# Mylen Leah Solar Farm

# Preliminary Environmental Information Report

# Volume 3

# Appendix 11.2: Extracts from Published Landscape Character Assessments

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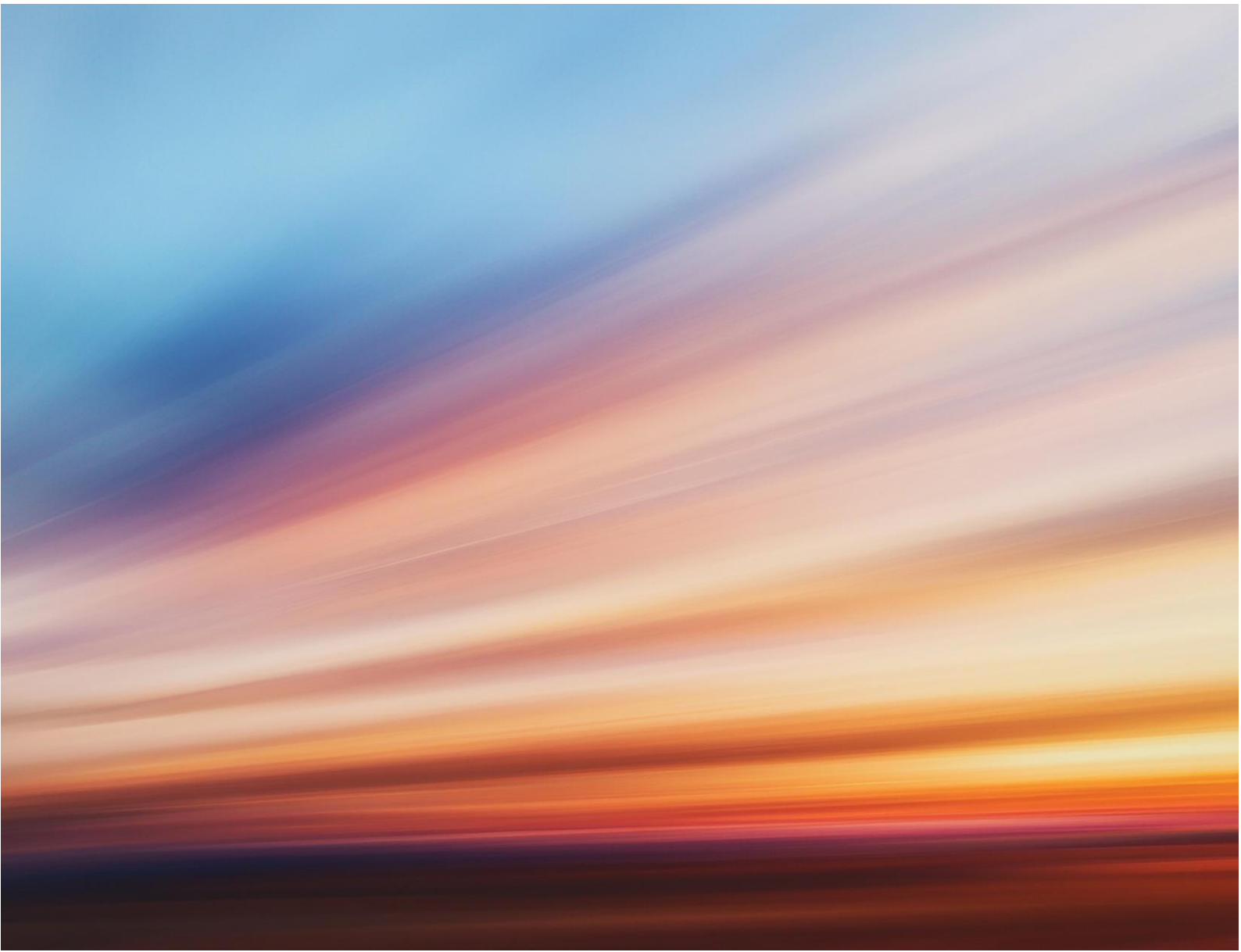

# Contents

# 1. Introduction

1.1.1 This appendix considers the sensitivity of landscape character within the study area of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The concluding judgements regarding landscape sensitivity are carried through into the preliminary assessment of effects presented in **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual** in **Volume 1** of the PEIR.

1.1.2 This appendix collates and, where necessary, provides commentary on relevant extracts from the following published landscape character assessments which cover the study area:

- National Character Area (NCA) Profile 39: Humberhead Levels[1];
- NCA Profile 28: Vale of York[2];
- East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment[3];
- North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project[4].

1.1.3 It is noted that the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment contains various judgements regarding sensitivity and the capacity of the landscape to accommodate various forms of development although solar development is not discussed. The judgements relating to sensitivity and capacity are not reproduced in this appendix but are taken into account in the consideration of landscape sensitivity in **Appendix 11.3: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal** in **Volume 3**.

# 2. Published Landscape Character Assessments

## 2.1 National Landscape Character

### NCA 39: Humberhead Levels

2.1.1 With the exception of part of the grid connection corridor, the Site and full extent of the study area fall within NCA 39: Humberhead Levels. The following paragraphs from the summary description of the NCA are relevant to the study area.

*"The Humberhead Levels is a flat, low-lying and large scale agricultural landscape…. To the north it merges into the slightly undulating landscape of the Vale of York.*

*There are several sites of international significance for their biodiversity, designated as Special Protection Areas and/or Special Conservation Areas. These include the wetlands along the lower reaches of the Derwent….Sandy soils give rise to lowland heathland such as at Skipworth Common, which is a SAC [Special Area of Conservation]. Thorne and Hatfield Moors, the Lower Derwent valley and Skipworth Common are all also National Nature Reserves. The Isle of Axholme is of international significance for its extensive strip field system, while other areas reveal distinct field and drainage patterns linked to past uses and drainage of the area.*

*In the central areas the large geometric fields are generally bounded by ditches and the highly productive agricultural land is maintained by pumping*

*to keep the water table down. There are challenges to maintain this level of productivity while also addressing soil quality and erosion.*

*There are important road, rail and water routes linking industrial areas to the east with the hinterland, and towns including Doncaster, Selby and Goole. Despite these busy areas, there are some very remote and tranquil areas, notably at Thorne and Hatfield Moors and the Lower Derwent Valley. The whole area is characterised by long views and big open skies."*

2.1.2 The key characteristics of NCA 39: Humberhead Levels relevant to the study area are recorded as follows:

*"A low-lying, predominantly flat landscape, with large rectangular and geometric arable fields without hedges but divided by ditches and dykes, many of which form important habitats and key corridors for species movement.*

*Variations in underlying deposits create differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland, many of which are of international ecological and historical importance.*

*Sandy deposits give rise to lowland heath. Which in places supports remnant birch and oak woodlands, with some conifer plantations.*

*Widespread evidence of drainage history, in particular the extensive drainage from 17th century, revealed through canalised rivers, dykes, old river courses, canals, bridges and pumping stations.*

*Views to distant horizons are often unbroken, with big expansive skies, and vertical elements like water towers, power stations and wind turbines are very prominent.*

*Floodplains, washlands and traditionally grazed alluvial flood meadows (or ings) associated with the major rivers canals that cross the Levels give rise to important wetland habitats, supporting large numbers of wetland birds and wildfowl, especially over winter.*

*Despite settlements, motorways and main roads, there is still a sense of remoteness to be experienced on the Levels, in particular on Thorne and Hatfield Moors and along the Lower Derwent Valley."*

2.1.3 The following are detailed as statements of environmental opportunity (SEO) for NCA 39: Humberhead Levels:

*"SEO 1: Safeguard, manage and expand the wetland habitats, including internationally important raised bogs, the floodplain grazing marsh, reedbeds, wet pastures and watercourses, to protect and enhance biodiversity, contribute to landscape character, address climate change and reduce flood risks.*

*SEO2: Manage the agricultural landscape to retain its distinctive character and its productivity, while improving its contribution to biodiversity, the protection of vulnerable soils and paleoenvironmental evidence, and the water resource*

*SEO3: Manage the landscape features such as semi-natural habitats and historic field patterns that reveal local variations in landscape character, often*

*arising from underlying soils and history of drainage, to enhance people's understanding and enjoyment of the landscape.*

*SEO4: Protect the open and expansive character of the landscape, its cultural features and sense of remoteness, by ensuing that development is sensitivity located, accommodates green infrastructure, retains long views and makes a positive contribution to biodiversity."*

**National Character Area 28: Vale of York**

2.1.4 Part of the grid connection route falls within NCA 28: Vale of York. The following paragraphs from the summary description of the NCA are relevant to the study area:

*"The Vale of York is an area of relatively flat, low-lying land surrounded by higher land to the north, east and west. High-quality soils across most of the National Character Area (NCA) mean that arable cultivation is the predominant land use, although some pig and dairy farming takes place in the western parts of the NCA. A key feature of the NCA is the rivers that drain surrounding higher land and run southwards through the Vale on towards the Humber basin. Natural flood plain habitats and associated species are still found within the Lower Derwent Valley (designated as a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site) although, like other flood plains, this area is threatened due to water quality issues.*

*There are opportunities to restore wetland habitat within river corridors to alleviate fast water flows….. Restoration of river systems will also maintain and improve natural soil fertility for productive agriculture, improve the ecological networks and strengthen the ability of biodiversity to adapt to current – and future – pressures. A key challenge will be to establish sustainable land management practices that safeguard and strengthen the fertile soils needed for arable cultivation while also providing sustainable income for land managers."*

2.1.5 The key characteristics of NCA 28: Vale of York relevant to the study area are recorded as follows:

"*A largely open, flat and low-lying landscape between the higher land of the Southern Magnesian Limestone ridge to the west, the Howardian Hills to the north and the Yorkshire Wolds to the east.*

*Dominantly Triassic solid geology, which is obscured by glacial till, sand, gravel and moraines, with obvious ridges formed by the York and Escrick moraines.*

*Predominantly agricultural land use, with medium- to large-scale arable fields defined by hedgerows (which are often low and intermittent with sparse hedgerow trees) and fences. Large dispersed farmsteads and small villages on higher land are set within a quiet rural landscape.*

*Wetland features dotted through the wider landscape of the NCA, providing stepping stones between wider areas of water-dependent and priority habitat, such as important remnants of 'ings' meadows on the river flood plains (traditionally managed by hay-making) and some unimproved and semi-improved meadows and pastures, in particular in the Derwent Ings.*

*Some areas of heathland remaining on poorer sandy soils (for example Strensall, Stockton and Allerthorpe commons), along with small scattered broadleaved woodlands and larger conifer plantations.*"

The following are detailed as statements of opportunity for NCA 28: Vale of York:

*"SEO 1: Identify opportunities within the existing agricultural systems to enhance landscape character and create a functioning ecological network to safeguard future food provision, retain soil quality and reduce soil erosion and deliver benefits for biodiversity, carbon storage and climate regulation.*

*SEO 2: Manage and enhance the network of rivers and important wetland habitats within the Vale, increasing the landscape's ability to naturally and sustainably manage flood and drought risk and provide other ecosystem services while recognising the needs of individual species and habitats and increasing the resilience of wildlife to climate change.*

*SEO 3: Increase the network of species-rich meadows, pastures, fields and hedgerows, ensuring that they and the wider farmed environment are managed to reduce rates of diffuse pollution and improve water quality. Extend and enhance heathland sites on areas of sandy soil for the benefit of biodiversity, as well as enhancing the sense of place. wildlife to climate change.*

*SEO 4: Protect the historic and cultural features of the Vale, in particular the traditional settlement patterns of remaining villages and the evidence of previous settlements that provide a strong sense of place. View across the flat open landscape of the Vale of York from the bordering higher land of the Yorkshire Wolds."*

## 2.2 Local Landscape Character

2.2.1 At a district level, the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment identifies Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). In total, 23 LCTs have been identified, which are further subdivided into 82 LCAs. The LCAs within the study area are presented on **Figure 11.4: Landscape Character** in **Volume 2**.

2.2.2 This PEIR focuses on the LCAs rather than the LCTs; however landscape descriptions, characteristics, opportunities and strategy for the wider LCT, as recorded in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment, are referenced below with respect to each LCA.

2.2.3 The majority of the Site is located within LCT 6: Wooded Open Farmland and specifically LCA 6A: South Pocklington Canal Wooded Farmland. This includes all of Land Parcels A, C and D along with the northern sections of Land Parcels B and E. The southern section of the underground grid connection corridor also falls within this character area.

2.2.4 The southern part of the Site falls within LCT 5: Open Farmland and specifically 5B: Howden to Bubwith Farmland. This includes the southern parts of Land Parcel B and Land Parcel E.

2.2.5 To the north, the underground grid connection corridor passes through LCT 3: River/Canal Corridor and specifically 3C: Pocklington Canal and Beck

Corridor and also LCT 1: Flat Open Farmland and specifically 1C: Newton Upon Derwent, Wilberfoss, Allerthorpe and Haydon Farmland.

2.2.6 The East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment LCAs that are located within the proposed study area but are not coincident with Mylen Leah Solar Farm have been scoped out.

2.2.7 The boundary of North Yorkshire Council runs approximately 2km to the west of the Site and as such lies partially within the study area. The North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project defines the character types within the district. Three LCT are located within the 3km study area: LCT 23: Levels Farmland, LCT 24 River Floodplain, and LCT 28: Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland. These LCTs are shown on **Figure 11.4: Landscape Character** in **Volume 2** and have been scoped out.

**LCT 6: Wooded Open Farmland**

2.2.8 This LCT is described in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment as:

*"This Landscape Character Type (LCT) extends along the north east edge of the Humberhead Levels in the District and includes farmland south of the Pocklington Canal around Melbourne, Seaton Ross and Holme on Spalding Moor. The LCT extends across the area south of Pocklington Canal encompassing Seaton Ross and Holme on Spalding Moor and South Cliffe Common along the south west edge of the Yorkshire Wolds scarp slope.*

*This LCT is in the transitional zone between the Vale of York and Humberhead levels."*

2.2.9 The identified key characteristics of LCT 6: Wooded Open Farmland relevant to the Site and the study area are:

- "*Agricultural development is a common feature across the landscape;*
- *Single development turbines and pylons are a visual detractor within the flat landscape;*
- *Low lying flat arable farmland in good condition with occasional grass fields and small woodland blocks;*
- *The land rises gradually west;*
- *One area of ancient semi natural woodland at Seaton Olde Wood west of Holme on Spalding Moor;*
- *Historic links to the Roman pottery industry;*
- *Church Hill at Holme on Spalding Moor is a prominent landmark;*
- *Random irregular field size and pattern;*
- *Hedgerow field boundaries in varying condition many with hedgerow trees;*
- *Scattered villages and farmsteads;* and
- *Relatively remote and tranquil place away from villages*."

2.2.10 Under the heading of 'Statements of Opportunity' the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment includes the following relevant comments:

- "*Protect and enhance species rich floodplain meadows, wet pastures, grazing marsh along the river floodplain, increasing management.*
- *New developments are located and designed with particular consideration for keeping long views open*."

2.2.11 'Positive Landscape Features' of the LCT are identified are cited as follows:

- "*Scattered woodland blocks;*
- *Irregular field size and pattern with areas of more regular rectilinear pattern in between;*
- *Remnants of heath at South Cliffe Common;*
- *Hedgerow field boundaries highlighting landscape pattern that is a mix of regular and irregular fields indicating the different phases of enclosure;*
- *Church Hill is an important landmark viewed from long distances;*
- *Long distance views of rural landscape in certain locations;*
- *Newly formed North Cave Wetlands;* and
- *Extensions to mineral workings/restoration schemes*."

2.2.12 An evaluation of LCT 6 notes that the character type continues to come under pressure from renewable energy development; however this is primarily in relation to wind farms; solar developments are not specifically mentioned.

2.2.13 When discussing 'Condition and Strength of Character' it is noted that "*this LCT is attractive in parts with some with some agricultural detractors. The condition of the hedgerows overall is good but despite the relatively good woodland cover in comparison to most of the East Riding, the woodland pattern is fragmented and dominated by plantation woodland.*"

2.2.14 The strategy for the character area states that the aim should be *"to maintain the existing good quality landscape and enhance character in the vicinity of airfields and the major villages of Holme on Spalding Moor and Seaton Ross."* It goes on to state that the strategy should *"Promote native woodland, tree and hedgerow planting to reinforce and enhance landscape pattern and to help screen agricultural buildings. Promote the maintenance and management of existing hedgerows to reinforce local landscape pattern."* The strategy concludes by stating that *"all new development should respect local vernacular, context and mitigate visual prominence within the local landscape."*

<u>LCA 6A: South Pocklington Canal Wooded Farmland</u>

2.2.15 The LCA is described in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment as follows:

*"This LCA extends south of Pocklington Canal and includes the Seaton Old Wood ancient semi natural woodland west of Holme on Spalding Moor and Park Wood ancient woodland.*

*The main settlement in the area is Seaton Ross, a sprawling linear village west of Everingham Estate. The brick church was rebuilt in 1788. Melbourne is a linear village on the boundary of this LCA with the Pocklington Canal corridor. Melbourne Church is built of corrugated iron and was constructed in 1882 by the Windsor Iron Works of Liverpool. Melbourne village grew out of the enclosure of the open fields in 1782 and the opening of the Pocklington Canal in 1818. Melbourne Airfield (York Raceway) is a prominent feature in the landscape. Agricultural development including scattered farmsteads has taken place in this area and is a potential detractor. Plantation woodland blocks are dispersed across the area and tend to be planted with a mix of conifer and deciduous species.*

*The former Selby to Market Weighton Railway Line passed through the area and its line is still apparent in the landscape today severing the field pattern. Minor roads criss-cross the landscape and fit in with field pattern.*

*This is a medium to large scale landscape with a mix of grassland and arable land use. Hedgerows are generally in good condition with few gaps.*

*There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites within the character area, including the two areas of ancient woodland, with some important ecological and habitat benefits."*

**LCT 5: Open Farmland**

2.2.16 This LCT is described in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment as being:

*'…located east of the Derwent corridor and covers a low lying area of open farmland that contains small areas of woodland and occasional mature hedgerow trees. The LCT encompasses farmland north and west of Howden and east of the villages of Wressle, Breighton, Bubwith, Aughton and Ellerton and around the villages of Foggathorpe and Spaldington. The LCT encompasses some sections of the Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal Important Landscape Area.'*

2.2.17 The identified key characteristics of LCT 5: Open Farmland relevant to the Site and study area are:

- "*Low lying flat landscape below 10m AOD;*
- *Relatively featureless intensively farmed arable landscape;*
- *Large areas are in the riparian flood plain of the River Derwent;*
- *Medium scale fields with fragmented hedgerow boundaries. Boundaries lost in places though mature oak trees remain in areas;*
- *Open character with extensive views across the flat landscape;*
- *Occasional woodland blocks and fragmented tree cover contributing to extensive views that include Drax Power Station to the southwest and distant wind development mainly to the south*; and

- *Small villages and Farmsteads are scattered throughout but overall settlement density is low. Many of these villages have Saxon origins*."

2.2.18 Under the heading of 'Statements of Opportunity' the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment includes the following relevant comments:

- "*Protect and enhance the valued floodplain landscape by improving wet pasture and reducing flood risk elsewhere;*
- *Management of drainage ditches and dykes to ensure appropriate functionality and retaining associated vegetation;*
- *Conserving and enhancing the historic features, meadows and pasture landscape of the Lower Derwent Valley for their historic interest as well as their contribution to landscape character and biodiversity; and*
- *Maintaining the long and often unbroken views to distant horizons by siting new development sensitively.*"

2.2.19 'Positive Landscape Features' of the LCT are cited as follows:

- "*River and canal are distinctive corridors surrounding arable landscape;*
- *Trees along river banks and field boundaries;*
- *Grass fields;*
- *Traditionally managed flood meadow;*
- *Ecological value and biodiversity among intensive arable land use;*
- *Historic river crossings and settlement; and*
- *Lanes and public rights of way running parallel to the water courses*."

2.2.20 An evaluation of LCT 5 notes that the character type continues to come under pressure from renewable energy development, however this is primarily in relation to wind farms and solar developments are not specifically mentioned.

2.2.21 When discussing 'Condition and Strength of Character' it is noted that,

"*The rural landscape is fragmented by a variety of development such as tourism, recreation and commercial development that has impacted on character. However, the main cause of fragmentation has been intensive farming practices that resulted in the loss of hedgerows and the creation of larger fields. Grassland has been converted to arable farmland and there has been relatively little woodland planting in the area.*

*There are a number of detractors in this landscape that affect its character. Firstly, pylons and wind turbines are very visible and impact on views across the rural landscape. Secondly, large scale agriculture development is sometimes very visible and does not integrate with landscape pattern. In addition, the railway lines, existing and dismantled, have severed the landscape pattern."*

2.2.22 The strategy for the LCT suggests to *"enhance landscape character by restoring key characteristics such as hedgerows and woodland blocks."* It also suggests "*the reintroduction of grassland in wetter areas'* and to

*'promote the planting of native woodland, particularly in areas where existing development is detracting from landscape character..."*

LCA 5B: West of Holme on Spalding Moor Farmland

2.2.23 This LCA is described in the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment as:

*"This LCA covers the farmed landscape between Holme on Spalding Moor and Bubwith, including the villages of Foggathorpe, Harlthorpe, Aughton and Ellerton.*

*Fields are generally medium in size and rectilinear in shape. There are areas of more irregular fields indicating early enclosure by agreement. Hedgerows form field boundaries. Many are fragmented and some contain hedgerow trees but overall tree cover is limited.*

*The eastern part of this area drains into the River Foulness and the western part drains into the River Derwent.*

*The area around Foggathorpe contains a recreation and tourism development including man-made lakes and log cabin accommodation. There are other similar small scale developments in this landscape.*

*Commercial development is generally linked to the agricultural industry including a poultry shed at Aughton. Pylons cross the area and are a detractor in the rural landscape.*

*There are several historic sites in the area that are of interest. Ellerton Priory was established in the 1 century. Aughton has a motte and bailey castle, both of which are designated as scheduled monuments, and a moated manorial centre associated with the Aske family. The church at Aughton is Norman. A moated site at Chapelgarth, which represents a typical medieval settlement in low lying flood plain, is also designated as a scheduled monument.*

*Within this area, interspersed within the intensively farmed land, there are areas of species/rich hay meadow, supporting species characteristic of the area.*

*This is a large scale pleasant agricultural landscape with few features of note. Development and infrastructure are detractors where they are highly visible due to lack of trees and flat landform. There are currently no wind developments within this LCA. This LCA covers the farmed landscape between Holme on Spalding Moor and Bubwith, including the villages of Foggathorpe, Harlthorpe, Aughton and Ellerton."*

2.2.24 The proposed underground grid connection corridor runs through this LCA which is part of LCT 3: River/Canal Corridors.

2.2.25 In addition to the character areas that the main portion of the Site sits within, there are additional landscape character areas that the underground grid connection corridor passes through. Relevant extracts for the character area descriptions are listed below

LCA 3C: Pocklington Canal and Beck Corridor

2.2.26 The proposed underground grid connection corridor runs through this LCA which is part of LCT 3: River/Canal Corridors.

2.2.27 The key characteristics of this LCT considered relevant are listed as:

- "*Low lying flat floodplain of the Lower Derwent River valley and Pocklington Beck and canal corridor;*
- *Combination of grassland pasture and meadow subject to seasonal flooding;*
- *Man-made embankments formed as a result of dredging in the 20th century;*
- *Riparian woodland and trees in the corridor;*
- *Areas of species rich alluvial flood meadow habitat designated;*
- *Organic arrangement of medium sized fields combined with more regular boundaries of enclosed fields;*
- *Edges of the floodplain defined by lanes and linear settlements;*
- *Cultural and historic associations include churches and crossing points. There are some moated sites in the corridor and a Roman settlement (Scheduled Monument) to the south of Stamford Bridge;*
- *Intimate isolated corridor landscape that is a marked contrast from surrounding intensively farmed land;*
- *Villages, hamlets and farmsteads line the corridor just above the floodplain;*
- *Part of the Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal Important Landscape Area*; and
- *Part of the River Derwent Important Landscape Area.*"

2.2.28 The East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment states:

*"Pocklington Canal and Beck Corridor shares many characteristics with the two other LCAs in this LCT, but the man-made nature of the Canal and the meandering beck that runs alongside it to the north distinguishes this LCA. The River Derwent, and the Lower Derwent Valley and Pocklington Canal are recognised as Important Landscape Areas.*

*Pocklington Canal cuts through fields indicating that the field pattern developed prior to the construction of the canal. Fields tend to be medium in size and linear in nature bounded by fragmented hedgerows and occasional individual trees. Tree cover is very sporadic along the length of the canal and in adjacent fields and the corridor narrows as it extends eastwards.*

*Predominantly agricultural, Banking is present at the junction of the canal with the River Derwent.*

*Melbourne village is located on the southern boundary of this LCA and is a linear settlement that runs parallel to the canal. Vernacular style includes brick two storey houses with tiled roofs and some slate roofs. To the north of*

*Melbourne a distinctive linear field pattern has developed between the residential properties and the canal. Development to the west of Melbourne has a local influence on landscape character.*

*The canal was opened in 1815 but is no longer navigable. Several of the locks remain. The canal is also recognised as an area of nature conservation interest. Alongside the canal there is neutral grassland, which contains a complex mix of ditches, hedgerows, streams and areas of scrub. The meadows between the canal and Pocklington Beck are species rich due to flooding and traditional hay cropping management. At Melbourne and Thornton Ings the nationally scarce marsh pea is present. The canal itself is disused and supports a diverse range of aquatic plants."*

2.2.29 Under the heading of 'Statement of Opportunities' the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment includes the following relevant comments:

- "*Restoring former field ponds and other features such as ditches, dykes, small woodlands and shelterbelts, to ensure that they are being adequately managed for their contribution to the landscape and biodiversity;*
- *Restoring, extending and re-linking the floodplain landscapes of the River Derwent;*
- *Encouraging new riparian and floodplain woodland;*
- *Encouraging development that reduces the risk of flooding;* and
- *Opportunities to revert arable farmland to permanent pasture in flood plains to reduce soil erosion and diffuse water pollution*."

<u>LCA 1C: Newton Upon Derwent, Wilberfloss, Allerthorpe and Hayton Farmland</u>

2.2.30 The proposed underground grid connection corridor runs through this LCA which is part of LCT 1: Flat Open Farmland.

2.2.31 The key characteristics of this LCT considered relevant are listed as:

- "*Generally flat, open landscape between 10m and 30m AOD gradually falling southwards;*
- *Drained intensively farmed arable land with occasional grass fields;*
- *Overall tree and woodland cover is sparse. One large woodland block at Allerthorpe;*
- *Parkland at Everingham is distinctive;*
- *Field boundaries consist of a combination of fragmented and intact hedgerows with few hedgerow trees;*
- *Field pattern is dominated by medium sized regular shaped fields that are occasionally incised by small natural watercourses;*
- *Drainage pattern overall is regular and manmade with few small improved natural watercourses of less regular shape. Land generally drains southwards;*

- *Combination of dispersed linear and nucleated villages with potential Iron Age settlement origins;*
- *Large farmsteads are scattered throughout the area;* and
- *Influence of past human activity includes the route of A1079 that follows the route of a Roman road.*"

2.2.32 The LCA is described as follows:

*"The flat to gently undulating arable landscape of this LCA is centred on the villages of Newton upon Derwent, Wilberfoss, Allerthorpe and Hayton.*

*Predominantly agricultural land with an area of common land located at Tank Plantation.*

*The LCA has a patchwork of generally rectilinear fields in a sub regular pattern. Black Foss Beck and Sails Beck run from north to south through the area and drain into Pocklington Beck. These two small water courses meander through the intensive arable landscape and provide some variation in field pattern.*

*Allerthorpe was enclosed by agreement in 1640 and pockets of the original enclosure pattern remain. Long narrow closes on the edge of the village have the reverse 's' shape often seen with early enclosure and resulting from enclosing open field furlongs and strips. Farmsteads are scattered throughout the LCA.*

*Blocks of woodland are scattered throughout the LCA. Allerthorpe Common is an extensive area of coniferous plantation on former heathland and is the main woodland in the LCA. A small area of heathland still survives, composed of heather, cross-leaved heath, cotton grass and purple moor grass which also supports a number of reptiles and invertebrates.*

*A large area of plantation woodland is being restored to lowland heath in the area.*

*The A1079 which follows the route of the former Roman road from Brough to York passes across the northern boundary of the LCA. A Roman fort was located at Hayton. Evidence of Iron Age and Anglo Saxon activity has also been found at the site.*

*Pocklington Canal is an important SSSI feature in this area that is undergoing restoration and now has increased recreational use. Canal Head is an attractive area that is well used by the public.*

*Generally open and rural the LCA has a relatively remote and tranquil character."*

2.2.33 Under the heading of 'Statement of Opportunities' the East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment includes the following relevant comments:

- "*Managing and restoring hedgerows and replacing/adding hedgerow trees where necessary;*

- *Restoring former field ponds and other floodland features along with areas of woodland and shelterbelt. Maintaining each to ensure a positive contribution to landscape and biodiversity;*
- *Retain existing copses of woodland and reinstating previous examples into active management;*
- *Reduce and prevent the loss of species rich grassland through management and improvement where necessary;* and
- *Protect and enhance the dynamic fluvial landscapes and waterbodies which make an important contribution to the character*."

[1] Natural England. (2015) National Character Area (NCA) Profile 39: Humberhead Levels. Available online: Humberhead Levels - National Character Area Profiles

[2] Natural England. (2015) National Character Area (NCA) Profile 28: Vale of York. Available online: Vale of York - National Character Area Profiles

[3] AECOM. (2018) East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment. (2018) Available online: Landscape character assessment

[4] Chris Blandford Associates. (2011) North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project. Available online: North Yorkshire and York landscape characterisation project