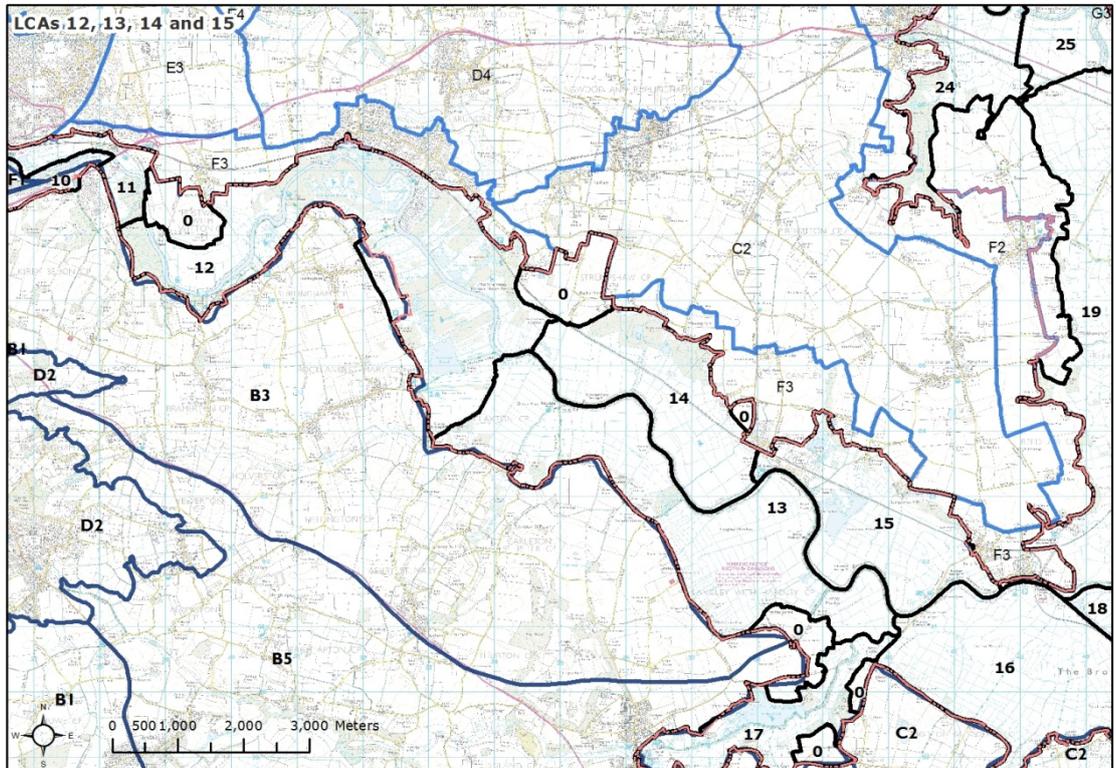


LCA 12: Yare Valley -Kirby/Postwick to Rockland/Strumpshaw, LCA 13: Yare Valley - Claxton to Hardley Marshes, LCA 14: Yare Valley – Buckenham and Cantley Marshes and Carrs, LCA 15: Yare Valley – Cantley to Reedham

Location and landscape character context



© Broads Authority 2012. Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown copyright and database right 2012. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100021573.

© Broads Authority 2012. Contains, or is derived from aerial photography supplied by Bluesky Ltd. © Bluesky 2004/2005

© South Norfolk District Council © Broadland District Council © Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV Development

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities			
	Special qualities sensitive to solar PV and which are represented in these areas are as follows – wide open landscapes, big skies and sense of space represented in area 13. This and the associated sense of tranquillity are also represented in area 14 and 15. The habitat diversity in area 12 is indicative of an intricate landscape mosaic which would be sensitive to solar PV development footprint. All of the special qualities set out above would be vulnerable to the introduction of solar PV – high sensitivity.		
2.Sense of openness / enclosure			
	Much of area 12 is of an enclosed, wooded character, although local contrast is created by the wide flat valley floor around Postwick Marsh and Strumpshaw Fen. The sense of enclosed areas would be less sensitive to solar PV, due to the potential to assimilate such development. Other areas where a more open character persists would have higher sensitivity e.g. area 13 and 14, although this also has localised enclosure and finer grain landscape scale – Langley Staithe. Within area 15, the sense of enclosure created by valley sides and carr woodlands decreases sensitivity to solar PV in these terms. Taking all of the above into account, sensitivity to solar PV in terms of enclosure and scale is judged moderate-high.		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern and scale			
	Many of the areas in this grouping exhibit a varied landscape mosaic and landcover pattern which would be sensitive to solar PV due to the potential effect they would have on the cohesiveness of such landscape patterns. For example, the network of dykes and rectilinear grazing interspersed with carr woodland blocks and fens in area 12, the wetland vegetation and contrast created by carr woodland in the arable landscape of area 13 and carr woodlands and water bodies in area 14. A more discontinuous and disjointed landscape pattern characterises part of area 15 – industrial uses associated with the Cantley Factory and associated settling basins. These would locally reduce the landscape sensitivity of this area, in these terms, to moderate-high, although the presence of human scale influences such as sailing boats, would be sensitive. Given all of the above, sensitivity of the whole area group to turbines is high.		
4.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	Many parts of the areas which make up this group are of tranquil rural character which would be sensitive to solar PV. Aspects which would locally reduce sensitivity are transport corridors and communications routes in the western part of area 12 and settlement edge influences such as the Cantley Sugar Beet Factory, the presence of which influences areas 13, 14 and 15. Considering the above, the area group has a moderate-high landscape sensitivity to solar PV in perceptual terms.		
5.Historic landscape character			
	Aspects of historic landscape character in these areas which would be sensitive to solar PV development include the wind pumps/drainage mills and aspects of the historic functional landscape such as the historic staithe in area 13, plus intact areas of rectilinear dyke patterns as in areas 14 and 15. Such aspects would be sensitive due to the effect that solar PV footprints could have on the coherence of these historic landscape features.		
6.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility			
	The presence of carr woodlands in a number of these areas would provide visual containment although areas of more open marshes with higher levels of intervisibility would have greater sensitivity to solar PV in visual terms,		

	e.g. Postwick Marsh within area 12 and the largely open areas of landscape in area 13 and area 14. Area 15 has strong intervisibility with adjacent areas in South Norfolk District (character area B3 Rockland Tributary Farmland), whilst area 12 is intervisible with parts of the Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe (area F3) within Broadland District. Overall, given the level of intervisibility across these areas, sensitivity to solar PV in visual terms is judged to be high.			
Discussion on landscape sensitivity				
	Overall landscape sensitivity of these areas to solar PV development is judged to be high. This is due to the sensitive special qualities represented in the areas such as sense of tranquillity and areas where a wide open landscape of big skies persists, together with related aspects such as areas of undeveloped skylines. Other factors important to this sensitivity judgement are the varied landscape and historic landscape patterns, the coherence of which would be vulnerable to solar PV development footprints, as well as the areas of open landscape which provide greater intervisibility with adjacent areas and therefore potentially increase the influence of solar PV.			
Sensitivity to different sizes of solar PV development	Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
	Roof mounted requiring planning permission	H	Roof mounted requiring planning permission	M-H
	Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	H	Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	H
	Field mounted: Small - < 1 hectare	H	Field mounted: Small - < 1 hectare	M-H
	Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	H	Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	H
	<p>Commentary: Due to the level of intervisibility and the predominantly open visual character of these areas, sensitivity of the landscape to all solar PV typologies is high throughout, for the reasons outlined in the overall sensitivity judgement above.</p> <p>Landscapes outside the Executive Area Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>South Norfolk - B3 Rockland Tributary Farmland: Fieldwork confirmed distant views out over the Yare Valley and into the Broads indicating a greater vulnerability to visual intrusion.</p> <p>Broadland District – F3 Reedham to Thorpe Marshes Fringe: Fieldwork confirmed intervisibility between the valley sides in this area and Broads character area 12. The level of intervisibility would render this landscape sensitive to solar PV due to the visual setting this area creates to the Broads. Whilst sensitivity to smaller (domestic) roof mounted schemes and in field schemes (sub 1 hectare, where field boundaries could be retained) may be lower (moderate-high), siting in relation to the Broads would be critical here.</p>			