

APPENDIX 5.4A: LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE (NATURAL ENGLAND) – NATIONAL/JOINT CHARACTER AREAS

5.4.1 This appendix assesses predicted residual effects on landscape character in the study area and should be read in conjunction with **Figure 5.6a**.

Natural England Countryside Character Assessment (1998)					Potential Impact on Landscape Character	Potential Effect		
NATIONAL CHARACTER AREA	Ref	Landscape Quality	Landscape Value	Landscape Sensitivity *	Description of Impact	Nature of Effect	Magnitude	Residual Significance
Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes	NCA 42	No data	No data	Medium	The NCA is situated over 25km to the north east of the application site and forms the eastern (coastal) context of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Except for a small section in the southern part, bordering the Fens, the NCA lies mainly outside the ZTV of the proposals. It is situated far beyond the predicted zone of characterising effect of the wind park and so the character of the landscape would be unaffected.	Indirect / Reversible	None	Negligible / None
Lincolnshire Wolds	NCA 43	No data	No data	High	The upland character area lies just over 20km to the north east of the application site, a significant distance from the 5km threshold of potential characterising effects. Although there would be long range views of the proposed wind park from the southern edge of the Wolds, which are designated as an AONB, the separation distance and fenland landscape context would ensure that the magnitude of character change would be negligible – see Photomontage 30 .	Indirect / Reversible	Negligible	Negligible / Minor
Central Lincolnshire Vale	NCA 44	No data	No data	Medium	The NCA lies approximately 7.6km to the north / north east of the site and forms the northern context of Lincoln city and the Lincolnshire Wolds. Although the NCA lies partially within the ZTV of the proposals (the southern part bordering the Fens) it is situated well beyond the predicted zone of characterising effect of the wind park and so the character of the landscape would be relatively unaffected – see Photomontage 25 .	Indirect / Reversible	Negligible	Negligible
Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands	NCA 45	No data	No data	Medium	The NCA is situated over 30km to the north east of the application site and forms the northern context of Lincoln city. The NCA lies outside the ZTV of the proposed wind park and therefore the character of the landscape would be unaffected.	Indirect / Reversible	None	Negligible / None
The Fens	NCA 46	No data	No data	Low to Medium	The national character area covers approximately 2/3 of the detailed study area and forms the landscape context of Boston and to a lesser extent North Kesteven. A small proportion of the NCA surrounding the site within approximately 1.5-2km of the nearest proposed turbine would be changed to a windfarm landscape type or subtype, but the character of the wider landscape, which lies largely beyond the zone of characterising effects, would be relatively unaffected – Photomontages 1, 4, 9 and 22 illustrate the diminishing characterising effect across the Fens with increasing distance from the application site.	Direct / Reversible	Low to Medium	Minor / Moderate
Southern Lincolnshire Edge	NCA 47	No data	No data	Medium	The character area runs broadly north – south, the closest parts of which are just over 2km to the west of the nearest proposed wind turbine. Overall the NCA lies predominantly beyond the zone of characterising effects the proposed wind park. Furthermore, the closest part falls outside the area within which significant character effects are predicted to arise and therefore the NCA would be relatively unaffected characterwise – Photomontages 3, 8, 12, 14, 24 and 27 illustrate the diminishing characterising effect across the Southern Lincolnshire Edge with increasing distance from the application site from the application site.	Indirect / Reversible	Very Low	Negligible / Minor
Trent and Belvoir Vales	NCA 48	No data	No data	Medium	The NCA is located over 25km to the west of the application site beyond Lincoln Cliff escarpment and outside the ZTV of the proposed wind park. The character of the landscape therefore would be unaffected.	Indirect / Reversible	None	Negligible / None
Kesteven Uplands	NCA 75	No data	No data	Medium	The character area is situated more than 11km to the south west of application site; the north eastern tip of NCA lies within the detailed study area. Although there would be broad theoretical visibility of the proposals across the NCA it is located well beyond the predicted zone of characterising effects and therefore its character would be relatively unaffected – Photomontage 23 shows the level of visual influence of the proposed wind park at the transition of the North Kesteven Uplands with the Southern Lincolnshire Edge.	Indirect / Reversible	Negligible	Negligible

* outline evaluation of landscape sensitivity to wind energy development based on the approach set out in Appendix 5.1: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology

Notes:

Assessment includes potential changes to landscape character in winter during both construction and operation stages

The predicted zone of characterising effects of the wind park would extend to approximately 1km from the nearest proposed turbine where visibility of the development exists, in other words within the ZTV, as set out in Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual

Potential indirect impacts on other character units in the wider study area would be negligible due to their distance from the site in excess of 5km