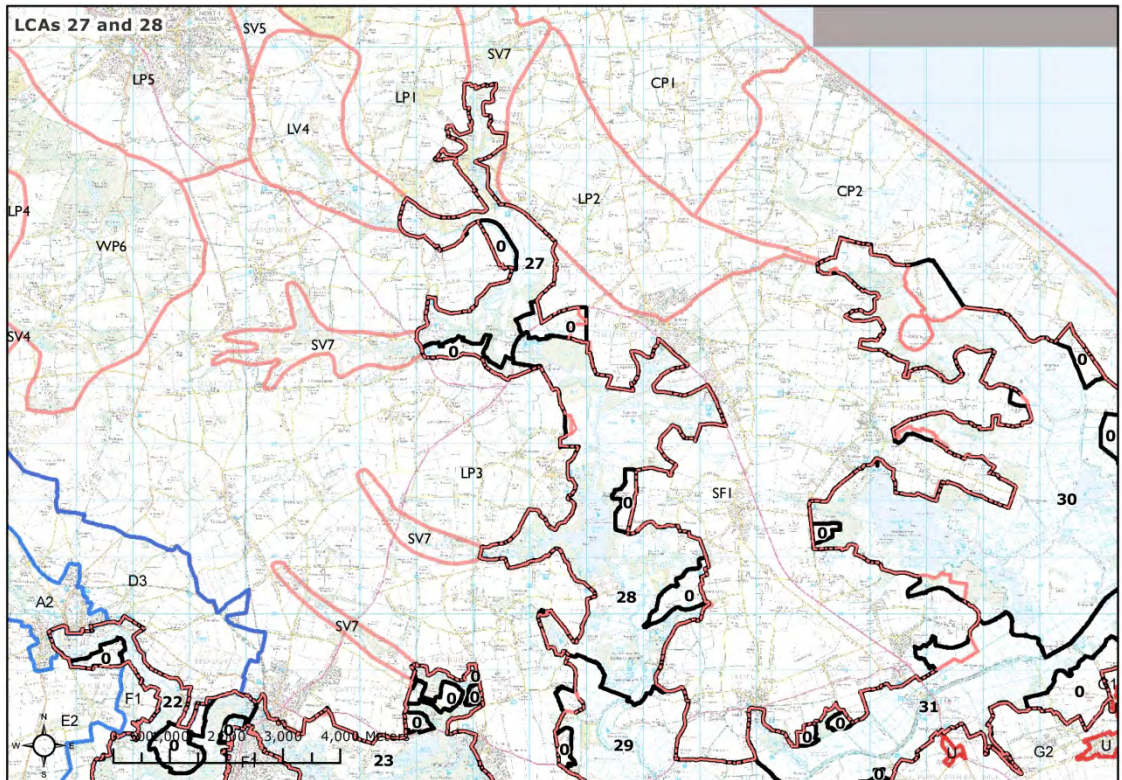


# LCA 27: Ant Valley upstream of Wayford Bridge LCA 28: Ant Valley downstream of Wayford Bridge

## Location and landscape character context



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## Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Wind Turbines

| Criteria  | Lower sensitivity   | ← → | Higher sensitivity |
|---|---|-----|--------------------|
| <b>1.Scenic and special qualities</b>               |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>Many of the special qualities which are sensitive to wind turbines are represented in both areas 27 and 28, specifically the sense of tranquillity and wildness evident in much of the Ant Valley, which would be sensitive to noise and movement introduced by turbines. The 'local character of beautiful churches and quiet villages' is particularly represented in settlements in area 28 e.g. vernacular settlements such as Neatishead and Irstead. This local character would be sensitive in view of the small scale, traditional settlement pattern.</p>   |     |                    |
| <b>2.Enclosure and scale</b>                        |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>Both areas 27 and 28 are predominantly enclosed, wooded landscapes of intimate spatial scale, with subtly perceived valley sides masked by carr woodlands which provide physical and visual containment. This would be sensitive to turbines as such landscape features are visually important and often define landscape scale. However, within area 28 it should be noted that there is considerable variation in landscape scale, due the presence of more expansive areas of marsh and of Barton Broad, which is the second largest broad in the Executive Area. The presence of wind pumps in area 28 and, seasonally of sailing boats in both areas, provide human scale indicators in the landscape, increasing sensitivity to wind turbines.</p> |     |                    |
| <b>3.Landscape and land cover pattern</b>           |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>Both areas 27 and 28 display a varied landscape mosaic of carr woodland, marsh and fen, reed ronds and sinuous river with riparian vegetation, whilst area 28 is also defined by a series of broads, often with intricate reeded edges. As such, this diversity of landscape elements and texture would be sensitive to wind turbines. This is reinforced by the presence of human scale indicators within both character areas e.g. small scale settlement in both areas, presence of wind pumps in area 28.</p>  |     |                    |
| <b>4.Skylines</b>                                   |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>Skylines are predominantly undeveloped in both areas 27 and 28, with the exception of localised areas of settlement which form the horizon e.g. East Ruston (area 27) and the traditional waterside settlement and staithe at Stalham (area 28), and occasional traditional wind pumps within area 28. The wooded skyline forming a backdrop to reed fringed rivers, areas of open water, marsh and fen is distinctive to both areas, and, together with the mainly undeveloped nature of the horizon, would be sensitive to wind turbine development. This is due to the potential for turbines and other related infrastructure such as pylons to detract from such skyline features.</p>  |     |                    |
| <b>5.Perception and experience of the landscape</b> |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>Both of the character areas have an essentially tranquil rural character with little human disturbance and which would be sensitive to wind energy development. This is particularly the case in area 28 which has a very lightly settled character and an often remote, largely inaccessible quality other than by boat. More modern areas of settlement edge within area 27, such as at Dilham and East Ruston create localised intrusions, however both landscape character areas would be sensitive overall to wind turbine development in perceptual terms.</p>   |     |                    |
| <b>6.Historic landscape character</b>               |   |     |                    |
|   | <p>A strong distribution of sensitive historic landscape types is apparent in both areas 27 and 28. For example ancient woodland within area 27 at Potter's Grove, plus areas of freshwater fen and 17<sup>th</sup> century and later rectilinear grazing marshes of often small scale. Within area 28, the medieval broads and areas of freshwater fen would also be sensitive to wind turbines as they could affect the coherence of such features. Other aspects of historic landscape character in area 28 are closely related to human scale indicators which would be sensitive to turbines, such as historic wind pumps</p>  |     |                    |

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|  | and areas of small, traditional vernacular settlement such as Neatishead, Barton Turf and Irstead.  |     |  |     |
| <b>7. Visual sensitivities and intervisibility with areas outside the Broads</b> |   |     |  |     |
|  | Landscapes of intimate spatial scale and of contained visual character, which define much of areas 27 and 28 would have the lowest sensitivity to turbines in visual terms. However, open fen within area 27 and which have higher intervisibility with adjacent landscapes beyond the Executive Area (North Norfolk landscape character type Coastal Plain CP1/CP2 to the east and the Low Plains Farmland type to the west – area LP1), and small parts of area 28 which are intervisible with North Norfolk District landscape types Settled Fen (area SF1) and Low Plain Farmland (area LP3), would be more sensitive. This would result in a moderate overall sensitivity to turbines in visual terms.   |     |  |     |
| <b>Discussion on landscape sensitivity</b>                                       |   |     |  |     |
|  | <p>Areas 27 and 28 have a high overall landscape sensitivity to wind turbine development in general. This is due to the representation of special qualities in the areas which would be sensitive to such development. Also the landscape pattern and scale, historic character and integrity, the sense of remoteness and the presence of human scale indicators associated with traditional wind pumps and vernacular settlement within area 28 in particular.</p> <p>This judgement also applies to large infrastructure for off shore wind farm schemes, such as pylons.</p>  |     |  |     |
| <b>Sensitivity to different turbine heights</b>                                  | <b>Land within the character areas</b>  |     | <b>Land outside the Executive Area</b> |     |
|  | Small (0-20m)   | M-H | Small (0-20m)                          | M   |
|  | Medium (20-50m)   | H   | Medium (20-50m)                        | M-H |
|  | Large (50-70m)  | H   | Large (50-70m)                         | H   |
|  | Very large (70m+)   | H   | Very large (70m+)                      | H   |
|  | <p><b>Commentary:</b><br/>Turbines within the smallest typology (0-20m) would respond more closely to existing vertical scale elements within the landscape, such as historic wind pumps, resulting in a slightly lower landscape sensitivity rating. However, all larger turbine typologies could appear visually dominant in these simple landscapes, hence the high sensitivity rating.</p> <p><b>Landscapes outside the Executive Area:</b><br/>Relevant character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>North Norfolk –<br/>CP1/CP2 Coastal Plain: Open, undeveloped skylines are sensitive.<br/>LP1 Edingthorpe to Honing Area: Evidence of some intervisibility with the Broads although some larger woodlands provide screening (Bacton and Honing Hall).<br/>LP3 Worstead, Coltishall, Hoveton and Smallburgh: The area is intervisible with the Broads landscape with views available from rising valley landform.<br/>SF1 Stalham, Ludham and Potter Heigham: Sense of enclosure is increased by the woodland fringe of adjoining Broads.</p> <p>Fieldwork confirmed that outside the Executive Area, landscape sensitivity to turbines is the same at the larger end of the typology scale. This is due to the potential prominence such structures could have from the low, gently sloping valley sides when viewed from within the Executive Area. There is a slightly lower overall sensitivity to smaller turbines below 20 metres and at the lower end of the 20-50 metre height range, due to the level of foiling created by landscape features. However much would depend on siting and</p> |     |  |     |

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|   | design in relation to specific planning applications, with regard to topography, valley sides and relationship to landscape structure features.  |     |  |     |
| <b>Commentary on different cluster sizes</b><br><br><i>Single turbine</i><br><i>Small clusters (&lt;5 turbines)</i><br><i>Medium (6-10)</i><br><i>Large (11-25)</i><br><i>Very large (&gt;26)</i> | <b>Land within the character areas</b>   |     | <b>Land outside the Executive Area</b> |     |
|   | Single turbine   | M-H | Single turbine                         | M   |
|   | <5 turbines  | H   | <5 turbines                            | M-H |
|   | 6-10 turbines  | H   | 6-10 turbines                          | H   |
|   | 11-25 turbines   | H   | 11-25 turbines                         | H   |
|   | >26 turbines   | H   | >26 turbines                           | H   |
|   | <p><b>Commentary:</b><br/> Multiple turbine clusters would have considerably greater likelihood of introducing visual clutter in relation to the simple, rural and undeveloped skylines which define the majority of areas 27 and 28. Accordingly the landscape has the highest sensitivity rating to these clusters. The landscape of these two character areas has a slightly lower sensitivity to single turbines in these terms. However this would depend on a careful, well considered visual relationship to other skyline elements including historic taller structures such as church towers and wind pumps.</p> <p><b>Landscapes outside the Executive Area:</b><br/> Relevant character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>North Norfolk –<br/> CP1/CP2 Coastal Plain: Open, undeveloped skylines are sensitive.<br/> LP1 Edingthorpe to Honing Area: Evidence of some intervisibility with the Broads although some larger woodlands provide screening (Bacton and Honing Hall).<br/> LP3 Worstead, Coltishall, Hoveton and Smallburgh: The area is intervisible with the Broads landscape with views available from rising valley landform.<br/> SF1 Stalham, Ludham and Potter Heigham: Sense of enclosure is increased by the woodland fringe of adjoining Broads.</p> <p>Fieldwork confirmed that sensitivity to larger turbine clusters is high. These landscapes would have a slightly lower sensitivity to single turbines or small groups of less than five turbines, although this depends on relationship to existing skyline elements and landscape features to valley sides, which define skylines.</p> |     |  |     |