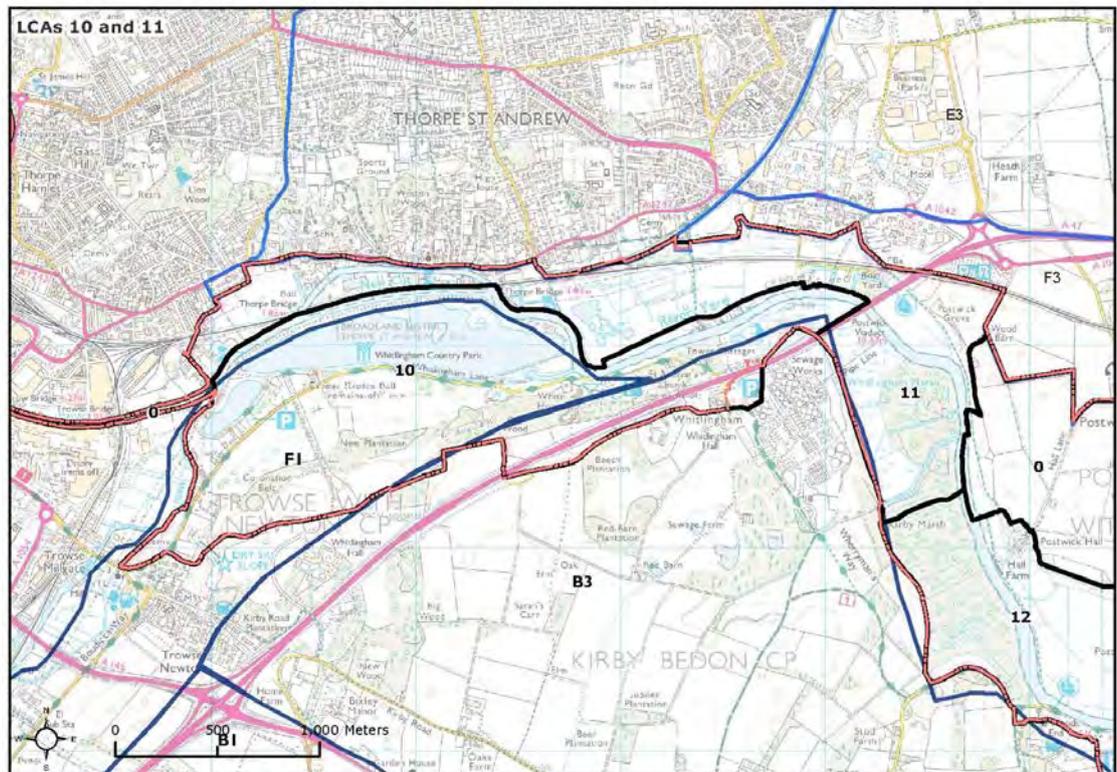


LCA 10: Yare Valley - Whitlingham Lane and Country Park, LCA 11: Local Character Area 11 - Yare Valley Cary's Meadow, Thorpe Island and Marshes, Postwick Grove and Whitlingham Marshes

Location and landscape character context



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Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Wind Turbines

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	← →	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities			
	<p>Relatively few special qualities sensitive to wind turbine development are represented in this character area grouping, although the diversity of habitats in area 10 relates to a landscape pattern which would be sensitive in terms of cohesiveness to wind turbine development. The recreational use of both areas for boating also indicates a degree of recreational user interest in the landscape and therefore also some sensitivity to turbines in these terms. Taking the above into account, these areas have a moderate overall landscape sensitivity to turbine development in relation to the special qualities.</p>		
2.Enclosure and scale			
	<p>Both areas in this group are of medium scale and with a degree of enclosure provided by woodland within and surrounding the character areas (e.g. wood fringed broad in area 10 plus wooded south facing ridge and the wooded parklands to the south, and, in area 11, by relatively steep, well wooded valley sides. This level of enclosure increases the sensitivity of the landscape to turbine development, as wind turbines would potentially appear out of scale with the elements which make up these landscapes. This sensitivity judgement is reinforced by human scale elements such as recreational boating traffic using the river.</p>		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern			
	<p>Area 10 lacks cohesion in terms of landscape pattern, due to severances created by transport corridors and urban edge development, whilst a diverse and more naturalistic pattern is created in area 11 due to the presence of river and riparian vegetation, areas of scrub, grassland and the nature reserve near Postwick Viaduct, albeit with contrast created by aggregate extraction, industrial sites and boatyards. Due to this mixed and partly eroded landscape pattern, landscape sensitivity to turbines is moderate.</p>		
4.Skylines			
	<p>Settlement characterises much of the northern skyline from area 10, albeit partly foiled by woodland and mature trees on the south facing ridge overlooking the valley. To the west taller buildings within Norwich, and pylons, are prominent skyline elements, locally reducing landscape sensitivity to turbines. Within area 11, whilst much of the skyline is wooded in character, larger scale development such as the Postwick Viaduct and the sewage works south of the river form skyline elements. Given the above, skyline sensitivity to turbines is moderate, although it is recognised that areas of undeveloped skylines within area 11 would have a higher sensitivity.</p>		
5.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	<p>Area 10 is defined by significant intrusions which affect experiential landscape character, such as urban fringe development at Norwich (including the bypass and Thorpe). However sense of tranquillity here is locally enhanced by the wetland environment of Whitlingham Country Park including relict parkland and Whitlingham Great Broad. Within area 11, the sense of tranquillity and perceptual landscape character is disjointed due to the proximity to large scale settlement at Norwich, including the Postwick Viaduct which forms part of the A47 bypass.</p>		
6.Historic landscape character			
	<p>Aspects of relict historic landscape character such as parkland features associated with Trowse Newton and Whitlingham Hall would be sensitive to turbines as the cohesiveness of such features would potentially be vulnerable to such development. Other historic processes such as gravel extraction (which have created the Great Broad) have eroded aspects of</p>		

	<p>historic landscape pattern and therefore reduced sensitivity. Some aspects of the historic character of area 11 would also be sensitive to wind turbines, such as areas of 17th-20th century rectilinear grazing marsh, although sensitivity is reduced by areas of boundary loss north east of the river. Given the above, sensitivity of the historic landscape pattern is moderate overall, due to its level of fragmentation.</p>			
<p>7. Visual sensitivities and intervisibility with areas outside the Broads</p>	<p>Views out from area 10 are often framed due to the wooded nature of the parkland and the embankments to the edge of Whitlingham Great Broad, although large scale development associated with the urban edge is visible from within the area (pylons and taller buildings within Norwich). Some views are available to the settled wooded ridge to the north (within the Norwich urban area, with Broadland District character area E3 Spixworth Estate Lands beyond) and to the rising parklands to the south - intervisibility with South Norfolk District character area B3 Rockland Tributary Farmlands.</p> <p>Within area 11, many views are framed due to the meandering course of the river, the valley topography and woodland, particularly to the south. However, there is intervisibility with other landscapes outside the Broads from this area, notably to the north of the river, the wooded skylines within Broadland District character areas E3 and E4 (Spixworth Wooded Estatelands and Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estatelands respectively), and area F3: Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe are visible.</p> <p>As such, whilst there is a degree of intervisibility, due to the filtered visual character, sensitivity to wind turbines in visual terms is judged moderate.</p> <p>This judgement also applies to large infrastructure for off shore wind farm schemes, such as pylons.</p>			
<p>Discussion on landscape sensitivity</p>	<p>Overall landscape sensitivity of this area group to wind turbines is moderate. This is due to the disjointed landscape pattern and historic character (severances created by large scale settlement edges and by transport corridors such as the Norwich Bypass), the degree of visual containment created by valley sides and woodlands and the presence of large scale settlement edge influences to area 10 in particular. Against this are balanced sensitive features such as relict historic landscape patterns created by parkland as at Whitlingham and Trowse Newton, and the sense of tranquillity within Whitlingham Country Park and the Great Broad.</p>			
<p>Sensitivity to different turbine heights</p>	<p>Land within the character areas</p>		<p>Land outside the Executive Area</p>	
	<p>Small (0-20m)</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Small (0-20m)</p>	<p>M</p>
	<p>Medium (20-50m)</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Medium (20-50m)</p>	<p>M-H</p>
	<p>Large (50-70m)</p>	<p>M-H</p>	<p>Large (50-70m)</p>	<p>H</p>
	<p>Very large (70m+)</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>Very large (70m+)</p>	<p>H</p>

	<p>Commentary: The landscape of this area grouping would be most sensitive to the largest turbine size typologies, due to their potential effect on the legibility of existing landscape scale elements and landscape features.</p> <p>Landscapes outside the Executive Area Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>Broadland District – E3 Spixworth Estate Lands: Only a small part of this area is intervisible with the Broads due to urban fringe development at Norwich. The wooded skylines which form the hinterland are sensitive in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>E4 Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estate lands: Lightly settled, part wooded skylines which are intervisible with the Broads.</p> <p>F3: Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe: Fieldwork has identified few sensitive features due to low lying character.</p> <p>South Norfolk District - B3 Rockland Tributary Farmlands: Fieldwork confirmed the valley sides on which Whitlingham Hall and parklands are sited, together with the mostly undeveloped, part wooded ridge, are sensitive.</p> <p>Due to the topographic prominence of the more elevated areas in relation to the Broads and the fact that they overlook these areas in many instances, landscape sensitivity to turbines is the same as for the Broads at the larger end of the turbine typology.</p>			
<p>Commentary on different cluster sizes</p> <p><i>Single turbine</i> <i>Small clusters (<5 turbines)</i> <i>Medium (6-10)</i> <i>Large (11-25)</i> <i>Very large (>26)</i></p>	Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
	Single turbine	M	Single turbine	M
	<5 turbines	H	<5 turbines	H
	6-10 turbines	H	6-10 turbines	H
	11-25 turbines	H	11-25 turbines	H
	>26 turbines	H	>26 turbines	H
	<p>Commentary: Larger turbine groups and clusters would create further visual clutter and potential for erosion in an already eroded landscape of fragmented skylines.</p> <p>Landscapes outside the Executive Area Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities are: Broadland District character area E3 Spixworth Estate Lands: Only a small part of this area is intervisible with the Broads due to urban fringe development at Norwich. The wooded skylines which form the hinterland are sensitive in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>Broadland District – E3 Spixworth Estate Lands: Only a small part of this area is intervisible with the Broads due to urban fringe development at Norwich. The wooded skylines which form the hinterland are sensitive in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>E4 Rackheath and Salhouse Wooded Estate lands: Lightly settled, part wooded skylines which are intervisible with the Broads.</p> <p>F3: Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe: Fieldwork has identified few</p>			

	<p>sensitive features due to low lying character.</p> <p>South Norfolk District - B3 Rockland Tributary Farmlands: Fieldwork confirmed the valley sides on which Whitlingham Hall and parklands are sited, together with the mostly undeveloped, part wooded ridge, are sensitive.</p> <p>Due to the topographic prominence of the more elevated areas in relation to the Broads and the fact that they overlook the Broads in many instances, landscape sensitivity to turbines is the same as for the Broads. This is due to visual prominence issues and potential for readily perceived skyline clutter which multiple turbines could introduce.</p>
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