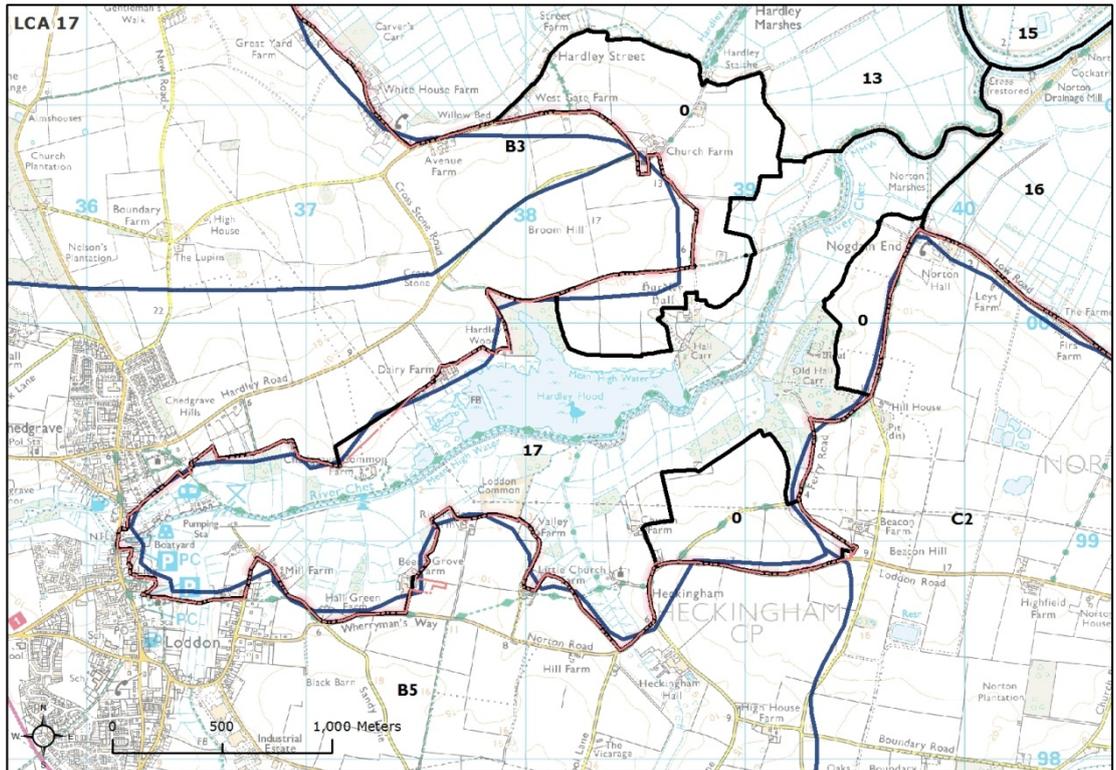


LCA 17: The Chet Valley

Location and landscape character context



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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 this area are the wide open landscape created by the expansive open water at Hardley Flood, and the habitat diversity associated with the area's landscape mosaic. The latter in particular would potentially be vulnerable to solar PV development footprints. All of the special qualities set out above would be vulnerable to the introduction of solar PV – high sensitivity.			
2.Sense of openness / enclosure				
	Within this area, 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				
	Much of the area exhibits 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 intricate mix of wetland landscape elements such as open water, reed, wet fen, grazing and carr woodland. The presence of human scale influences such as sailing boats, would also be sensitive. The landscape of this area is highly sensitive to turbines with regard to landscape and landcover pattern and scale.			
4.Perception and experience of the landscape				
	Many parts of this area are of tranquil rural character which would be sensitive to solar PV. The settlement edge within Loddon locally reduces sensitivity, although this affects only a small proportion of the area. Considering the above, the area has a high landscape sensitivity to solar PV in perceptual terms.			
5.Historic landscape character				
	Aspects of historic landscape character in this area which would be sensitive to solar PV development include the historic staithe at Loddon plus intact areas of rectilinear dyke patterns in the valley floor. 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 the filtered intervisibility with adjacent South Norfolk District landscapes would increase sensitivity to solar PV in visual terms, to moderate-high.			
Discussion on landscape sensitivity				
	Overall landscape sensitivity of this area 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, the habitat mosaic and areas where a wide open landscape of big skies persists (Hardley Flood), together with related aspects such as areas of undeveloped skylines. Other factors important to this sensitivity judgement are the varied landscape and historic landscape pattern, the coherence of which would be vulnerable to solar PV development footprints.			
Sensitivity to different sizes of solar PV development	Land within the character area		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: Sensitivity of the landscape to all solar PV typologies is high throughout, for the reasons outlined in the overall sensitivity judgement above.</p> <p><i>Landscapes outside the Executive Area</i> 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>B5 Chet Tributary Farmland: Fieldwork confirmed the visual relationship with the Broads where views of the area's rising ridges are evident.</p> <p>The partial intervisibility would render these landscapes sensitive to solar PV due to the visual setting these areas create 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>			