



Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Asland Walks Energy Park, Lancashire

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The Bretherton Energy Co-Operative and GA Pet Food



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Issue Sheet

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Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVIA)

5831 Asland Walks, Lancashire

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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal has been prepared by Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of GA Pet Food Partners and Bretherton Energy Co-op to review landscape and visual issues relevant to the Planning Application for both construction and operation phases of single wind turbine, solar farm and battery energy storage with associated infrastructure – Asland Walks Energy Park’ (The Proposed Development) on land to the south of Asland Walks, Eyes Lane, Bretherton, PR4 6FS (The Site). The Site extends to approximately 39.7ha and is located within Chorley Council Local Planning Authority.
- 1.1.2 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (Appraisal) identifies potential landscape and visual effects associated with development of the Site and the likely landscape and visual effects that could arise as a consequence of the proposed development.
- 1.1.3 Two Site visits were undertaken in February and August 2025 by an experienced Chartered Landscape Architect to appraise the character and condition of the Site and the landscape context, and to identify key visual receptors. The weather was predominantly clear and bright.
- 1.1.4 All photographs within Appendix 2 were taken with a digital camera, a Nikon D610 (a Full Frame Sensor camera) with a 50mm Focal Length prime lens in accordance with the guidance contained within LI Technical Guidance Note 06/19.
- 1.1.5 Lanpro Services Ltd. is a multi-disciplinary planning, environmental and design consultancy with over 15 years’ experience of landscape, masterplanning, urban design, architecture, archaeology, heritage, ecology, planning, and environmental impact assessment. The company is a registered practice of the Landscape Institute.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 This Appraisal is based upon the ‘Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment’ Third Edition (GLVIA3)¹ produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. The Methodology also considers the following guidance:
- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 Published August 2024 Notes and Clarifications on aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3) - consultation²;

¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.

² Landscape Institute Draft Technical Guidance Note 05/23 (July 2023) *Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)* – Consultation.

- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (26 May 2021) Assessing landscape value outside national designations³;
- Christine Tudor and Natural England, An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (October 2014)⁴;
- Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (17 September 2019) Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

- 1.2.2 Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) is carried out when a development falls outside of the requirements of the EIA Directive and Regulations, as a standalone Appraisal (the 'Appraisal').
- 1.2.3 The overall principles and the core steps in the process are the same as a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment but with the Appraisal the process is informal and there is more flexibility, but the essence of the approach – specifying the nature of the proposed change or development; describing the existing landscape and the views and visual amenity in the area that may be affected; predicting the effects, although not their likely significance; and considering how those effects might be mitigated – still applies.
- 1.2.4 Local Planning Authorities may ask for 'Appraisals' where planning applications raise concerns about effects on the landscape and/or views and visual amenity. As an LVA is not intended for use in EIA the use of the term 'significant' or 'significance' is avoided. However, the relative magnitude and sensitivity of effects are still described to assess the effects.
- 1.2.5 The landscape or visual baseline that describes the existing situation could be used for any form of development on a Site. However, the proposals, the assessment of the effects of the proposals, and the assessment of the ability of the Site to absorb changes associated with the proposals are specific to the development under consideration.
- 1.2.6 GLVIA3 stresses the need for an approach that is proportional to the scale of the project that is being assessed and the nature of its likely effects.

2 Existing Situation/Baseline

- 2.1.1 The Site is located approximately 660m to the south of Tarleton, within the county of Lancashire, England. The Site is approximately 11km southwest of Preston and 5.2km southwest of Leyland. The Site is approximately 8.2km west of M6 Motorway which connects A74 at Gretna Scottish border to M1 and A14 junction northeast of Rugby at border of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The Site is approximately 570m south of Southport New Road, which connects Southport, to the west of the Site, and Preston, to the northeast of the Site.

³ Landscape Institute (26 May 2021) Technical Guidance Note 02/21 *Assessing landscape value outside national designations*.

⁴ *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* (October 2014) (Christine Tudor, Natural England) Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), (2002) Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland.

- 2.1.2 The Site is irregular in shape, following existing field margins for boundaries, and covers approximately 39.70ha of land situated between the Leeds Liverpool Canal and River Douglas. The western and northern boundary of the Site follows the old course of the River Asland, which is now the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The Site borders it at a point where it meanders in the landscape, west of the River Douglas. The eastern boundary, at northern portion of the Site, borders the linear corridor of the River Douglas. The eastern boundary, at southern portion of the Site, utilises existing field margins and hedgerows as Site boundaries.
- 2.1.3 The Site is low lying in the landscape, with lowest elevation recorded at 4.29m AOD at the eastern boundary of the Site and highest elevation recorded at 5.34m AOD at the western boundary. The Site is currently used for Agricultural purposes and is made up of three fields; internal hedgerows have been largely removed for arable use, but ditches and field margins separate them.
- 2.1.4 The Site forms as part of Lancashire and Amounderness Plain National Character Area and is situated within the Mosslands Landscape type as described in the Lancashire County Landscape Character Assessment

2.2 Existing Consent

2.2.1 The following applications form the planning history of the Site:

Planning Ref	TITLE / Description of Development	Date of Approval
2023/1122/FUL	West Lancashire Borough Council – Creation of a durable surfaced access track into arable fields, at Tarleton Bridge over River Douglas, Bank Bridge, Tarleton, Lancashire	11 March 2024
2024/00025/PREAPP	Chorley Council - Proposal to develop infrastructure for the generation of electrical power from wind and solar on a site to the south of the A59 at Bank Bridge (PR4 6HJ) Location: Green Energy Park at Asland Walks Eyes Lane Bretherton PR4 6FS	03 April 2025 Pre App Advice Letter
25/00372/SCE	Chorley Council - Request for a screening opinion pursuant to Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (amended 2018) for a green energy park at Asland Walks Green Energy Park At Asland Walks Eyes Lane Bretherton PR4 6FS	18 July 2025 Screening Opinion

2.3 Published Landscape Character Assessments

2.3.1 A brief summary of the published landscape character assessments in the context of the Site is detailed below.

National Character Area

2.3.2 The Site lies in National Character Area profile: 32. Lancashire and Amounderness Plain. The NCA profile gives the following as a general description for the area:

“The area is relatively well populated, and an extensive network of road and rail routes links the area with the surrounding National Character Areas (NCAs). The area also contains the Ribble Link, the Lancaster Canal, the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and several long-distance footpaths. The NCA is bounded on its eastern and western edges by the M6 and Irish Sea respectively, although in the south the NCA is separated from the coast by the Sefton Coast NCA.”⁵

2.3.3 Key characteristics of the NCA include:

⁵ National Character Area Profile: 32. Lancashire and Amounderness Plain. Natural England, January 2014. Page 5.

- *“A rich patchwork of pasture, arable fields and drainage ditches, on a relatively flat to gently undulating coastal landscape.*
- *Extensive views across the plain, within which small to medium-sized blocks of mixed woodland (wind-sculpted near the coast) provide punctuation and vertical accents.*
- *A complex network of wide meandering rivers raised drainage ditches and dykes divide and drain the landscape. Along with fragmented relicts of reedbeds and mosses, and historic place names, these provide a reminder of the area’s heritage of wetland reclamation.*
- *Mixed arable and pastoral farmland habitats support a nationally important assemblage of breeding farmland bird species.*
- *A complex network of channelised rivers, canals, drainage ditches and dykes support a nationally important population of water vole.*
- *The Ribble Link, Lancaster Canal, and Leeds and Liverpool Canal all cross the NCA.*
- *A rectilinear network of lanes and tracks – usually without fences or hedges- subdivides the landscape, and isolated brick farmsteads occur in rural areas.*
- *Several long-distance paths cross the NCA, including the Lancashire Coastal Way, the Ribble Way and the Wyre Way, as well as canal towpaths.”⁶*

2.3.4 This is a national scale assessment and though it provides a useful broad scale overview of landscape character, the detail of more local scale landscape character assessment studies is more relevant to LVA for development proposals of this nature.

County Landscape Character Assessment

2.3.5 The Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment (2010) identifies the Site as lying within Landscape Character Type (LCT) 16: The Mosslands and corresponding Landscape Character Area (LCA) 16C: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses. Refer to Figure 4 in Appendix A.

2.3.6 The area is surrounded by LCT 16e: The Tarleton Mosses to the northeast of the Site; LCA 15b: Longton–Bretherton Coastal Plain to the north; LCT 15c–Croston to Mawsley Coastal Plain to the east, LCT 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom Rufford to the south. LCT 17a: the Clifton and Hutton Marsh Enclosed Coastal Marsh is to the north.

2.3.7 Landscape Character Type (LCT) 16: The Mosslands, are described as:

“...an extremely flat, low-lying landscape comprised of peat deposits which were formerly an extensive series of lowland raised mires. These are now largely reclaimed and managed for particularly intensive crop production, including market gardening and to a lesser extent, dairying. Fields are typically large in size and geometric in shape, defined by straight drainage

⁶ National Character Area Profile: 32. Lancashire and Amounderness Plain. Natural England, January 2014. Page 6-7.

*ditches and post and wire fences. Hawthorn hedgerows are restricted to the straight, narrow roads which cross the mosslands and shelter belts, often of poplar or Scot's pine, are visible on the horizon. There are extremely long views across this open landscape and vertical elements, such as electricity pylons, are particularly visible. Older buildings and small, loose-knit linear villages are sited on low sand and gravel or boulder clay ridges on the edges of the peat. The lack of lighting and kerbs maintains a rural character, although a variety of modern building styles and materials are evident.*⁷

2.3.8 Key Environmental Features include:

- *“Low lying flat landscape, which provides extensive uninterrupted views for great distances.*
- *Market gardening and arable production are highly productive and provide a pattern of colours and textures year round.*
- *Remnant mosses and fen carr are important semi-natural wetland habitats which provide a glimpse of the landscape before it was drained and exploited for agriculture in the late 18th and 19th centuries.*
- *Field patterns which are distinctive and preserve the historic patterns of mossland reclamation.*
- *Drainage ditches form an important network of semi natural wetland habitats especially in West Lancashire.*
- *Rural roads and tracks, which are unlit and provide clear views of the night sky in the area. Many are raised on embankments with ditches, culverts and bridges.*
- *Farms and isolated houses at end of dead-end tracks on low sand and gravel or settlements are strung out along embanked roads.*
- *Potentially rich archaeological sites, which are gradually revealed as the remaining traces of peat are desiccated and blown away. The peat contains evidence of early settlement on the fringes of the Mosslands, which were exploited for reeds/rushes, grazing and fuel.”*

2.3.9 Local Forces for Change identified in the Landscape Strategy Document includes:

- *“Pressure for suburbanisation and the expansion of settlements....*
- *The impacts of drainage and flood control of important wetland habitats,...*
- *Loss of peat through erosion and oxidation as a result of intensive agriculture....*
- *Climate change may in time lead to an increase in the probability of storm surges and potentially severe flooding in the low lying Mosslands.....*
- *The decline of small mixed woodlands and shelterbelts.....*

⁷ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 93.

- *Water-borne pollution results from intensive agricultural practices when chemicals from pesticides and fertilisers.....”*

2.3.10 The Landscape Strategy for the Mosslands is to:

Conserve the distinctive character and landscape structure of the Mosslands

- *“limit development in the Mosslands, particularly that which obscures views of the flat open landscape or which introduces new vertical elements*
- *conserve woodland blocks, particularly those associated with historic landscapes*
- *maintain the large geometric field patterns and avoid the amalgamation of fields*
- *counteract the impact of abrupt built edges (on low ridges) with wooded planting as buffers*
- *avoid new lighting in the landscape*
- *limit the extent of mineral and peat extraction with restoration to wetland habitats”*

Conserve historic settlement patterns and building styles

- *“conserve the wider landscape setting of older houses and historic halls*
- *avoid infill ribbon and other development which would detract from the characteristic rural settlement pattern*
- *avoid the use of incongruous building materials and building styles*
- *encourage small scale planting in association with new development to help integrate it within the landscape, while framing the characteristic long views”*

Conserve important habitats

- *“conserve the hunting grounds and nesting sites of barn owls*
- *retain roosting sites and feeding grounds, especially long grass and water habitats for bats. Special care should be made in the conversion or renovation of farm buildings*
- *avoid the formation of habitat links between grey and red squirrel populations and manage existing woodlands to encourage red squirrels.*
- *encourage management of arable field margins as refuges for scarce weed species and food sources for seed eating birds*
- *conserve the important network of drainage ditches and bank-side habitats and woodlands as semi natural habitats.*
- *encourage practices which preserve winter feeding grounds of geese and swans*
- *monitor levels of water abstraction to retain key wetland habitats*
- *monitor water quality, particularly downstream of major industry”*

Enhance the character and wildlife value of water courses environs

- *“encourage the retention and improvement of riparian habitats, particularly in areas where watercourses are intensively managed*
- *restrict surface water run-off from new developments*
- *explore options for introducing meanders, ox-bows, reed beds and other areas of open water and riparian buffer zones to maximise habitat value and minimise the impacts of water borne pollutants”*

Enhance the character and landscape setting of settlements

- *“careful siting, design and the use of local materials is essential in this open, flat landscape where most development is likely to be prominent*
- *encourage natural regeneration and avoid the use of non-native species in gardens and in the vicinity of settlements*
- *limit tree planting to areas where there is established tree cover*
- *avoid tall or vertical structures”*

Restore the relict mosslands

- *raise local water tables and seal the margins of the remaining relict mosslands by blocking existing drainage channels*

2.3.11 Within this Landscape Type, the assessment identifies the Site as lying within LCT 16 c: Martin Mere and southwest Mosses described below:

“This landscape character area occurs in pockets on the West Lancashire South West Plain, consistent with the deposits of peat. It is a relatively new Mosses landscape, being more recently drained than the Tarleton Mosses to the north. The area is confined by the urban form of Southport to the west and to the east and south by the Coastal Plain of Ormskirk and Chorley. It is an arable landscape of large geometric fields, geometric woodlands and small villages. Although there is much modern built development, there is important evidence of pre-drainage occupation. This occupation, along with the windmill and pumping sites, are important archaeological and historical sites. The dominant built material is red brick. There are several wetlands and meres which are of great importance ecologically; Martin Mere is a popular visitor attraction for bird watching and the area is an important winter feeding ground for over-wintering birds.”

2.3.12 Landscape Character Area (LCA) 16e, the Tarleton Mosses is situated to the north east of the Site and is described below

“This distinctive area of reclaimed moss, located to the north-east of Southport, is distinguished by its dense settlement and abundance of glass houses. It is defined to the north by the more recently enclosed Ribble estuary coastal plain and to the south by the A565(T). It is a highly productive area of market gardening; green houses indicate intensive market gardening and exploitation of the rich peat deposits. Built development is dominated by modern bungalows which have extended along banked roads between the older

*settlements of Tarleton, Banks and Beconsall. These older settlements are located on low ridges and contain evidence of a long settled history. Further from the smallholdings and green houses are arable fields separated by ditches and fences. Shelter belts are important to local wildlife, as are the roadside hedges, which contain views from the narrow roads into the flat surrounding landscape..*⁸

- 2.3.13 LCA 15b: Longton – Bretherton Coastal Plain** lies to the northeast of the Site and is one of the Character Areas within the LCT 15: The Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain LCT is generally below 50m and is described below:

*“...,gently undulating or flat lowland farmland divided by ditches in West Lancashire and by low clipped hedges elsewhere. The Fylde landscape in particular is characterised by a high density of small marl pit field ponds. Many hedgerows have been removed to give very large fields, open road verges and long views. Although woodland cover is generally very low, these views are punctuated by small deciduous secondary woodlands, mostly in the form of shelter belts or estate plantations; they provide a backdrop to views. The history of the area as an arable landscape is reflected in the farm buildings, particularly the highly distinctive red brick barns with brickwork detailing. Settlement is relatively dense in this lowland landscape; clustered red brick farm buildings, hamlets, rural villages and historic towns are all present. Older farm sites and red brick barns are often surrounded by recent development and the many converted barns now provide characterful homes. There is a dense infrastructure network; meandering roads connect the farms and villages while major roads and motorways provide a fast route across the landscape, linking major towns.”*⁹

- 2.3.14 LCA 15b the Longton-Bretherton Coastal Plain** is described as:

*The Longton landscape character area lies close to the south-western urban fringes of Preston. The proximity to a large urban centre has influenced landscape character. The network of minor lanes is dominated by dense ribbon development and the A 59(T), now a dual carriageway, links the former villages of Hutton, Longton, Walmer Bridge and Much Hoole. Red brick is the dominant built material in these areas. The agricultural landscape is influenced by urban fringe elements such as schools, colleges, nurseries, glass houses, hotels, horse paddocks, communication masts and electricity pylons; the network of hedgerows and hedgerow oaks is gradually being eroded by these uses. The village of Bretherton has remained separate and therefore displays a more traditional character; a former windmill lies on its western edge.”*¹⁰

- 2.3.15 LCA 15c - Croston-Mawdesley Coastal Plain** to the east of the Site is described as:

The sandstone which underlies this character area exerts a strong Mawdesley influence over the landscape; it is a gently undulating agricultural landscape with steep sided shallow valleys and hedged fields which support rich pasture or arable crops. The landscape is relatively well wooded, with small farm woods and wooded valleys, for example at Yarrow Valley Park. Field hedges are notable for their hedgerow oaks and high proportion of holly.

⁸ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 96.

⁹ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 89

¹⁰ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 91.

Country halls, moated farms and designed landscapes provide historic and cultural links. Red brick is used throughout the area; the subdued tones of the older brick houses and farmsteads are well integrated within the landscape. Villages are traditionally clustered, but show signs of rapid expansion with ribbon development. New housing on the outskirts of settlements, which is often built of imported bricks, creates a harsh edge to villages when viewed from the surrounding countryside. Where screen planting is attempted it often incorporates alien plant species, which further urbanises the attractive rural setting. In addition to its historic rural agricultural land use, the landscape has more recently been influenced by urban fringe activities such as nurseries, schools, camp sites, hotels, equestrian centres, golf courses, traffic and built development, which indicate its proximity to the western edge of Chorley. Urbanising influences such as kerbs and lighting are increasingly evident on major roads.¹¹

2.3.16 LCA 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom-Rufford to the south of the Site is described below:

"The undulating lowland farmland around Ormiskirk is characterised by Rufford large fields and red brick built farms which reflect the arable agriculture typical of the area. Old red brick barns with diamond shaped detailing on the end walls are particularly characteristic of the area; many can be seen scattered amongst the residential streets of newer settlements. There are a number of designed landscapes associated with large houses, such as Rufford Old and New Halls, Scarisbrick Hall, Lathom Hall, Blythe Hall and Moor Hall, which provides some enclosure to an otherwise open landscape. This area is relatively elevated and there are some long views over the adjacent flat mosslands. The area has good conditions for wind power and wind powered corn mills, now disused or converted to private residences, are a feature of this landscape character area."¹²

2.3.17 LCA 17a: the Clifton and Hutton Marsh is one of two Landscape Character Areas within the Enclosed Coastal Marsh landscape type and is situated to the north of the Tarleton Mosses. It is described below:

"Reclaimed and relatively recently enclosed marsh, located to the west of Preston, separated from the unenclosed salt marshes of the Ribble Estuary by sea dykes. Large geometric pastoral and arable fields are drained by numerous parallel ditches which produce a regimented, productive landscape. Fields are bounded by low clipped thorn hedgerows and tree cover is restricted to narrow linear plantations which function as shelter belts. There is a feeling of isolation with straight dead-end tracks ending at isolated farm houses which are constructed from a mixture of materials, but red brick is the most common. Where seas defences allow some inundation, and where agricultural practices are not intensive, areas of wet marsh exist alongside intensive agriculture, for example at Newton, Freckleton and Lea Marsh which are attractive to birdlife. The grasslands are of international importance for feeding wild geese and swans. A large landfill site is located at Clifton Marsh."¹³

2.3.18 The documents outlined above, together with the Site appraisal, have been utilised to establish the baseline conditions for the Site and its surroundings in order to complete this assessment.

¹¹ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 91

¹² Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 91

¹³ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Lancashire County Council, December 2000. Page 98

2.4 Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development in Lancashire

2.4.1 Lovejoy was commissioned by Lancashire County Council together with Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Councils in November 2004 to prepare strategic guidance on the sensitivity of Lancashire's landscapes to wind energy developments.

2.4.2 Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development in the LCT 16 : the Mosslands and more specifically within LCA 16C: the Martin Mere and South West Mosses (where the Site is located) is considered **Low** and small, medium and possibly larger scale wind energy developments are considered appropriate. The note for LCA 16C includes the following:

"This is an open landscape of almost relentlessly flat topography occupied by large fields of intensive crop production and improved pasture divided into a geometric pattern by ditches and geometric woodlands. This scale and pattern indicate a reduced sensitivity.

The low relief ensures that the area does not provide a backdrop to adjacent areas, instead comprising an extended visual continuum.

*There are a number of detractors within the landscape including overhead power lines roads, scattered development of modern housing, new built development and industry plus views to urban areas and urban fringe activities."*¹⁴

2.4.3 For comparison, LCT 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh is also assessed as having a **Low** Sensitivity and LCT 15: Coastal Plain is assessed as having a **Moderate-Low** Sensitivity.

2.5 Statutory Designations

Scheduled Monuments

2.5.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1.

2.5.2 There are 11 Scheduled Monuments within the 10km Study Area of the Site, the closest of which is Rufford Moated Site along A59 Liverpool Road approximately 1.56km south of the Site.

Listed Buildings

2.5.3 There are no Listed Buildings within the Site as seen on Figure 6 Visual Receptors in Appendix 1.

2.5.4 There are 569 Listed Buildings within the 10km Study Area. The closest Listed Building to the Site are:

¹⁴ Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Developments in Lancashire, Lovejoy for Lancashire County Council, February 2005.

- Grade II Listed base of former cross at north corner of junction with Lock Lane and Liverpool Old Road, List Entry Number: 1031362, located approximately 300m west of the Site.
- Grade II Listed Bank Bridge is a public road bridge over the River Douglas. Dated 1821 on keystone on south side. Large rock-faced blocks of sandstone. Three-span; segmental arches, with rusticated voussoirs on the south side, List Entry: 1073123, located approximately 560m to the north of the Site.
- Grade II Listed Bank Bridge Warehouse, List Entry:1361863, located approximately 565m to the north of the Site.
- Grade II* Listed Bank Hall, Bretherton, List Entry:1362113, located approximately 578m to the northeast of the Site.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 2.5.5 There are no SSSIs within the Site, as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1.
- 2.5.6 There are 7 SSSIs within the 10km Study Area. The closest SSSI to the Site is Mere Sands Wood, located approximately 2.75km southwest of the Site.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 2.5.7 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1.
- 2.5.8 There are three Registered Parks and Gardens within the 10km Study Area. The closest Registered Parks and Gardens to the Site is Worden Hall Park south of Leyland, located approximately 7.2km northeast of the Site.

Conservation Areas

- 2.5.9 There are no conservation areas within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1.
- 2.5.10 There are six Conservation Areas within the 10km Study Area. The closest Conservation Area to the Site is Bretherton, located approximately 1.2km northeast of the Site. Croston Conservation area is situated 2km to the southeast of the Site.

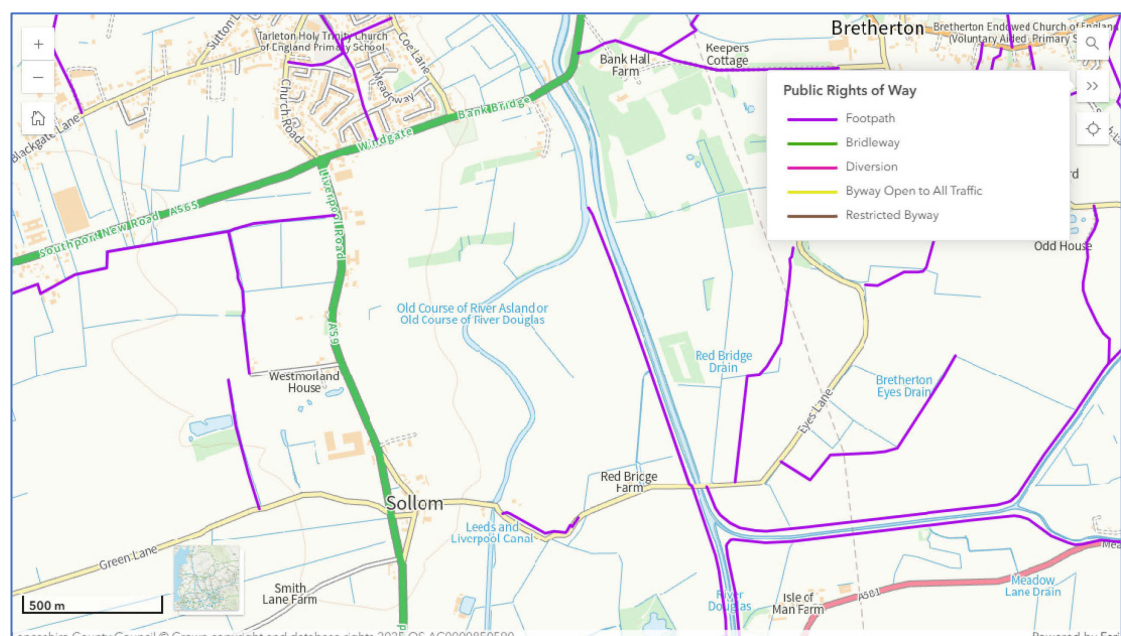
Environmental Designations

- 2.5.11 **Local Nature Reserve (LNR)** – There are no Local Nature Reserves within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1. The closest Local Nature Reserve to the Site is Longton Brickcroft, located 5.3km northeast of the Site.
- 2.5.12 **National Nature Reserve (NNR)** – There are no National Nature Reserves within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1. The closest National Nature Reserve is Ribble Estuary, located approximately 7km northwest of the Site.
- 2.5.13 **Ancient Woodland** – There are no Ancient Woodlands located within the Site as seen on Figure 5 Landscape Receptors in Appendix 1. There are 13 Ancient Woodlands within the 10km Study Area of the Site. The closest Ancient Woodland is Croston Big Wood, located approximately 3.5km southeast of the Site.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- 2.5.14 The PRoW connections within the study area are clustered around settlements, connecting them to local roads. The PRoW pattern to the southeast of the Site is in grid-like format, crossing the landscape in straight lines.
- 2.5.15 There are no PRoW crossing through the Site as seen on Figure 6: Visual Receptors in Appendix 1. The eastern boundary of the Site is partly bordered by Footpath FP0906023 which follows an embankment to the River Douglas. It does not officially connect to Bank Bridge to the north however a permissive route from Bank Bridge follows the Leeds to Liverpool Canal to the west of the Site to Lock Lane. (refer to extract from Lancashire Definitive Map below).

Extract from Lancashire Definitive Map



- 2.5.16 Eyes Lane, directly south of the Site, is also a National Cycle Network Route that connects the A59 and Longton Bypass junction to the north of Much Hoole, to bridge crossing A565 Southport New Road at Mere Brow.

Green Belt

- 2.5.17 The Site is located within the Merseyside and Greater Manchester Green Belt. Green Belt is not a landscape designation by definition and is, subject to a separate but related landscape and visual assessment approach based on policy tests and the five Green Belt Purposes: to check urban sprawl, prevent towns from merging, safeguard the countryside, preserve the character of historic towns, and assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the use of derelict urban land.

2.6 Landscape Resource and Contribution of the Site to Landscape Character

Landscape Fabric of the Site (Landscape Features)

- 2.6.1 Landscape Fabric is the tangible landscape elements within the site itself. The Site is located to the south of Tarleton and the A59 main road between Southport to the west and Preston to the north east. The Site consists of a large tract of agricultural land divided by two ditches to form three parcels of land. The Site is situated between the Leeds Liverpool Canal to the west and the River Douglas to the east. The Site is bare of any vertical features, with trees and scrub primarily located within the Site boundaries. The Site is visually open but physically contained between the canal and the River Douglas. It is connected to settlements by Eyes Lane directly south of the Site. Red Bridge Farm to the south of the Site is a relatively new residential property with open views over the Site and Barrowford House is situated to the southwest of the Site and is set within a well contained large plot with mature boundary vegetation.

Landuse

- 2.6.2 The Site is currently in agricultural land use, specifically arable farming in rotation (for example winter wheat, onions, potatoes). The Site is accessed from a surfaced track near Tarleton Bridge on the A59 from the north (Bank Bridge) and to the south (Eyes Lane). The total site area is 39.7ha.
- 2.6.3 An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Assessment has been undertaken for the Site which indicates that the Site comprises Grade 1 (7%), Grade 2 (60%), and Grade 3B land (33%); there is no Grade 3A on the Site. The distribution of these grades within the Site has influenced the location of the solar area - 84.44% of this (10ha) is located on Grade 3B land, with the balance (1.8ha - 15.56%) being on Grade 2 land. The ALC Report forms part of the Planning Application.

- 2.6.4 There is pedestrian access from Lock Lane and Sollom Lane near Lock Bridge to the southwest, and from Footpath (FP0906023) at the junction with Eyes Lane, near Red Bridge to the southeast.

Topography and Drainage

- 2.6.5 The Site is located on low lying land at approximately 4.5m AOD. The Site is flat with land gently rising to the west towards Sollom. An embankment to the River Douglas provides a flood defence on the eastern side of the Site.
- 2.6.6 A full topographical survey of the Site has been undertaken¹⁵. The Site forms part of the lower flood plain of the River Douglas and appears flat and level; however, there is a slight fall from approximately 6m AOD from the north end to 4.5m AOD at the south end by Eyes Lane of 1.5m. The main field has been regularly ploughed for arable crops, and within this area there are occasional low spots (hollows) which collect water.
- 2.6.7 The Environment Agency Flood Map for Planning indicates that the majority of the Site falls within Flood Zone 3, however isolated sections to the north and west fall within Flood Zone 2. The mapping shows that the majority of the Site benefits from protection from the existing flood defences along the River Douglas.

Vegetation Cover

- 2.6.8 There is no prominent vegetation within the Site and vegetation is primarily located to the Site boundaries.
- 2.6.9 With reference to the Arboricultural Survey¹⁶, the vegetation within the Site is sparse with a few isolated alders near the canal to the west and along watercourses. A linear row of ash trees, all suffering from ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), follow the western bank of the River Douglas to the north of the Site leading to Bank Bridge.
- 2.6.10 Newly planted species rich native hedgerows and broadleaved tree belts have been recently planted to the boundaries of the Site as part of the advanced planting for the scheme to contribute to the screening and setting of the development.
- 2.6.11 Tree cover surrounding the Site is sparse and is primarily surrounding properties and farmsteads with a few prominent woodlands in the surrounding landscape northwest of the Site which separates the Site from Bretherton.

Recreational Resource

¹⁵ *Topographical Survey of Land South of Bank Bridge (Drawings 22G186 / 001-005) Survey Operations* (September 2022)

¹⁶ Arboricultural Survey, Ascerta, August 2025.

- 2.6.12 Footpath FP0906023 follows the embankment to the River Douglas between Red Bridge on Eyes Lane to the south towards Bank Bridge to the north.
- 2.6.13 A permissive towpath follows the Leeds to Liverpool Canal (Rufford Branch) to the western boundary of the Site connecting from Strand Bridge on Lock Lane to the south and Footpath FP0906023 to the east before heading north to Bank Bridge.

Contribution to Landscape Character

LCT 16 Mosslands

- 2.6.14 The Site within the Mosslands is open in character with views towards the edge of Tarleton and its church spire to the north and long ranging views to distant Anglezarke Moor to the southeast. Woodland blocks form a sense of enclosure in places forming wooded skylines to the flat landscape. The wider landscape within the Mosslands is characterised by geometric field boundaries defined by straight raised drainage ditches and dykes which divide and drain the moss landscape – a peatland habitat with unique flora like sphagnum moss and club moss associated with the peatlands. The Site's more organic shape, especially to the west is derived from the Leeds to Liverpool Canal which was formerly the Strine River. Vertical elements particularly electricity pylons are notable in the landscape, which contribute to an industrialising influence within this part of the LCT.
- 2.6.15 Desk and field surveys have been undertaken to establish the baseline conditions of the Site itself, the 'fabric' of the landscape. Features, elements, combinations of elements and less tangible attributes such as the aesthetic qualities of the Site have been considered. These attributes have been assessed against criteria that indicate the value of the landscape as set out within LI Advice Note TGN 02/12 including: Natural Heritage; Cultural Heritage; Landscape Condition; Associations; Distinctiveness; Recreation; Perceptual (Scenic); Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity) and Functional. Other criteria include replaceable / substitutable, frequency and dominance of incongruous elements, importance placed on the Site by stakeholders, local accessibility to the Site and its role in wider pattern of accessibility and its importance at a local, national or international level, e.g. National Landscapes or National Parks.
- 2.6.16 In light of the above, the value of the receiving landscape within the Mosslands is considered to be of **Medium value**. This is driven by the fact it is not designated, yet contains some special qualities which are relatively unique for the area.
- 2.6.17 The ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies is referred to as Landscape Susceptibility.

- 2.6.18 As such the susceptibility of this landscape to accommodate the development is considered **Medium**. This is where the landscape character, characteristics and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be an overall landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement as the area is considered ordinarily attractive countryside. This recognises that the wind turbine, as a tall vertical structure, would be a visible new feature within the open and flat landscape which offers little screening to vertical elements such as pylons and turbines; while the proposed solar array would be easily absorbed into the landscape.
- 2.6.19 The judgement on landscape sensitivity is based on consideration of both the landscape receptor's value and its susceptibility to change arising from the Scheme. The Medium Value and Medium Susceptibility of the landscape are combined to lead to a **Medium Sensitivity**. This is often described as ordinary countryside where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be medium to high landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

LCA 15: Coastal Plain

- 2.6.20 The Coastal Plain landscape to the east of the Site is a large-scale exposed landscape of gently undulating lowland occupied by large geometric arable fields and market gardening. There are a number of settlements within the landscape and scattered farms and hamlets outside these. The low relief ensures that the area does not provide a backdrop to adjacent areas, instead comprising an extended visual continuum which forms the landscape setting to the east. There has historically been use of wind energy in this area for pumping and grinding corn. In addition there are a number of other detractors within the landscape including overhead power lines and water towers.
- 2.6.21 In light of the above, the value of the receiving landscape within the Coastal Plain is considered to be of **Medium value**. This is driven by the fact it is not designated, yet contains some special qualities which are relatively unique for the area.
- 2.6.22 The ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies is referred to as Landscape Susceptibility.
- 2.6.23 As such, the susceptibility of this landscape to accommodate the development is considered **Medium**. This is where the landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, including the undulating nature of the landscape, there would be a medium landscape capacity or some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.
- 2.6.24 The judgement on landscape sensitivity is based on consideration of both the landscape receptor's value and its susceptibility to change arising from the Scheme. The Medium

Value and Medium Susceptibility of the landscape are combined to lead to a **Medium Sensitivity**. This is often described as ordinary countryside where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be some landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

LCA 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh

- 2.6.25 Enclosed Coastal Marsh is an open, exposed coastal landscape of almost relentlessly flat topography occupied by large cultivated fields and divided into a geometric pattern by parallel ditches, low clipped hedges and narrow linear shelterbelts. The low relief ensures that the area does not provide a backdrop to adjacent areas, instead comprising an extended visual continuum to distant elements which are often detractors. Although settled, it retains a sense of isolation due to flatness and exposure and absence of elements of a “human scale”.
- 2.6.26 In light of the above, the value of the receiving landscape within the Enclosed Coastal Marsh is considered to be of **Medium value**. This is driven by the fact it is not designated, yet contains some special qualities (such as the open peat landscape, geometric drainage and long views) which are relatively unique for the area.
- 2.6.27 The ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies is referred to as Landscape Susceptibility.
- 2.6.28 As such the susceptibility of this landscape to accommodate the development is considered **Medium**. This is where the landscape character, characteristics and elements, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, would have a medium landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement as the area is considered ordinarily attractive countryside.
- 2.6.29 The judgement on landscape sensitivity is based on consideration of both the landscape receptor’s value and its susceptibility to change arising from the Scheme. The Medium Value and Medium Susceptibility of the landscape are combined to lead to a **Medium Sensitivity**. This is often described as ordinary countryside where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be high landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

2.7 Visual Resource

- 2.7.1 The visual baseline establishes the areas from where the new components of the development can be seen, who can see them, the places where those who see them would be affected and the nature of views and visual amenity. This includes the identification of key receptors and viewpoints which represent such receptors.

- 2.7.2 The visual assessment aims to determine from which points the Proposed Development can be seen in the surrounding landscape; this is known as the visual envelope. Once determined, a series of key representative viewpoints are chosen (i.e. areas within the visual envelope from where it may be possible to see the Proposed Development from publicly accessible viewpoints), such as residential areas, public open spaces, PRoW / public footpaths and roads.
- 2.7.3 Visual effects relate to changes in available views and visual amenity of the landscape and the effect of those changes on people, including:
- The direct effects of the Proposed Development on the content and character of views and visual amenity through the intrusion or obstruction and/or the change or loss of existing elements.
 - The overall effect on visual amenity, be it degradation or enhancement.
- 2.7.4 The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in the view and visual amenity is related to the activity they are engaged in and the extent to which their attention is focused on the views and visual amenity at that location. Receptors most sensitive to change are likely to include: residents at home; people, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views and visual amenity; visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views and visual amenity of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience; communities where views and visual amenity contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.
- 2.7.5 Travelers on ordinary road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of medium susceptibility to change. Where travel that involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views and visual amenity is likely to be a high susceptibility to change.
- 2.7.6 Visual receptors likely to be the least sensitive to change include: people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views and visual amenity of the landscape; people at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although there may on occasion be cases where views and visual amenity are an important contributor to the setting and to the quality of working life).
- 2.7.7 Consideration of the study area, via desk research and field survey, has identified locations from which the Site and the proposed development would potentially be visible.
- 2.7.8 Due to the open nature of the landscape with wide panoramic views, as well as the nature of the development. particularly the wind turbine, the visibility of the development is potentially far reaching.
- 2.7.9 A series of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies (**Figures 7 -18 in Appendix 1**) was developed to guide and inform further site work for the visual assessment work. A 10km study area was used to review the Site and the surrounding area.

- 2.7.10 There are three ZTV series showing bare earth mapping, screened mapping and blue-sky mapping (with all exclusions) for the following elements of the proposal:
- The wind turbine Tip at 179.8m
 - The wind turbine Hub at 110.64m
 - The Combined Wind Turbine with Tip at 179.8m and Hub at 110.64m
 - The Solar Scheme at 2.5m.
- 2.7.11 The ZTV (including Exclusions mapping (Figures 15-18) suggests the following:
- The built-up area of Tarleton (on higher ground) restricts views towards the Site from the north.
 - Strong woodland blocks associated with Bank Hall Farm and further woodland blocks to the east of the Site restrict near distance views towards the Site.
- 2.7.12 Within the wider countryside:
- As expected, the visibility of the tip is greater than the hub.
 - The visibility of the turbine tapers out towards the east on the built-up fringes of Chorley
 - The nature of the visibility is more interrupted to the southwest and other smaller areas where there are intervening blocks of woodland.
 - The most uninterrupted areas of visibility are to the northwest within the saltmarsh areas of Ribble Estuary within and beyond the 10km Study Area
- 2.7.13 ZTV only provides an indication of potential visibility. It is generated using broad scale data sets and does not take account of general tree cover, hedges or other vegetation, instead focusing on large scale woodland and topography. Accordingly, this draws an exaggerated impression of the extent of visibility.
- 2.7.14 Field study is required to provide a refined understanding of the likely extent of visibility for the proposed array. Current field work has established an area of search of approximately 5km, based on the following factors:
- Due to the nature of the development, the visibility of the wind turbine is potentially large.
 - Visibility from longer distances can be seriously diminished by weather.
 - The visibility of the scheme has been assessed from the most sensitive locations e.g.: from footpaths or tourist attractions and places of interest.
- 2.7.15 Field work, with the assistance of the ZTV has helped to inform the visual envelope and the following specific, representative and illustrative views have been selected for inclusion in the report to illustrate the visual effects of the proposed development. These have also been agreed with the LPA.

- 2.7.16 Photographic viewpoints are shown on **Figure 19 in Appendix 1**, and Illustrative and representative photography are shown on **Figure 20 in Appendix 2 A and 2B**:
- 2.7.17 An additional site visit was undertaken in 2025 to pick up summer photography for a number of viewpoints and an additional Viewpoint from the King Charles Coastal Path to the northeast.
- 2.7.18 Viewpoints were selected to illustrate the types of view that would be experienced from a range of reasonably close-range locations within the study area. These viewpoints are not strictly representative of particular receptors because they have been positioned deliberately to avoid intervening screening. They therefore show a clearer 'worst case scenario' view compared with most views from actual receptor sites. Viewpoint photography has been prepared in accordance with LI TGN 06/19 (Visual Representation) using a full-frame camera with 50 mm lens, to provide verifiable imagery at 1:1 scale.
- 2.7.19 The following Viewpoints are representative of the visibility of the Site from roads and footpaths at various distances from the Site. Not all receptors within the Study area are represented. However, they represent near, middle and long distance views from the north, southeast and west of the Site. The selection of representative viewpoints has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority and are listed below. The 11no. Viewpoints highlighted in **Bold** have been agreed with Chorley District Council to be prepared as photomontages to show the development. These include VPs 6, 7 and 10 from the three bridges (Red Bridge, Strand Bridge, Bank Bridge) near the Site; VP 8 and 15 to the east; VP 14 and VP 17 to the south; VP 12 and 16 to the north; VP 20 to southwest and VP 23 from the King Charles Path to the north.

Near Distance Views 0- 1km

Representative Viewpoint Number	Viewpoint Location	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor and Receptor Type
Viewpoint 1-2	From Towpath along the Leeds to Liverpool Canal	5m West of Site	Users of Permissive Footpath Public-
Viewpoint 3-4	From Footpath 0906023	5m East of Site	Users of Footpath 0906023 Public
Viewpoint 5	From Eyes Lane	100m South of Site	Users of Eyes Lane Residents of Red bridge Farm Public and Residential
Viewpoint 6	From Eyes Lane on Red Bridge	200m Southeast of Site	Users of Eyes Lane (including cyclists) Users of Footpath 0906023 Transport and Public respectively

Viewpoint 7	From Strand Bridge (Sollom Lane) And Footpath FP0906025	25m Southwest of Site	Users of Sollom Lane Residents of Barrowford House and Users of Footpath FP0906025 Transport, Residential and Public respectively
Viewpoint 10	From Listed Bank Bridge, Liverpool Road (A59)	500m North of Site	Pedestrians and motorists on Liverpool Road (A59) Transport
Viewpoint 11	From Liverpool Road A59 and St Mary's Church	620m North of Site	Pedestrians and motorists on Liverpool Road (A59) Users of St Mary's Church Transport and Public respectively

Middle Distance Views 1km to 5km

Representative Viewpoint Number	Viewpoint Location	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor and Receptor Type
Viewpoint 8	From Back Lane, Bretherton	1.1km East of Site	Users of Back Lane, Residents of Back Lane, Bretherton Transport and Residential respectively
Viewpoint 9	From Carr House Lane	1.1km Northeast of Site	Users of Carr House Lane Transport
Viewpoint 12	From Footpath FP0708004	2.5km North of Site	Users of Footpath 0708004 Public
Viewpoint 13	From Holmeswood Road	2.8km Southwest of Site	Users of Holmeswood Road Transport
Viewpoint 14	Black Moor Road	4.2km South of Site	Users of Black Moor Road - Transport
Viewpoint 15	From B5247 over River Lostock and Footpath 0906019	2.3km East of Site	Users of B5247 Users of Footpath 0906019 Transport and Public respectively
Viewpoint 18	From Red Cat Lane	5.5km South of Site	Users of Red Cat Lane Transport
Viewpoint 20	From Martin Mere Wetland Centre	5.2km South of Site	Users of the Wetland Center

			Users of Tarlscough Lane Public and Transport respectively
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Long Distance Views +5km

Representative Viewpoint Number	Viewpoint Location	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor and Receptor Type
Viewpoint 16	From FP0706024	5.7km	Users of FP0706024 Public
Viewpoint 17	From Hunters Hill Quarry car park and Bridleway	7.7km Southwest of Site	Bridleway 0817030b Public
Viewpoint 19	From Course Lane (A5209)	8.6kmSouth of Site	Users of Course Lane Transport
Viewpoint 21	From Freckleton	9.5	Users of FP0505014 Public
Viewpoint 22	From Rivington Road	20km West of Site	Footpath 0920092 Users of Rivington Road Public and Transport respectively
Viewpoint 23	King Charles Path/Dib Road near Hesketh	6.6km North of Site	Users of King Charles Path (FP0810002) Dib Road Public

Summary

- 2.7.20 Due to the nature of the Development and as shown in the ZTV studies in Figures 7 -18 in Appendix 1, the potential visibility of the Turbine extends beyond the 10km Study Area. It should be noted however that the scale of the turbine and clarity of views diminishes with distance due to aerial or atmospheric perspective. This is the effect of the atmosphere has on the appearance of an object as viewed from a distance. As the distance between an object and a viewer increases, the contrast between the object and its background decreases, and the contrast of any markings or details within the object also decreases. The ZTVs do not take account of this aerial perspective and as such provides an exaggerated impression of the extent of visibility.

3 The Proposal

3.1 Overview of Proposals

3.1.1 The Appraisal of the proposed Energy Park has been based upon the proposals illustrated on drawings prepared by Avian Consultation - Landscape Structure Ref:22.522-BCAL-ZZ-00-DR-L-103-2- and the following application documents prepared by GSA:

- 2022-143-002D - Full Proposed Site Layout
- 2022-143-012 - Temporary Work Arrangements
- 2022-143-011E- General Arrangement to Solar Farm
- 2022-143-013A – General Arrangement to Electric Compound
- 2022-143-020C - HV Cable Route to Bretherton
- 2022-143-021 - General Arrangement and Details of HV Cable Route Under River and Road
- 2022-143-022A - Plan on HV Route to Plocks Farm

3.1.2 The planning application for the Site comprises construction and operation of a single wind turbine, solar farm and battery energy storage with associated infrastructure – Asland Walks Energy Park’

3.1.3 The following elements (whilst not an exhaustive list) form key considerations in the assessment:

- a single wind turbine (4.2MW);
- 17,000n solar panels (12MW) covering an area of 11.80ha;
- Battery storage (5MW) providing a combined renewable energy resource of 21.2 MW;
- Energy supply / cable routes to Bretherton and to Plocks Farm
- Creation of Habitat Bank on residual land within the Red Line Boundary:

1.2 The Turbine is located at - E: 346229 / N: 419361 and the height relative to Ordnance Datum and including the effect of the foundation detail) is noted (existing ground level is 4.5m AOD); the turbine tower base level is 0.6m above this, i.e. at g/level 5.10m AOD

HEIGHT	Actual	Height AOD
Wind Turbine Industry Height Reference - 131m		
Foundation Level		5.10m
Tower Height	108.47m	116.27m
Hub Height	110.64m	118.44m
Height to top of nacelle	114.93m	122.73m

Height to tip of blade	179.80m	186.60m
Length of turbine blade	67.87m	

- 3.1.4 The solar array is located on land classified Grade 3b Agricultural Land. Hence utilising the lowest grade land within the Site. The panels have an east-west tilt to maximise and stabilise solar energy throughout the day. The panel dimensions are 2.384m x 1.303m x 40mm thick. The lowest panel height at the edges is 0.9m, allowing for sheep grazing underneath (all wiring and electrics are protected by suitable guarding).
- 3.1.5 The Development also includes the following elements:
- Security fence to perimeter of solar / turbine 1.8m high -Warefence WF-PRO 1000
- Transmission infrastructure outside the AW site including:
- Cable routes - HV cable routes to Bretherton and to Plocks Farm: routes as per GSA Drawing 2022-143-020A; laid in 1m deep trench: lengths TBC
 - Battery Buildings - Bretherton South - new building 12.59m long x 2.92m wide: height 2.6m to eaves / 3.43m to ridge (Ref Bramley Pate General Arrangement Drawing 1255 Sk.0.01A)
 - Bretherton North existing building used to accommodate infrastructure.
- 3.1.6 The layout of the proposed development and associated landscaping has been designed to reflect the character of the Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses Landscape Character Area and has been informed by the Landscape Strategy Guidelines for the LCT 16: Mosslands.
- 3.1.7 The following general landscape opportunities have been applied to the landscape proposals. These are based upon site investigations, landscape character assessment and visual effects considerations. The scheme shown on the Landscape Structure Plan (drawing ref: 22.522-BCAL-ZZ-00-DR-L-102 prepared by BCA Landscape include the following:
- Areas of pasture with areas managed for ground nesting birds, to include wet scrapes and areas for other diversity, e.g. wildflower / long grass habitat for invertebrates (Areas A and B)
 - Solar arrays - neutral grassland (moderate floristic diversity) with low intensity grazing for sheep (Area C)
 - Marginal area in southwest –dedicated to wet grassland, wet scrapes and ponds to encourage amphibians (Area D)
 - NW-SE ditch line – retained as existing (Area E)
 - Land up to Bank Bridge (Area F) developed with scrub / wildflower grassland
 - Boundary along boundary of solar (Area G) -- replication of ‘Flood Bund’ landform using arisings from excavations and to assist with screening of Battery Storage Units (raised above general level at 6m AOD- additional screening of Battery Storage units

through localised scrub (willow / hawthorn)- detail – hedgerow location to consider bat foraging – deter within 61m of turbine blades

- Hedgerow including alder trees, to mitigate potential glint/glare effects to SE (Area H)
- Advance hedgerow planting and linear copse planted 2022/23

1.3 The Scheme also provides Recreational infrastructure including

- Interpretation Hut display point for interpretation of local history, site habitats, energy generation output
- Linear Walk new footpath route along the Strine River / solar site perimeter Eyes Lane Riverside
- Existing footpath network retained Riverside - Eyes Lane-Bank Bridge Towpath Lock Lane-Bank Bridge

3.1.8 The landscape proposals outlined above meet with the aims and objectives of the Lancashire County Council Landscape Character Assessment which identifies the Site within the Landscape Character Area (LCA) 16: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses Landscape Character Area.

4 Identification of Potential Effects

4.1 Potential Effects

- 4.1.1 The determination of the magnitude of landscape change combines an assessment of the size or scale of change likely to be experienced as a result of each effect, the geographical extent of the area likely to be influenced and the duration and reversibility of effects.
- 4.1.2 The judgement on the level of effects is based on combining the sensitivity of the affected resource / receptor (Low / Medium/ High Sensitivity) and the magnitude of change (Large/ Medium/ Small and of an Adverse, Neutral or Beneficial nature) caused by the proposed development. The determination of the magnitude of landscape change combines an assessment of the size or scale of change likely to be experienced as a result of effects, the geographical extent of the area likely to be influenced and the duration and reversibility of effects. The level of effect is described as being Major/Moderate/Minor.
- 4.1.3 The level of the effect is a combination of the Magnitude of changes (as above) and the Sensitivity of the receptor.
- 4.1.4 Effects are assessed during Construction, at Year 1 completion and at Year 15
- 4.1.5 The construction works would take two to four months and, with the exception of the turbine installation and foundations, would be limited to ground works related to the creation of an adequate access track capable of taking articulated vehicles carrying machinery. The table below provides a list of the construction activities to be undertaken together with an appraisal of the level and type of effect anticipated.
- 4.1.6 Effects during Operation Year 1 consider the completed scheme with mitigation planting implemented but yet to be established. By Year 15 proposed tree and hedgerow planting would be well established and would provide screening of infrastructure. Given the height of the turbine, it is considered that mitigation measures would not visually screen views of the turbine unless it is in close proximity to the receptor.

4.2 Potential Landscape Effects

- 4.2.1 Following the baseline landscape appraisal in Section 2, the following landscape receptors have been identified:
- The Landscape fabric of the Site including:
 - Land use
 - Topography and Drainage
 - Trees and Vegetation
 - Recreational Resource
 - The Overall Character of the Site.

4.2.2 As the Landscape Strategy Guidelines for Lancashire are based on the evaluation of Landscape Types within the County, the assessment of effects has been undertaken on the identified Landscape Types within the Study Area with reference to the relevant Landscape Character areas within them as follow:

- LCT 16: Mosslands including:
 - LCA 16c: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses.
 - LCA 16e: The Tarleton Mosses to the northeast of the Site;
- LCT 15: Coastal Plain including:
 - LCA 15b: Longton – Bretherton Coastal Plain to the north
 - LCT 15c: Croston to Mawsley Coastal Plain to the east,
 - LCT 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom Rufford to the south.
- LCT 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh including:
 - LCT 17a: Clifton and Hutton Enclosed Coastal Marsh is to the north.

4.2.3 The assessment of landscape effects is supported by a series of Photographic viewpoints which are shown on Figure 19 in Appendix 1, and representative photography shown Figure 20 in Appendix 2.

4.2.4 The assessment is also supported by illustrative photomontages of the Proposed Development from 11 viewpoints as agreed with the LPA – refer to Appendix 3 which demonstrate the effect of the development on the visual character of the Site and its wider landscape.

- The Landscape fabric of the Site: Viewpoints 1-7
- Landscape Character including:

4.2.5 **LCT 16: Mosslands including:**

LCA 16c: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses; VPs 1-7, 14, 18, 20

LCA 16e: The Tarleton Mosses to the northeast of the Site;

LCT 15: Coastal Plain including:

LCA 15b: Longton – Bretherton Coastal Plain to the north; VPs 8-12, 16, 23

LCT 15c: Croston to Mawsley Coastal Plain to the east, VP 15

LCT 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom Rufford to the south; VP 13, 19

LCT 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh including:

LCT 17a: Clifton and Hutton Enclosed Coastal Marsh is to the north, VP 21, 23

Landscape Fabric of the Site - Land use

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.6 Land use within the Site is currently agricultural and is typical of the wider landscape. It has a Medium Sensitivity to change.
- 4.2.7 The distribution of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grades has influenced the proposal to design and locate the proposed solar arrays to an area of land in the southwest where the soils are classified as “3B”. 84.44% of the solar area (10ha) is located on Grade 3B land, with the balance (1.8ha - 15.56%) being on Grade 2 land.
- 4.2.8 All aspects of the proposed development (except the access routes) are located on arable land and will change to grassland under the solar PV panels or will be maintained outside of the PV panels as areas of grassland for conservation.
- 4.2.9 During the Construction Phase of the proposed development there would be temporary disruption to the Site. The land use changes would be restricted to within the Site boundary and would be temporary in nature, approximately 2-4 months in duration. The land use changes within the Site will result in a **Medium** magnitude of change of an Adverse nature.
- 4.2.10 Extensive landscape mitigation measures are embedded within the proposed development to improve the character of the landscape within the Site which will change its land use. The change in land use to grassland with panels, areas of new woodland and hedgerows would result in a **Small** magnitude of change of a neutral nature initially at Year 1 of operation.
- 4.2.11 By Year 15, once mitigation planting has matured, the magnitude of change on land use as a result of the maturing vegetation including new woodland, hedgerows, wet grasslands and new ponds would increase to **Medium** and would be Beneficial.
- 4.2.12 During the lifespan of the proposed development (circa 40 years) the proposed development will result in a net gain for biodiversity across the Site and support areas of grassland for wildlife. Although, the land associated with the Solar Scheme is likely to return to its agricultural land use following decommissioning of the Site, it is anticipated that new areas of grasslands and many of the landscape improvements will be retained as they have been designed to work with the fabric of the Site ensuring no incongruous features with the removal of the proposed development and ensuring the land is able to return to farmable land.
- 4.2.13 The landscape effects of the Proposed Development on land use within the Site is summarised below:

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate/Minor Neutral

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate Beneficial

Landscape Fabric of the Site – Topography and Drainage

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.14 The topography of the Site is flat with an embankment to the east along the River Douglas which forms a flood defence. There are a number of ditches within the Site which provide drainage to the Site which broadly divide the Site into three parcels. The Sensitivity of the Site's Topography and Drainage is considered to be **Medium**.
- 4.2.15 The Flood Risk Assessment requires that all sensitive and vulnerable electrical equipment needs to be placed at a height of 6m above ordnance datum (AOD) to prevent any damage during times of flooding. This requires invertors to be mounted at the high point of the shallow inverted 'V' of the solar panel framework, with the batteries (contained in their steel containers) to be raised at 1.5m above the current ground level. This will prevent the possibility of flood damage to the renewable equipment in the case of a breach in the river embankments.
- 4.2.16 During the construction phase there will be localized changes to the topography within the Site as a result of the creation of wet scrapes and ponds in Area D in the south west of the Site and wet scrapes in Area B to the northwest of the Site as shown on the Landscape Structure Plan (drawing ref: 22.522-BCAL-ZZ-00-DR-L-102 prepared by BCA Landscape). The arisings from these earth works and the arisings of the foundation of the wind turbine will be utilized to form three staggered bunds proposed to the northwest boundary of the solar scheme. There will be no change to ground levels for the construction of the solar arrays (Area C) and the wind turbine. Construction effects would be temporary in nature and would have a **Medium** adverse effect on the topography and drainage within the Site.
- 4.2.17 The bunds replicate the flood defences of the embankment to the River Douglas and would assist in screening the Battery Storage units (raised above generally ground level to 6m AOD). The proposed swales and the new bunds, as well as the arisings of the foundation of the wind turbine would maintain spoil within the Site and limit the transportation off site. By Year 1 all earthworks would be completed, and the magnitude of change would reduce to **Small** and Neutral in nature as the changes become absorbed into the topography of the Site. There would be no further changes to the topography and drainage of the Site, and the effects would remain **Small** and Neutral in nature by Year 15.
- 4.2.18 The landscape effects of the Proposed Development on Topography and Drainage within the Site is summarised below:

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Neutral

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Neutral

Landscape Fabric of the Site - Trees and Vegetation

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.19 There is limited vegetation within the Site and vegetation is primarily located to the Site boundaries. Newly planted species rich native hedgerows and broadleaved tree belts have been recently planted to the boundaries of the Site as part of the advanced planting for the scheme to contribute to the screening and setting of the development. However, they currently contribute very little to the character of the Site and the baseline condition of the Site is considered without this planting as it has been established as part of the Scheme. The sensitivity of trees and vegetation within the Site is **Medium**.
- 4.2.20 During the Construction Phase of the proposed development there would be temporary disruption to the Site. The landscape changes would be restricted to within the Site boundary and would be temporary in nature, approximately 2-4 months in duration. The Proposed Development retains all existing vegetation surrounding the PV panels, including the advance planting to the Site's boundaries. Retained trees will be protected during construction in line with BS5837:2012. However, there is some tree removal required to accommodate access to the Site and the Cable Route Corridor (refer to AIA prepared by Ascerta for full details). As such the magnitude of change on trees and vegetation within the Site would be **Low** and neutral in nature
- 4.2.21 Extensive landscape mitigation measures are embedded within the proposed development to improve the character of the landscape. The extensive areas of advance planting would be starting to establish resulting in a Low Magnitude of change of a Beneficial nature at the Site level. New hedgerows and tree planting across the Site will offset the tree removals required to accommodate the access and cable route corridor. This will have some beneficial effect initially as the planting has been planted prior to completion and the magnitude of change would be **Low** and beneficial at Year 1 of operation.
- 4.2.22 By Year 15, once mitigation planting has matured, there would be a significant increase in the level of trees and woodland across the Site. The magnitude of change would increase to **Medium** beneficial across the Site as a result of extensive new planting.
- 4.2.23 During the lifespan of the proposed development (circa 40 years) the proposed development will result in a net gain for biodiversity across the Site. Although, the Site is likely to return to its agricultural land use following decommissioning of the Site, it is anticipated that the extensive areas of trees and woodland would be retained as they have been designed to work with the fabric of the Site ensuring no incongruous features with the removal of the proposed development and ensuring the land is able to return to farmable land.
- 4.2.24 The landscape effects of the Proposed Development on trees and vegetation within the Site is summarised below:
- Level of effect at Construction: Moderate / Minor Neutral**
- Level of effect at Year 1: Moderate / Minor Beneficial**
- Level of effect at Year 15 years: Moderate Beneficial**

Landscape Fabric of the Site - Recreational Resource

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.25 Footpath FP0906023 follows the embankment of the River Douglas between Red Bridge on Eyes Lane to the south towards Bank Bridge to the north. A permissive towpath follows the Leeds to Liverpool Canal (Rufford Branch) to the western boundary of the Site connecting from Strand Bridge on Lock Lane to the south and Bank bridge to the north. The visual effects of the development on these footpaths are fully assessed in section 4.5 of this report. In landscape terms, these two footpaths are an important local landscape resource which provide informal recreational opportunities for the local community and visitors. They have a **Medium** sensitivity to the change proposed by the Development.
- 4.2.26 Both footpaths follow the boundaries of the Site and are to be retained and enhanced. However, there would be temporary construction effects to the permissive path because of the delivery of the turbine from the north of the Site. This will also affect the Grade II Bank Bridge as temporary dismantling of part of the bridge is required to manoeuvre the turbine into the Site (refer to the Heritage Assessment prepared by Lanpro for full details of the effect of the development on heritage assets). There would be no direct effects to Footpath FP0906023 apart from the temporary loss of its connectivity to Bank Bridge. As such there would be a **Large** magnitude of change on a localised area of the Site during construction for a very short duration. Delivery of the solar panels is from the south and would have no effect on the recreational resource of the Site.
- 4.2.27 The Development proposed significant measure to mitigate the effects of the development through the advanced planting and to provide enhancement measures for recreational benefit. This includes an interpretation hut display point for interpretation of local history, site habitats, an information about the energy generation output of the Scheme. By Year 1, the advance planting would be starting to establish however this will have a limited effect initially and the Magnitude of change would remain **Large** and of an adverse nature on the character of the footpaths. There would also be a change in the visual experience of users of the footpaths as noted in Section 4.5.
- 4.2.28 The character of the footpaths would become progressively more enclosed as the advanced planting matures. The effect of planting in screening the solar scheme and the wind turbine would be more effective to users of the towpath to the west, as the mitigation planting is close to the user and the turbine is set back. From Footpath FP0906023 to the east, the mitigation planting would be less effective as the view is slightly elevated from the embankment and is in close proximity to the turbine. In addition, there is no mitigation directly around the turbine base. There are also longer distance views where the turbine would be visible above and beyond the advance planting which would change the character of the landscape associated with the footpaths. It is recognised that although the Proposed Development provides recreational benefits, including an interpretation hut, the proposals would change the character and experience of the Site for users of these two Footpaths. By Year 15 the magnitude of change would reduce to **Medium**.

- 4.2.29 The landscape effects of the Proposed Development on the recreational resources of the Site is summarised below:

Level of effect at Construction: Major / Moderate Adverse

Level of effect at Year 1: Major / Moderate Adverse

Level of effect at Year 15 years: Moderate Adverse

Overall Landscape Fabric of the Site

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.30 The Site is open in character with views towards the edge of Tarleton and its church spire to the north and long ranging views to distant Anglezarke Moor to the southeast. Woodland blocks in the wider landscape form a sense of enclosure in places forming wooded skylines to the flat landscape. The wider landscape is characterised by geometric field boundaries defined by straight raised drainage ditches and dykes which divide and drain the moss landscape – a peatland habitat with unique flora like sphagnum moss and club moss associated with the peatlands. The Site's more organic shape, especially to the west is derived from the Leeds to Liverpool Canal which was formerly the Strine River. Vertical elements particularly electricity pylons are notable in the landscape. The Sensitivity of the Site is **Medium**.
- 4.2.31 All aspects of the proposed development are located on arable land (except the access route and Cable Corridor Route) and will change to grassland under the solar PV panels or will be maintained outside of the PV panels as areas of grassland and wet grassland for conservation. During construction, there would be a temporary change in land use across the Site as the Site changes from large scale open arable fields to solar infrastructure above emerging grassland with a large tract of land to the north utilized for ecological mitigation. All existing vegetation is to be retained including the advance planting and would be protected during construction in line with BS5837:2012. The character of the Site will change to a large-scale solar development within the existing landscape framework. With the development of a medium scale solar development and a single large wind turbine in combination with extensive mitigation measure the overall magnitude of change on the character of the Site during construction would be **Medium** and adverse in nature.
- 4.2.32 Upon completion the turbine would be a visible new feature of the Site. There would be a significant increase in native hedgerows and broadleaved tree belts to the boundaries of the Site. Further native planting is proposed on the three staggered bunds to the north western boundary of the solar scheme to provide landscape structure which links to existing vegetation. The bunds are designed to replicate the flood defences of the embankment to the River Douglas and would assist in screening the Battery Storage units (raised above generally ground level to 6m AOD).
- 4.2.33 The proposed mitigation measures ensure that the important landscape features that contribute to the character of the Site and the wider landscape are retained and improved

through mitigation. The footpaths would be retained and enhanced and new recreational facilities provided on Site. The overall magnitude of change on the landscape fabric of the Site with regard to the proposed development at Year 1 will reduce to **Small** and neutral in nature as the effect of the mitigation measure would be limited initially.

4.2.34 The magnitude of change on the Landscape Fabric of the of the Site will reduce to **Small** and beneficial in nature by Year 15 when proposed mitigation has matured. This is driven by the extensive improvements to the existing landscape fabric of the Site which will improve the character and structure of the Site in the long term. However, it is noted that the visual perception of the Site with the addition of the wind turbine, being a new feature of the landscape would change the visual perception of the Site and the character of the wider landscape as described further below.

4.2.35 The landscape effects of the Proposed Development on the overall character of the Ste is summarised below:

Level of effect at Construction: Moderate Adverse

Level of effect at Year 1: Moderate / Minor Neutral

Level of effect at Year 15 years: Moderate/Minor Beneficial

Landscape Character of LCT 16 The Mosslands including:

LCA 16c: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses

LCA 16e: The Tarleton Mosses; VPs 1-7, 14, 18, 20

Sensitivity: Medium

4.2.36 The Site is located within the LCA 16e: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses Landscape Character Area as described in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment. It is one of seven-character areas within the Mosslands Landscape Type. LCA 16e: The Tarleton Mosses is situated to the northeast of the Site. The Mosslands occur throughout the lowlands and coincides with the distribution of lowland peat derived from former bogs and mires, typically drained by a network of ditches and supporting intensive agriculture. Relict areas of former natural vegetation are rare. The Landscape Strategy for the Mosslands is to Conserve the distinctive character and landscape structure of the Mosslands. The landscape is not designated and has a Medium Value and susceptibility to the proposed development. With reference to section 2.6, the Sensitivity of the Mosses Landscape Character Type is considered to be **Medium**.

4.2.37 Whilst the Landscape Strategy for the Mosslands is to *'limit development in the Mosslands, particularly that which obscures views of the flat open landscape or which introduces new vertical elements'*, the layout of the proposed development and associated mitigation has been designed to respond to the local character and key characteristics of the area and has been guided by the guidelines for the Mossland Landscape Character Type to ensure that the mitigation proposals integrate well with the

surrounding landscape and help assimilate the Proposed Development into the existing landscape structure over time over time.

- 4.2.38 The Site extends to approximately 39.7ha, within a relatively open flat agricultural landscape of fields, sometimes enclosed by hedgerows and with occasional woodland blocks. The landscape surrounding the Site contains some limited existing vegetation, most of which is to the boundaries of residential properties to the south.
- 4.2.39 During the Construction Phase of the proposed development there would be localised temporary disruption to the Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses Landscape Character Area. The landscape changes would be restricted to within the Site boundary and would be temporary in nature, approximately 2-4 months in duration. The Development retains all existing vegetation including the advance planting that has been undertaken which would be protected during construction. During construction, there would be a change in land use which will be limited to within the Site boundary. The Site will change from an open arable field to solar infrastructure above grassland, or will be maintained outside of the PV panels as areas of grassland for conservation. The change in land use in the context of the Site will result in a Small and Adverse Magnitude of Change on the Mossland LCT.
- 4.2.40 However, the emerging Turbine, creating a new vertical element in the landscape with far ranging visibility, would affect the visual character of the wider landscape within the Mosslands. The visual effects of the Proposed Development from representative views within the Mossland LCT are discussed fully in the following section on Visual Effects. The effect on the visual character of the wider Mosslands would result in a **Medium** and Adverse magnitude of change as the turbine would be a noticeable new feature of the landscape. Away from the immediate Site boundaries it would be visible in part on the horizon in many areas of the landscape. The flat landscape of the Mosses provides open views, but the intermitted woodlands do block views in places. The worst-case scenario of the turbine being visible has hence been assessed.
- 4.2.41 Upon Completion, the site benefits as described above would have little effect on the wider landscape and the wind turbine which cannot be visually mitigated would be a permanent new visual feature of the landscape, seen in conjunction with the overhead power line and pylons present in the landscape. The Magnitude of Change at Year 1 and Year 15 would remain **Medium** and Adverse in nature.
- 4.2.42 The level of landscape effects of the Proposed Development on the character of the Mosslands Landscape Character Type is summarised below:

Level of effect at Construction: Moderate Adverse

Level of effect at Year 1: Moderate Adverse

Level of effect at Year 15 years: Moderate Adverse

Landscape Character LCT 15: Coastal Plain including

LCA 15b: Longton – Bretherton Coastal Plain: Viewpoints 8-12, 16, 23

LCT 15c: Croston to Mawsley Coastal Plain: Viewpoint 15

LCT 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom Rufford: Viewpoint 13 and 19

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.2.43 LCT 15: Coastal Plain includes LCT 15a: Ormiskirk-Lathom Rufford Coastal Plain to the south; LCA 15b: Longton – Bretherton Coastal Plain to the north and LCT 15c: Croston to Mawsley Coastal Plain to the east of the Site, as described in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment. The Coastal Plain landscape type occurs in six distinct areas, all within the lowland landscapes of western Lancashire. The area has been subject to improvements and reclamation of the original mosslands and now forms a highly productive arable landscape with a very low proportion of semi natural vegetation. In places, low boulder clay banks mark the edge of the coastal plain and represent the boundary with either inland marsh and mere. The flat topography and strong prevailing winds have historically provided good conditions for wind power. Wind pumping mills aided the drainage of the landscape and windmills were used for grinding grain. These features still exist and can be found near Martin Mere and Pilling. The landscape is not designated and has a Medium Value. With reference to section 2.6, the Sensitivity of the Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type is considered to be **Small**.
- 4.2.44 During the Construction Phase of the proposed development there would be limited temporary disruption to the Coastal Plain Landscape Character Areas. The landscape changes would be restricted to within the Site boundary and would be temporary in nature, approximately 2-4 months in duration. However, the emerging Turbine, creating a new vertical element in the landscape with far ranging visibility, would affect the visual character of the wider landscape within the Coastal Plain. The visual effects of the Proposed Development from representative views within the Coastal Plain LCAs are discussed fully in the following section on Visual Effects. The effect on the visual character of the wider Coastal Plain would result in a **Small** and Adverse magnitude of change as the turbine would be a discernible new feature of the landscape. It would be visible in part on the horizon in many areas of the landscape. The flat landscape of the Coastal Plain provides open views, but the layers of intermitted woodlands do block and restrict views in places. The worst-case scenario of the turbine being visible has hence been assessed.
- 4.2.45 Upon Completion, the site benefits, as described above would have little effect on the wider landscape and the wind turbine which cannot be visually mitigated would be a permanent new visual feature of the landscape, seen in conjunction with the overhead power line and pylons present in the landscape. The Magnitude of Change at Year 1 and Year 15 would remain **Small** and Adverse in nature.
- 4.2.46 The level of landscape effects of the Proposed Development on the character of the Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type is summarised below:

Level of effect at Construction: Moderate /Minor Adverse

Level of effect at Year 1: Moderate /Minor Adverse

Level of effect at Year 15 years: Moderate /Minor Adverse

4.2.47 Landscape Character LCT 17: Enclosed Coastal Marsh including:

LCT 17a: Clifton and Hutton Enclosed Coastal Marsh is to the north; VP21 and 23

Sensitivity: Medium

4.2.48 LCT 17 includes LCA 17a: the Clifton and Hutton Enclosed Coastal Marsh to the north of the Site, as described in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment. The Enclosed Coastal Marsh landscape type occurs in two distinct areas, adjacent to the open salt marshes of the sheltered waters of the west coast of Lancashire. The Enclosed Coastal Marshes are flat, expansive tracts of coastal land which have been recently reclaimed by drainage. The land is divided into large square fields surrounded by drainage ditches and post and wire fences or low clipped thorn hedgerows. Improved pasture predominates and is used for cattle or sheep grazing, although arable crops grow in well drained areas. The ordered enclosed marsh is sharply demarcated from the open coastal marshlands by sea dykes where gorse and other scrub is often conspicuous. Large geometric pastoral and arable fields are drained by numerous parallel ditches which produce a regimented, productive landscape. Trees are generally very scarce, allowing long views across the landscape to distant factories, hills, farm buildings, pylons and tree silhouettes on the horizon. Although the landscape is not designated, there are some areas of wet marshland of ecological importance. The area is of Medium Value and has a Low susceptibility to the proposed development. With reference to section 2.6, the Sensitivity of the Coastal Plain Landscape Character Type is considered to be **Medium**.

4.2.49 During the Construction Phase of the proposed development there would be very limited temporary disruption to the Enclosed Coastal Marsh Landscape Character Area. The landscape changes would be restricted to within the Site boundary and would be temporary in nature, approximately 2-4 months in duration. However, the emerging Turbine would be just discernible in long distance views within the Enclosed Coastal Marsh. The visual effects of the Proposed Development from representative views within the Enclosed Coastal Marsh LCAs are discussed fully in the following section on Visual Effects. The effect on the visual character of the wider Enclosed Coastal Marsh would result in a **Negligible** and Adverse magnitude of change as the turbine would be just discernible in the landscape.

4.2.50 Upon Completion, the site benefits, as described above would have little effect on the wider landscape and the wind turbine which cannot be visually mitigated would be a permanent new visual feature of the landscape, seen in conjunction with the overhead power line and pylons present in the landscape. The Magnitude of Change at Year 1 and Year 15 would remain **Negligible** and Adverse in nature.

4.2.51 The level of landscape effects of the Proposed Development on the character of the Enclosed Coastal Marsh Landscape Character Type is summarised below:

Level of effect at Construction: Negligible Adverse

Level of effect at Year 1: Negligible Adverse

Level of effect at Year 15 years: Negligible Adverse

4.2.52 Summary Table 1: Landscape Effects below, provides an overview of the Landscape effects of the Proposed Development.

4.3 Summary Table 1: Landscape Effects

Receptor	VP No	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
			Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Landscape Fabric								
Land use	1-7	Medium	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse Temporary	Small Neutral	Minor Neutral Temporary	Medium Beneficial	Moderate Beneficial Permanent
Topography and Drainage	1-7	Medium	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse Temporary	Small Neutral	Minor Neutral Permanent	Small Neutral	Minor Neutral Permanent
Trees and Vegetation	1-7	Medium	Small Neutral	Moderate / Minor Neutra Temporary	Small Beneficial	Moderate / Minor Beneficial Temporary	Medium Beneficial	Moderate Beneficial Permanent
Recreational Resource	1-7	Medium	Large Adverse	Major / Moderate Adverse Temporary	Large Adverse	Major / Moderate Adverse Temporary	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse Permanent
Overall Landscape Fabric of the Site.	1-7	Medium	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse Temporary	Small Neutral	Moderate / Minor Neutral Temporary	Small Beneficial	Moderate/ Minor Beneficial Permanent

Receptor	VP No	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
			Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Landscape Character								
LCA 16: Mosslands	1-7, 14, 18, 20	Medium	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Medium Adverse	Moderate Adverse
LCA 15b Coastal Plain	8-13, 15, 16,19, 23	Medium	Small Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Small Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Small Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
LCT 17: Enclosed Costal Marsh	21 and 23	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse

4.4 Visual Effects

- 4.4.1 The visual assessment process aims to determine from which points the Scheme can be seen in the surrounding landscape. Visual effects relate to changes in available views of the landscape and the effect of those changes on people, including:
- The direct effects of the Scheme on the content and character of views through the intrusion or obstruction and/or the change or loss of existing elements.
 - The overall effect on visual amenity, be it degradation or enhancement.
- 4.4.2 Visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:
- a change to an existing static view, sequential views, or wider visual amenity as a result of the Scheme, or
 - the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view.
- 4.4.3 In predicting the effects of the Scheme on the visual receptors from the viewpoints being assessed, GLVIA3 (para 6.27), states that it is helpful to consider (but not restricted to) the following factors:
- Nature of the view (full, partial or glimpsed);
 - Proportion of the Scheme visible (full, most, part or none);
 - Distance of the viewpoint from the Scheme and whether it would be the focus of the view or only a small element;
 - Whether the view is stationary, transient, or sequential; and
 - The nature of the changes to the view.
- 4.4.4 Additionally, the seasonal effects of vegetation are considered, in particular the varying degree of screening and filtering of views.
- 4.4.5 People have different responses to views which are dependent upon context such as the:
- Location;
 - Time of day;
 - Season; and
 - Degree of exposure to views.
- 4.4.6 Responses to views are also dependent upon the purpose of people being in a particular place such as:
- Recreation;
 - Residence;

- Employment; and
- Passing through on roads, rail, or other forms of transport.

4.4.7 As people move through the landscape, certain activities or locations may be specifically associated with the experience and enjoyment of the landscape, such as:

- The use of paths such as core paths, footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic (BOATs) and National Trails;
- National or local cycle routes; and
- Tourist or scenic routes, and associated viewpoints on land or water.

4.4.8 The visual effects have been assessed during Construction, at Completion (Year 1) of the scheme and once established (i.e. 15 years plus). It is recognised that vegetation continues to grow beyond this period until full maturity is reached.

Value of Views

4.4.9 The value attached to views is judged based on the following factors:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment and references to them in literature or art.

Assessing Visual Sensitivity

4.4.10 Determining visual sensitivity is the combination of susceptibility to change and value of a view. It is considered that a combination of high susceptibility to change and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a low susceptibility and low value is likely to result in the lowest level.

4.4.11 The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in the view and visual amenity is related to activity they are engaged in and the extent to which their attention is focused on the views and visual amenity at that location. As such, those receptors most sensitive to change are likely to include people engaged in outdoor activities where an appreciation of the landscape is the focus or residents in areas where the landscape setting contributes to the setting of the properties.

4.4.12 Conversely, those considered least sensitive to change include (but are not restricted to) people engaged in outdoor sports or recreation where there is no focus on the surrounding landscape/views and people at their place of work where the focus is on the work activity.

Assessment of Visual Effects

- 4.4.13 To determine visual effects both the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of change are considered. The extent of views and the visual influence of the proposed development is wide ranging due to the flat open character of the landscape and the height of the proposed wind turbine.
- 4.4.14 Field work, with the assistance of the desktop study has helped to inform the visual envelope. Photographic viewpoints are shown on Figure 19 in Appendix 1, and representative photography are shown Figure 20 in Appendix 2.
- 4.4.15 The assessment is supported by illustrative photomontages of the Proposed Development from 11 viewpoints as agreed with the LPA – refer to Appendix 3.
- 4.4.16 Field work, with the assistance of the desktop study has helped to identify the following receptors that have the potential to be affected by the development:

Private Receptors

Near Distance

- Residents of Barrowford House – Representative VP 7
- Residents of Red Bridge Farm - Representative VP 5

Mid distance

- Residents of Back Lane, Bretherton, Representative VP 8

Public Receptors

Near Distance

- Users of Towpath, to west of the Site - Representative VP 1-2
- Users of Footpath 0906023, to east of Site - Representative VP 3 -4
- Users of Footpath FP0906025, south of Site- Representative VP 7

Mid distance

- Users of Footpath 0708004 to the north of Site, Representative VP 12
- Users of Footpath 0906019 along the River Lostock, Representative VP 15

Long Distance

- Users of Hunters Hill Quarry car park and Bridleway 0817030b, Representative VP 17
- Users of FP0505014 near Freckleton, Representative VP 21
- Users of Footpath 0920092 near Rivington Road Representative VP 22

- Users of King Charles Path near Hesketh, Representative VP 23

Transport Receptors

Near Distance

- Users of Eyes Lane, 100-200m south of Site- Representative VP 5-6
- Users of Sollom Lane, 25m Southwest of Site - Representative VP 7
- Users of Liverpool Road, north of the Site - Representative VP 10-11

Mid distance

- Users of Back Lane, Representative VP 8
- Users of Carr House Lane, Representative VP 9
- Users of Holmeswood Road, Representative VP 13
- Users of Black Moor Road, Representative VP 14
- Users of B5247, Representative VP 15
- Users of Red Cat Lane, Representative VP 18

Long Distance

- Users of Course Lane (A5209), Representative VP 19
- Users of Rivington Road Representative VP 22

Other Receptors

Near Distance

- Users of St Mary's Church, to north of the Site - Representative VP 11

Mid distance

- Users of Martin Mere Wetland Centre Representative VP 20

4.5 Potential Visual Effects

- 4.5.1 The following section identifies anticipated effects to the identified visual receptors which are likely to be affected by the change in views and visual amenity resulting from the proposed development.

4.6 Private Receptors

Residents of Red Bridge Farm - Representative VP 5

Sensitivity: Medium to High

- 4.6.1 Red Bridge Farm is a recently built two-storey detached residential property off Eyes Lane to the south of the Site. The property is situated on a large plot and faces roughly north-south with a private driveway. Although there are some mature trees to the boundaries, the property is open to the wider landscape and there are open near distance views to the Site. A recently planted hedgerow (advance planting) to the southern boundary of the Site is yet to establish and currently provides limited screening. The value of residential views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **High** given the limited screening and the proximity and nature of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to High**.
- 4.6.2 The Proposed Development is to the north of the property, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 420m from the property. The turbine would be clearly visible beyond limited intervening garden vegetation. The solar scheme in the foreground would also be clearly visible from first and ground floor windows and the property's garden. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the southern boundary of the Site which would provide screening of the solar farm where the panels face south and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting, although intended to mitigate the solar farm, would also predominantly screen the turbine with only fleeting views to the tip of the blades when vertical above the intervening advance planting.
- 4.6.3 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **High** reducing to **Medium** once proposed mitigation to the north of the property is established, at which point the proposals would become progressively less visible by the surrounding vegetation.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Major / Moderate Adverse

Residents of Barrowford House – Representative VP 7

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.6.4 Barrowford House is a two-storey detached residential property off Lock Lane / Sollom Lane to the south of the Site. The property is situated on a large plot and faces east – west with a private driveway lined by mature trees. The property is enclosed by strong mature garden vegetation which restricts near distance views to the wider landscape and the Site. The value of residential views is Medium and the susceptibility to the development is Medium given the level of screening and the nature of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is Medium.
- 4.6.5 The Proposed Development is to the northeast of the property, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 630m from the property. The top of the turbine is likely to be visible beyond and above intervening garden vegetation. The solar scheme would be screened by the existing garden vegetation. The scheme proposes new woodland planting

at the southwestern corner of the Site which would provide further screening of the turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would predominantly screen the turbine with only fleeting views to the tip of the blades when vertical above the intervening vegetation.

- 4.6.6 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered **Medium**, reducing to **Small** once proposed mitigation to the north of the property is established, at which point the proposals would become less visible by the surrounding vegetation.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate/Minor Adverse

Residents on Back Lane, Bretherton, Representative VP 8

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

- 4.6.7 Residents on Back Lane, Bretherton include Back Lane Farm to the west of the road and Leet House to the East. Both are two storey residential properties enclosed by clipped hedgerows. Back Lane Farm has extensive outbuildings to the rear which predominantly enclose views towards the Site. In addition to this, there is intervening woodland to the west of Eyes Lane and within the grounds of with Bank Hall which screen views towards the Site. The value of residential views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is Low given the level of screening and the nature of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.

- 4.6.8 The Proposed Development is to the southwest of the properties, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1.4km from the property. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. The turbine would be a new feature of the landscape in the middle-distance views in some views from the properties. At 1.4km distance it would not be overbearing on the visual amenity of these residential views. Refer to the illustrative photomontage for VP from Back Lane.

- 4.6.9 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate / Minor Adverse

4.7 Public Receptors

Users of Towpath, to west of the Site - Representative VP 1-2

Sensitivity: Medium to High

- 4.7.1 The Towpath to the west of the Site is a permissive path which follows the Leeds - Liverpool canal / Strine River from Strand Bridge on Sollom Lane to the south to join the Riverside path FP 0906023 at the northeast corner of the Site. There are near distance open views across the flat landscape of the Site and surrounding wooded skylines. A recently planted hedgerow (advance planting) approximately 30m from the canal bank is yet to establish and currently provides limited screening. The value of views from Footpaths (not identified as recognised Long Distance Routes) is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the Proposed Development is **High** given the limited screening and the proximity and nature of the development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to High**.
- 4.7.2 The Proposed Development is to the west and southwest of the footpath and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 380m at its closest distance. The turbine would be clearly visible in open views across the Site. The solar scheme in the foreground would also be clearly visible from the whole length of the Towpath. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the western and northern boundaries along the Leeds Liverpool canal which would provide screening of the solar farm and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would provide screening of the turbine as it is close to the footpath.
- 4.7.3 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **High** reducing to **Small** once proposed advanced planting is established, at which point the proposals would become progressively less visible by the surrounding vegetation and the effect of the development on views would become Neutral in nature

Scheme under Construction (winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate Neutral

Users of Footpath 0906023 along the River Douglas - Representative VP 3 -4

Sensitivity: Medium to High

- 4.7.4 Footpath 0906023 to the east of the Site is a Public Right of Way which follows the River Douglas between Bank Bridge on Liverpool Road (A59) to the north and Red Bridge on Eyes Lane to the south. The footpath is on an embankment and is slightly elevated above the surrounding flat landscape of the Site from where there are open near distance views to the surrounding wooded skylines. Tarleton Church is visible on the skyline to the north. A recently planted hedgerow (advance planting) approximately 30m from the riverbank is yet to establish and currently provides limited screening of the Site. The value of views from Footpaths (not identified as recognised Long Distance Routes) is **Medium** and the

susceptibility to the development is **High** given the limited screening and the proximity and nature of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to High**.

- 4.7.5 The Proposed Development is to the west of the Footpath, and the proposed wind turbine would be in close proximity with progressive views from both directions. The turbine would be clearly visible above and beyond limited intervening vegetation. The solar scheme in the foreground would also be clearly visible from southern end of the footpath. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the eastern boundary of the Site which would provide screening of the solar farm. However, hedgerow screening around the turbine compound itself cannot be proposed, as there needs to be a vegetation free zone around the turbine to remove potential foraging by bats. As such there would be views to the turbine compound for a short section of the footpath when directly opposite it. For the majority of the footpath there would be screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would screen the solar panels. However, the turbine would still be a prominent new feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated.

- 4.7.6 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **High** and would remain **High** as proposed mitigation once established, would only mitigate the effects of the solar scheme. and not the wind turbine.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Major Adverse

Users of Footpath FP0906025, off Eyes Lane- Representative VP 7

Sensitivity: Medium to High

- 4.7.7 Footpath FP0906025 is a short Footpath which runs parallel to Sollom Lane to the south of the Site. The footpath starts on Sollom Lane to the south of Barrowford House and heads both and east across an arable field to join Sollom Lane to the east. There are open near distance views across the flat landscape of the Site and surrounding wooded skylines. A recently planted hedgerow (advance planting) to the southern boundary of the Site is yet to establish and currently provides limited screening. The value of views from Footpaths (not identified as recognised Long Distance Routes) is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **High** given the limited screening and the proximity and nature of the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to High**.
- 4.7.8 The Proposed Development is to the north of the Footpath, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 540m (at its nearest distance) from the Footpath. The turbine would be clearly visible beyond limited intervening vegetation. The solar scheme in the foreground would also be clearly visible from the Footpath. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the southern boundary of the Site which would provide screening of the solar farm and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would screen the solar scheme.

However, the turbine would still be a prominent feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated.

- 4.7.9 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **High** and would remain **High** as proposed mitigation once established, would only mitigate the effects of the solar scheme. and not the wind turbine.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Major Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Major Adverse

Users of Footpath 0708004 to the north of Site, Representative VP 12

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

Viewpoint 12 is representative of middle-distance views from the north of the Site and footpaths to the southwest of Much Hoole as represented by views from Footpath 0708004. Views are typically from minor roads and footpaths, enclosed by low clipped hedgerows with scattered trees forming boundaries to agricultural fields. Views are dominated by the north south alignment of power lines and pylons which cross the landscape. The site is located beyond Mill Farm, the GA pet Foods factory and associated vegetation. There are occasional views of Tarleton Church in the distance. The value of these middle distant views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.

- 4.7.10 The Proposed Development is to the south and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1.5km away. The top of the turbine would be just visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation, in conjunction with the power lines which dwarf the scale of the turbine which is at a distance of 2.9km. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. With reference to the illustrative photomontage for VP 12 from Footpath 0708004, just one blade of the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and the effect of this on visual amenity would be limited.

- 4.7.11 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Footpath 0906019 along the River Lostock, Representative VP 15

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

Viewpoint 15 is representative of middle-distance views from the east of the Site and footpaths to the north of Croston as represented by views from Footpath 0906019 along

the River Lostock. There are open, panoramic views of the landscape across the flat landscape where pastoral fields and scattered trees are associated with the river. The rural views contain the north south alignment of power lines and pylons in the distance. The site is located beyond distant vegetation associated with Bank Hall which forms a wooded skyline in the distance. The value of these middle distant views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of distance to the Site. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.

4.7.12 The Proposed Development is to the west and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 2.3km away. The top of the turbine would be just visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation, in conjunction with the power lines. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. With reference to the illustrative photomontage for VP 15 from Footpath 0906019, the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and would be seen in conjunction with the existing pylons which are similar vertical elements in the landscape. Although the turbine would become larger as users get progressively nearer, the effect on visual amenity would be limited by an additional vertical element in wide panoramic views.

4.7.13 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Hunters Hill Quarry car park and Bridleway 0817030b, Representative VP 17

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

Viewpoint 17 is representative of long-distance views from the southeast of the Site on rising land near High Moor as represented by views from Hunters Hill Quarry car park Bridleway 0817030b. From the elevated location at approximated 126m AOD, there are long distance, open, panoramic views across the flat landscape where large arable field woodland blocks and dispersed farms are visible. The Site is in the distance to the east of the three turbines at Mawdsley Moss. The value of these long distant views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of distance to the Site. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.

4.7.14 The Proposed Development is to the northwest and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 8km away. The turbine would be a visible new feature of the landscape in conjunction with the three turbines at Mawdsley Moss. The solar scheme would be barely discernible at this distance. With reference to the illustrative photomontage for VP 17 from Bridleway 0817030b, most of the turbine would be seen against a background of land. The blades would be visible against the sky and would be seen in conjunction with the other turbines which are similar vertical elements in the landscape. The effect on

visual amenity would be limited by an additional vertical element in the wide panoramic views and would not overly affect the character of the views from this area.

- 4.7.15 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of FP0505014 near Freckleton, Representative VP 21

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

Viewpoint 21 is representative of long-distance views from the north of the Site near Freckleton as represented by views from Footpath FP0505014. From the low viewpoint across the Hesketh Sands there are long distance, open, panoramic views across the flat landscape where power lines and pylons are a strong incongruous feature of the landscape. The value of these long distant views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the distance to the Site. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.

- 4.7.16 The Proposed Development is to the north and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 8km away. The turbine would be barely discernible in these long-distance views. The solar scheme would not be visible. There may be glimpsed views of the blades against the sky where intervening vegetation is limited from some areas. However, the turbine would not be a prominent feature of the landscape. The effect on visual amenity would be limited in the wide panoramic views and would not overly affect the character of the views from this area.

- 4.7.17 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Negligible**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Negligible

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Negligible

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Negligible

Users of Footpath 0920092 near Rivington Road - Representative VP 22

Sensitivity: Medium

Viewpoint 22 is representative of long-distance views from footpaths within the elevated Anglezarke Moor to the southeast of the Site. The moors are visible from the Site which suggests that the Proposed Development would be visible from this location. From the elevated location, there are long distance, panoramic views to the west where on clear day Blackpool can be seen. The value of these long distant views is **High** and the

susceptibility to the development is **Low** as the Site is some 20km. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.

- 4.7.18 The Proposed Development is to the east and would be approximately 20km away. The turbine would be just discernible at distance on a clear day as there is no intervening foreground vegetation. From the highly elevated views from the area the turbine would be seen against the landscape and not the sky. The effect on visual amenity would be very limited and would not affect the character of the views from this area.
- 4.7.19 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Negligible**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Negligible

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Negligible

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Negligible

Users of King Charles Path near Hesketh, Representative VP 23

Sensitivity: Medium to High

- 4.7.20 Viewpoint 23 is representative of long-distance views from the King Charles Path near Hesketh which is publicized long distance walk along the coast linking to footpaths in the area. The footpath follows an embankment separating the farmed landscape to the south from the saltmarsh to the north. From the slightly elevated location, there are long distance, panoramic views in all directions. The Site is located beyond slightly higher ground associated with Tarleton. The Church spire at Tarleton is just discernible on the skyline. The value of these long distant views is **High** and the susceptibility of users to the Proposed Development is **Medium**. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to High**.
- 4.7.21 The Proposed Development is to the north and would be approximately 8 km away. The turbine would be visible on the skyline beyond Tarleton. With reference to the illustrative photomontage for VP 23 from the King Charles Path, near RSPB Hesketh Out Marsh, the blades of the turbine would be visible. The effect on visual amenity would be very limited as the scale of change in views would be **Small**.
- 4.7.22 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.
- Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate/Minor Adverse***
- Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate/Minor Adverse***
- Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate/Minor Adverse***

4.8 Transport Receptors

Users of Eyes Lane, 100-200m south of Site- Representative VP 5-6

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.8.1 Eyes Lane to the south and east of the Site is a quite rural lane with links to the local footpath network. It joins Sollom Lane to the west and Back Lane in Bretherton to the northeast of the Site. Eyes Lane is also a National Cycle Network Route that connects the A59 and Longton Bypass junction to the north of Much Hoole, to bridge crossing A565 Southport New Road at Mere Brow. A hedgerow follows the northern side of the road and users of the Lane have open views across the flat landscape to the south and east towards wooded horizons and there are occasional near distance views towards the Site where the roadside hedgerow is thin or where the hedgerow is cut low. The most open near distance views of the Site are from near Red Bridge as represented by VP 7. The value of views from the rural lane are considered **Medium** and users would have a **Medium** susceptibility to the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.
- 4.8.2 The Proposed Development is to the north of Eyes Lane, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 445m (at its nearest distance near Red Bridge) from the lane. The turbine and the solar scheme would be visible beyond the low roadside hedgerow and where vegetation is thin. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the southern boundary of the Site which would provide screening of the solar farm and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would provide screening to the solar scheme. However, the turbine would still be a prominent new feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated. Refer to the illustrative photomontage for VP 6 from Red Bridge on Eyes Lane.
- 4.8.3 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **Medium** and would remain **Medium** as proposed mitigation once established, would only mitigate the effects of the solar scheme. and not the wind turbine.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate r Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate Adverse

Users of Sollom Lane, 25m Southwest of Site - Representative VP 7

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.8.4 Sollom Lane to the south of the Site is a quite rural Lane with links to the local footpath network. A hedgerow follows the northern side of the road and users of the Lane have open views across the flat landscape to the south towards wooded horizons and there are occasional near distance views towards the Site where the roadside hedgerow is thin. The value of views from the rural lane are considered to be **Medium** and users would have a **Medium** susceptibility to the Proposed Development. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.
- 4.8.5 The Proposed Development is to the north of Sollom Lane, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 685m from the lane. The turbine and the solar scheme would be visible beyond the intervening hedgerow where vegetation is thin. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the southern boundary of the Site which would provide screening of the solar farm and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine.

Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would provide an additional layer of screening to the solar scheme. As the turbine is predominantly screened by nearby hedgerows there would be occasional views towards the turbine in views from Sollom Road.

- 4.8.6 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **Medium** and would remain **Medium** as proposed mitigation once established, would only mitigate the effects of the solar scheme. and not the wind turbine.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate r Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate Adverse

Users of Liverpool Road (A59), north of the Site - Representative VP 10-11

Sensitivity: Low

- 4.8.7 Liverpool Road (A59) to the north of the Site is a busy 'A' road between Preston to the northeast and Southport to the west. The road runs to the east and south of Tarleton after a sharp bend in the road where it crosses the River Douglas and the Leeds to Liverpool Canal on Bank Bridge which is Grade II listed. To the east of Tarleton, the road passes GA pet foods factory which is well screened by vegetation. Strong vegetation within the grounds of Bank Hall provides enclosure to the road until Bank Bridge where views open up along the River Douglass. The speed limited on the bridge is 40mph and there is pedestrian footpath along the southern side of the bridge. The value of views across the River Douglas are considered to be **Low** as the view is fleeting, and users would have a **Low** susceptibility to the Proposed Development as they are concentrating on the road. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.
- 4.8.8 During construction there will be temporary works to Bank Bridge in order to deliver the turbine to the Site. The Proposed Development is to the south of Bank Bridge, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1km from the road. The turbine would be clearly visible in views from the bridge in conjunction with mature trees along the River Douglas. The scheme has implemented advance planting to the northern boundary of the Site and proposes new planting along the track to the Site from Bank Bridge. This would provide screening of the solar farm and some screening to the lower parts of the wind turbine. Although this would be limited initially, by Year 15 the new planting would provide screening to the solar scheme. However, the turbine would still be a prominent new feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated. Refer to the illustrative photomontage for VP 10 from Bank Bridge on Liverpool Road.
- 4.8.9 As such, the Magnitude of Change during Construction and at Completion is considered, **High** and would remain **High** as proposed mitigation once established, would only mitigate the effects of the solar scheme. and not the wind turbine.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate Adverse

Users of Back Lane Bretherton, Representative VP 8

Sensitivity: Medium to Low

- 4.8.10 Back Lane runs south from Eyes Lane to the southwest of Bretherton. At a sharp left hand bend it heads east away from the site. Users of Back Lane, Bretherton which is a small rural lane include walkers, cyclists and motorists. In views towards the Site, there are open views towards the Site near the sharp left-hand bend over a flat agricultural landscape. Intervening woodland to the west of Eyes Lane and within the grounds of with Bank Hall screen view to the Site. The value of these rural views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening and the nature of the user's activities. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium to Low**.
- 4.8.11 The Proposed Development is to the southwest of Back Lane, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1.4km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. At 1.4km distance, the turbine would be a visible new feature of the landscape in the middle-distance transient views from localised places on the lane. Refer to the illustrative photomontage for VP 8 from Back Lane.
- 4.8.12 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Users of Carr House Lane Representative VP 9

Sensitivity: Low

- 4.8.13 Viewpoint 9 is representative of middle-distance views from the northwest of the Site around Carr House Lane to the north of Bretherton. Views are typically from roads, enclosed by low clipped hedgerows and agricultural fields with occasional views towards the wooded bank associated with Bank Hall Woods. The site is located beyond this woodland and power lines are visible on the skyline. The value of these middle distant transient views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening and the nature of the user's activities. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.
- 4.8.14 The Proposed Development is to the southwest of Back Lane, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1.5km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. At 1.5km distance, the turbine would be a visible

new feature of the landscape in the middle-distance transient views from localised places to the northwest of the Site.

- 4.8.15 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Holmeswood Road to the southwest of Site - Representative VP 13

Sensitivity: Low

- 4.8.16 Viewpoint 13 is representative of middle-distance views from the southwest of the Site around Holmeswood Road (B5246) to the east of Rufford. Views are typically from minor roads, sometimes enclosed by low clipped hedgerows which are often gappy which allow views over agricultural fields. Woodland blocks in the middle-distance form wooded skylines in places. The Site is located beyond this intervening woodland. The value of these middle distant transient views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening and the nature of the user's activities. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.
- 4.8.17 The Proposed Development is to the northwest, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 3.4km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation at distance. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. It is likely that the blades of the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and the effect of this on visual amenity of users moving through the landscape would be limited.
- 4.8.18 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Black Moor Road, Representative VP 14

Sensitivity: Low

- 4.8.19 Viewpoint 14 is representative of middle-distance views from the south/ southeast of the Site around Blackmoor Road to the west of Mawdesley. Views are typically from minor roads and footpaths sometimes enclosed by low clipped hedgerows across the flat arable landscape. Occasional woodland blocks and tree groups interrupt the flat landscape. Pylons and power lines are visible on the skyline and the three turbines at Mawdesley

Moss are visible in some views. The Site is located beyond intervening woodland. The value of these middle distant transient views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening and the nature of the user's activities. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.

4.8.20 The Proposed Development is to the northwest, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 4.6km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation at distance. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. The blades of the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and would be seen in conjunction with the existing pylons. Refer to the illustrative photomontage for VP 14 from Black More Road. The effect of this on visual amenity of users moving through the landscape would be limited.

4.8.21 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of B5247 between Croston and Bretherton, Representative VP 15

Sensitivity: Low

4.8.22 Viewpoint 15 is representative of middle-distance views from the east of the Site and minor roads between Croston as represented by views from Footpath 0906019 along the River Lostock. There are open, panoramic views of the landscape across the flat landscape where pastoral fields and scattered trees are associated with the river. The rural views contain the north south alignment of power lines and pylons in the distance. The site is located beyond distant vegetation associated with Bank Hall which forms a wooded skyline in the distance. The value of these middle distant views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of distance to the Site. Therefore, sensitivity is Medium to Low.

4.8.23 The Proposed Development is to the west and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 2.3km away. The top of the turbine would be just visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation, in conjunction with the power lines. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. With reference to the illustrative photomontage for VP 15 from Footpath 0906019 at the junction with the road, the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and would be seen in conjunction with the existing pylons which are similar vertical elements in the landscape. The effect on visual amenity of these transient views would be limited.

4.8.24 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Red Cat Lane, Representative VP 18

Sensitivity: Low

- 4.8.25 Viewpoint 18 is representative of middle to long-distance views from the southwest of the Site around Red Cat Lane to the north of Burscough which is on slightly elevated ground at approximately 10m AOD. Views are typically from minor roads and footpaths with open panoramic views across the landscape across large arable fields with limited hedgerow enclosure. Occasional mature trees associated with lost hedgerows are a feature in the landscape and there are distant wooded horizons. The Site is located beyond this intervening woodland. The value of these middle distant transient views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of screening and the nature of the user's activities. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.
- 4.8.26 The Proposed Development is to the northwest, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 6km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation at distance. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. It is likely that the blades of the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and the effect of this on visual amenity of users moving through the landscape would be limited.
- 4.8.27 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

Users of Course Lane (A5209) east of Newburgh Representative VP 19

Sensitivity: Low

- Viewpoint 19 is representative of long-distance views from the south of the Site near Course Lane (A5209) east of Newburgh. From the slightly elevated location at approximated 30m AOD, there are long distance, views to the north interrupted by interrupted built form and vegetation and occasional views towards distant wooded horizons. The Site is in the distance and the three turbines at Mawdsley Moss are just discernible. The value of these long distant views is **Low** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** given the level of distance to the Site. Therefore, sensitivity is **Low**.
- 4.8.28 The Proposed Development is to the north and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 9km away. The turbine would be a just discernible at distance in occasional views from the area where there is no intervening foreground vegetation. The

effect on visual amenity would be very limited and would not affect the character of the views from this area.

- 4.8.29 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Negligible**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Negligible

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Negligible

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Negligible

Users of Rivington Road Representative VP 22

Sensitivity: Medium

Viewpoint 22 is representative of long-distance views from the elevated moors to the east of the Site where Rivington Road crosses between Belmont to the east and Rivington and Adlington to the west. The moors are visible from the Site which suggests that the Proposed Development would be visible from this location. From the elevated location, there are long distance, panoramic views to the west where on clear day Blackpool can be seen. The value of these long distant views is **High** and the susceptibility to the development is **Low** as the Site is some 20km. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.

- 4.8.30 The Proposed Development is to the east and would be approximately 20km away. The turbine would be just discernible at distance on a clear day as there is no intervening foreground vegetation. From the highly elevated views from the area the turbine would be seen against the landscape and not the sky. The effect on visual amenity would be very limited and would not affect the character of the views from this area.

- 4.8.31 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Negligible**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Negligible

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Negligible

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Negligible

4.9 Other Receptors

Users of St Mary's Church, to north of the Site - Representative VP 11

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.9.1 St Mary's Church is located on Liverpool Road (A59) to the north of the Site. It has a large cemetery to its rear which gently slopes down to flatter land associated with the Site between the Canal and the River Douglas. There is dense vegetation associated with linear woodland belts between the cemetery and the Site and there is no visual association with the Site itself. Users of the cemetery are considered to have a **High** Susceptibility to change as its function is as a place of solace and remembrance. As the

Site is not visible, the value of views from the cemetery towards the Site are considered to be **Low**. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.

- 4.9.2 The Proposed Development is to the south of the Church, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 1km from the cemetery. The turbine would be visible in views from the cemetery above and beyond intervening vegetation. There would be no views towards the solar scheme. The turbine would be a prominent new feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated.

- 4.9.3 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all phases of the development would be **High**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Major / Moderate Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Major / Moderate r Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Major / Moderate Adverse

Users of Martin Mere Wetland Center Representative VP 20

Sensitivity: Medium

- 4.9.4 Martin Mere Wetland Center, Burscough is located on Fish Lane to the southwest of the Site. It is a 600 acre wetland reserve managed by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust and is located to the south of the wider reserve which is designated as a Ramsar Site, SSSI and SPA. The Wetland Center is a popular visitor destination. There is dense vegetation associated within parts of the reserve and linear tree lines along parts of Fish Lane. There are open, middle-distance views north across a very large arable field to wooded horizons from the entrance to the reserve. Although the focus of users is not on views of the landscape, the rural location of the reserve contributes to the visitor experience. The value of these mid to long distant views is **Medium** and the susceptibility to the development is **Medium**. Therefore, sensitivity is **Medium**.

- 4.9.5 The Proposed Development is to the northwest, and the proposed wind turbine would be approximately 5.9 km away. The top of the turbine would be visible above and beyond the intervening vegetation at distance. The solar scheme would be completely screened by the existing intervening vegetation. The blades of the turbine would be visible breaking the skyline and it would be a discernible new feature in the landscape which cannot be mitigated.

- 4.9.6 As such, the Magnitude of Change during all stages of the development is considered to be **Small**.

Scheme under Construction (winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Completion (year 1 winter): Moderate / Minor Adverse

Scheme at Establishment (+ 15 years summer): Minor Adverse

4.10 Summary Tables of Visual Effects

4.10.1 The following summary tables of the visual effects, provides an overview of the Visual effects of the Proposed Development. The Tables have been split into the following three sections:

- Summary Table 2: Visual Receptors with near distance views including:
 - Residential receptors
 - Public receptors
 - Transport Receptors
 - Other Receptors
- Summary Table 3: Visual Receptors with middle distance views including:
 - Public receptors
 - Transport Receptors
 - Other Receptors
- Summary Table 4: Visual Receptors with long distance views including:
 - Public receptors
 - Transport Receptors

4.10.2 Viewpoints in Bold indicates where there is a corresponding Illustrative Photomontage for the Viewpoint.

Summary Table 2: Visual effects for Near Distance Receptors

Receptor and Receptor Type	VP No	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Residential Receptors									
Residents of Red Bridge Farm on Eyes Lane	Viewpoint 5	100m South of Site	Medium to High	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse	Medium	Major / Moderate Adverse
Residents of Barrowford House on Sollom Lane	Viewpoint 7	25m Southwest of Site	Medium	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse
Public receptors									
Users of Towpath (permissive footpath)	Viewpoint 1-2	5m West of Site	Medium to High	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse	Medium	Major / Moderate Adverse
Users of Footpath 0906023 along the River Douglas	Viewpoint 3-4	5m East of Site	Medium to High	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse
Users of Footpath 0906025 off Eyes Lane	Viewpoint 6	100m South of Site	Medium to High	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse	Large	Major Adverse

Receptor and Receptor Type	VP No	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Transport Receptors									
Users of Eyes Lane (including cyclists)	Viewpoint 6	200m Southeast of Site	Medium	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Medium	Moderate Adverse
Users of Sollom Lane	Viewpoint 7	25m Southwest of Site	Medium	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Medium	Moderate Adverse
Pedestrians and motorists on Liverpool Road (A59)	Viewpoint 10 and 11	500m North of Site	Low	Large	Moderate Adverse	Large	Moderate Adverse	Large	Moderate Adverse
Other Receptors									
Users of St Mary’s Church on Liverpool Road	Viewpoint 11	620m North of Site	Medium	Large	Major / Moderate Adverse	Large	Major / Moderate Adverse	Large	Major / Moderate Adverse

Summary Tabler 3: Visual effects for Middle Distance Receptors

Receptor and Receptor Type	VP No	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Residential Receptors									
Residents on Back Lane, Bretherton	VP8	1100m East of Site	Medium to Low	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse
Public Receptors									
Users of Footpath 0708004 to the north of Site	VP 12	2.5Km North of Site	Medium to Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of Footpath 0906019 along the River Lostock	VP15	2.3km East of Site	Medium to Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Transport Receptors									
Users of Back Lane Bretherton	VP8	1100m East of Site	Medium to Low	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse
Users of Carr House Lane	VP9	1100m Northeast of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse

Receptor and Receptor Type	VP No	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Users of Holmeswood Road to the southwest of Site	VP13	2.8km South of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of Black Moor Road	VP14	4.2km South of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of B5247 between Croston and Bretherton	VP15	2.3km to East of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of Red Cat Lane	VP18	5.5km South of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Other Receptors									
Users of Martin Mere Wetland Center	VP 20	5.2km Southwest of site	Medium	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse

Summary Table 4: Visual effects for Long Distance Receptors

Receptor and Receptor Type	VP No	Distance to nearest site boundary	Receptor Sensitivity	Construction		Year 1 - Completion		Year 15 - Operation	
				Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect
Public receptors									
Users of Hunters Hill Quarry car park and Bridleway 0817030b	VP17	7.7km Southeast of Site	Medium to Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of FP0505014 near Freckleton	VP21	9.5km North of Site	Medium to Low	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Users of Footpath 0920092 near Rivington Road	VP22	20km Southeast of Site	Medium	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Users of King Charles Path near Hesketh	VP23	6.6km North of Site	Medium to High	Low	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Small	Moderate / Minor Adverse
Transport Receptors									
Users of Course Lane (A5209) east of Newburgh	VP19	8.6km South of Site	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Users of Rivington Road	VP22	20km Southeast of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse
Users of Holmeswood Road to the southwest of Site	VP13	2.8km South of Site	Low	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse	Small	Minor Adverse

5 Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The Landscape and Visual Appraisal has reviewed the existing landscape and visual resource of relevant to the Planning Application for both construction and operation phases of a single wind turbine, solar farm and battery energy storage with associated infrastructure – Asland Walks Energy Park’ (The Proposed Development) on land to the south of Asland Walks, Eyes Lane, Bretherton, PR4 6FS (The Site). and is located within Chorley Council Local Planning Authority.
- 5.1.2 The Site is accessed via a track from Eyes Lane. The Site extends to approximately 39.7ha and consists of a large tract of agricultural land divided by two ditches to form three parcels of land. The Site is situated between the Leeds Liverpool Canal to the west and the River Douglas to the east. The Site is bare of any vertical features, with trees and scrub primarily located within the Site boundaries. The Site is visually open but physically contained between the canal and the River Douglas. It is connected to settlements by Eyes Lane directly south of the Site.
- 5.1.3 The Site is located to the south of Tarleton and the A59 main road between Southport to the west and Preston to the northeast. It is situated on low lying land within LCA 16c: Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses one of the seven areas within the Fossland Landscape Type as described in the Lancashire Landscape Character Assessment
- 5.1.4 Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the proposed Site layout to reduce the effects on both landscape and visual amenity and to help to integrate the proposed development into the surrounding landscape. These are set out in the drawings prepared by Avian Consultation - Landscape Structure Ref:22.522-BCAL-ZZ-00-DR-L-103-2 and include:
- Areas of pasture with areas managed for ground nesting birds, to include wet scrapes and areas for other diversity, e.g. wildflower / long grass habitat for invertebrates (Areas A and B)
 - Solar arrays - neutral grassland (moderate floristic diversity) with low intensity grazing for sheep (Area C)
 - Marginal area in southwest –dedicated to wet grassland, wet scrapes and ponds to encourage amphibians (Area D)
 - NW-SE ditch line – retained as existing (Area E)
 - Land up to Bank Bridge (Area F) developed with scrub / wildflower grassland
 - Boundary along boundary of solar (Area G) – replication of ‘Flood Bund’ landform using arisings from excavations and to assist with screening of Battery Storage Units (raised above general level at 6m AOD- additional screening of Battery Storage units through localised scrub (willow / hawthorn)- detail – hedgerow location to consider bat foraging – deter within 61m of turbine blades

- Hedgerow including alder trees, to mitigate potential glint/glare effects to SE (Area H)
- Advance hedgerow planting and linear copse planted 2022/23
- The Scheme also provides Recreational infrastructure including
- Interpretation Hut display point for interpretation of local history, site habitats, energy generation output
- Linear Walk new footpath route along the Strine River / solar site perimeter Eyes Lane Riverside
- Existing footpath network retained Riverside - Eyes Lane-Bank Bridge Towpath Lock Lane-Bank Bridge.

Summary of Landscape Effects

- 5.1.5 The assessment of landscape effects of the proposed development upon completion on the landscape fabric of the Site has found that although there would be adverse visual changes to the footpaths within the Site as a result of the wind turbine, there would be an overall Moderate/ Minor Beneficial effects to the Site as a result of the landscape strategy described above. There would be a significant increase in vegetation across the Site and new habitat creation which would provide both ecological and landscape benefits.
- 5.1.6 The effects on the character of the landscape of LCA 16: the Mosslands relate to the visual change to landscape character as a result of the wind turbine. Although, trees and woodland blocks in the Site's immediate surroundings interrupt its visibility in places, the turbine would be a new vertical element in the flat landscape which cannot be mitigated. However, the new turbine would be seen in conjunction with the overhead power lines and pylons already present in the landscape. The level of effect on the Mosslands, particularly LCA 16c: the Martin Mere and Southwest Mosses in which the Site is located, would be Moderate Adverse at Year 1 and Year 15 as the turbine cannot be mitigated. This takes the worst-case scenario into consideration, where the turbine would have the most visual influence on the open character of the landscape.
- 5.1.7 The effects on the character of the wider landscape of LCA 15b Coastal Plain and LCT 17: Enclosed Costal Marsh reduce with distance. The effect of aerial perspective plays a considerable part in diminishing the effects over distance as does distance on reducing the perceived scale of the turbine. The assessment on these landscape character types found that the magnitude of change would be Small and Negligible respectively, resulting in Minor/Moderate to Negligible effects on landscape character at Year 1 and Year 15.

Summary of Visual Effects

- 5.1.8 The assessment of visual effects considered the visibility of the Proposed Development from a number of viewpoints representative of different visual receptors in and around the Site as shown in Appendix 2. The assessment is also supported by illustrative photomontages from 11 Viewpoints as agreed with the Local Planning Authority and shown in Appendix 3.

5.1.9 The visual assessment has shown that there are some Major and Major/Moderate Adverse effects to receptors in close proximity to the Site where there are near distance views to the Proposed Development. These include Residents of Red Bridge Farm on Eyes Lane, Residents of Barrowford House on Sollom Lane, the footpaths within the Site and local roads near the Site as shown in Summary Table 2.

5.1.10 The visual effects for middle distance receptors as shown in Summary Table 3 are Moderate and Moderate/ Minor Adverse and receptors with long distance views to the Proposed Development shown in Table 4 are assessed as having Minor Adverse and Negligible effects. The effects of the wind turbine diminish with distance as the scale of the turbine and clarity of views reduces due to aerial or atmospheric perspective. This is the effect the atmosphere has on the appearance of an object as viewed from a distance.

Conclusion

5.1.11 The assessment concludes that the Proposed Development would introduce a new vertical element into the landscape which would be a visible new feature of the landscapes of the Mosslands, the Coastal Plain and Enclosed Coastal Marsh which form lowlands of west Lancashire. Although there would be beneficial effects at the site level as a result of the extensive mitigation measures, the wind turbine would result in adverse effects on landscape character and visual amenity of the area. It is recognized that the turbine cannot be mitigated. However, it will be seen in conjunction with the power lines and pylons present in the landscape.

