Promenade is visible to the north of the viewpoint, which extends into the middle ground. There are glimpsed views of buildings in the southern settlement edge of Ramsgate through mature vegetation located to the northwest of the viewpoint in the middle ground.</p> <p>As the viewpoint is located on the cliff edge, there is a dramatic change in height within the view, which creates long distance views to the southeast of the viewpoint. Pegwell Bay comprises the middle and long distance to the southwest of the viewpoint. Pegwell Bay Country Park is visible in the context of a wooded skyline on the coast, to the southeast of the viewpoint. Large industrial structures break the wooded skyline along this coast, including buildings within Richborough Energy Park, buildings and chimneys within Discovery Park, a turbine and two electricity masts but are barely discernible in the view due to distance.</p>

3.2.B.4 References

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- Ref 3.2.B.2 Natural England (2012). An Approach to Seascape Character Assessment
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