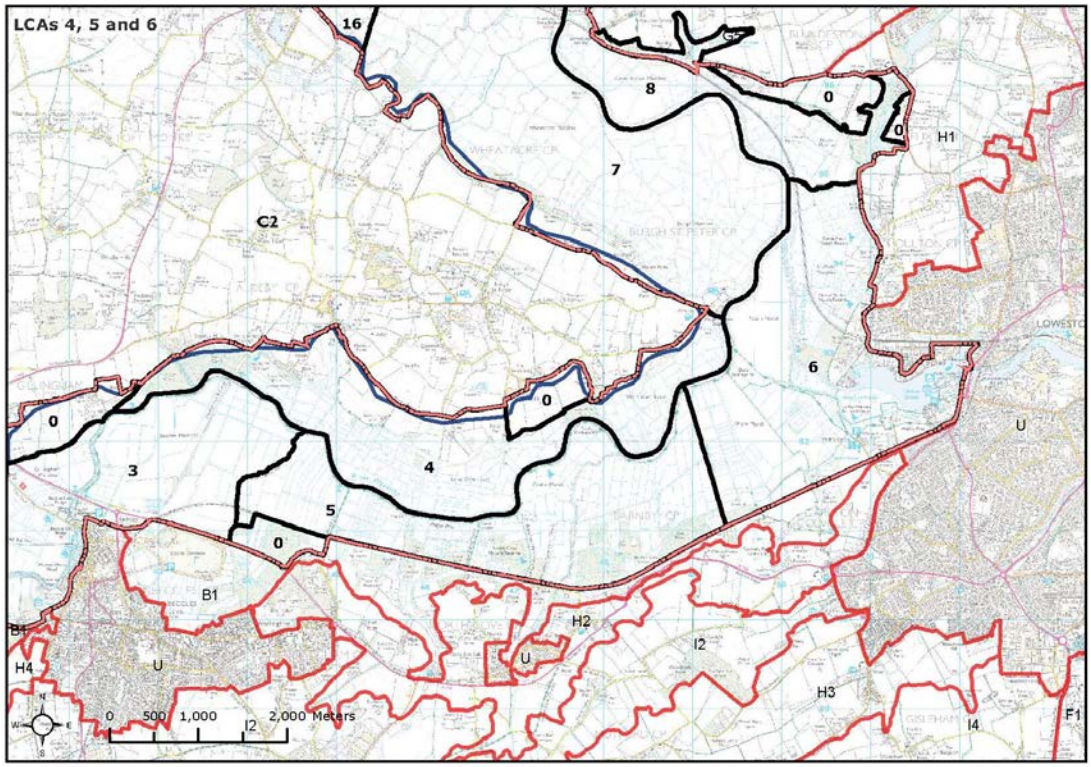
LCA 4: Waveney Valley – Aldeby to Burgh St Peter: LCA 5: Waveney Valley - Worlingham Wall to Boundary Dyke, Barnby: LCA 6: Waveney Valley - Boundary Dyke Barnby to The Fleet, Oulton

Location and landscape character context



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV Development

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	⟷	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities	Areas 4, 5 and 6 have a high proportion of special qualities which are sensitive to solar PV development footprint. Specifically these are the diversity of nature and habitats of carr woodland, freshwater fen, marsh and reed ronds which are all potentially vulnerable to solar PV. Also the relative sense of tranquillity and more open landscape evident in central parts of the character areas could be interrupted by solar PV development.		
2.Sense of openness / enclosure	Large areas of open marsh (i.e. Castle Marsh and Peto's Marsh) are sensitive due to their sense of openness and increased level of visibility. However, areas of carr woodland in the south of character area 5 (i.e. North Cove Nature Reserve and Barnby Broad) and areas of intimate scale in area 6 (i.e. Carlton Marshes) would indicate a lower sensitivity to solar PV development due to the sense of containment provided by landscape features, although overall the character areas are considered to have a moderate-high sensitivity.		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern and scale	Areas 4, 5 and 6 are defined by their varied and intricate land cover pattern which forms a mosaic of carr woodland, open marshland and meandering waterways with reed fringed edges. Due to the variation in texture and the complex nature of the individual elements, the areas are considered to have a higher sensitivity to solar PV development. Landscape pattern is characterised by a mix of regular 20th century rectilinear enclosures indicating lower sensitivity, while 16th and 17th century grazing marshes and small scale field patterns on the perimeter of the area indicate higher sensitivity due to vulnerability to solar PV footprint.		
4.Perception and experience of the landscape	A relatively tranquil and naturalistic character - areas 4, 5 and 6 retain a strong sense of remoteness away from settlement edges (Lowestoft) and communication corridors. As a result the areas are sensitive to solar PV development as their introduction would detract from the sense of tranquillity and remote character. Evidence of human influences and modern development is not particularly apparent; aside from localised visibility of Lowestoft, pylons and sand and gravel pits within South Norfolk and as such the area has an overall high sensitivity to solar PV development.		
5.Historic landscape character	The landscape within areas 4, 5 and 6 comprise numerous historic features which are sensitive to solar PV development. For example, area 6 retains some 16th and 17th century grazing marshes which are vulnerable to changes in their perceived coherence and therefore considered more sensitive to solar PV development. In addition, enclosed areas of smaller broads (i.e. Barnby Broad) could also be vulnerable to any changes in perceptual character due to solar PV. Elsewhere however, there are some areas which are less sensitive, particularly where field boundaries have been removed as a result of 20th century agriculture practices (e.g. central marshes within area 4 and eastern edge of area 5 near Barnby Broad).		
6.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility	Due in part to the sense of openness and ability for greater visibility, the marshes are more sensitive to solar PV development than the more enclosed areas of carr woodland which provide localised screening. The		

	sloping valley sides of adjacent character areas (i.e. South Norfolk District C2 and Waveney District B1 and H2) are visible from within the Executive Area and as such have a higher sensitivity to solar PV. The more locally contained areas created by carr woodland on the edges filter views and are less sensitive, although overall the area has a high sensitivity to solar PV.
Discussion on landscape sensitivity	Areas 4, 5 and 6 have a high overall sensitivity to solar PV development in general. This is primarily due to the representation of the Broads special qualities (i.e. diversity of nature, sense of tranquillity and wide, open landscapes). The intricate land cover and mixed pattern of elements, the perceived sense of remoteness and the Edwardian settlement at Oulton Broad are also sensitive to solar PV development.

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**
Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	**H**	Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	**M**
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**

Commentary:

Character areas 4, 5 and 6 have a high sensitivity to solar PV development of all types and scales, particularly within the larger areas of marshland where visibility is increased. The relatively undeveloped nature of the area and the perceived sense of remoteness also indicate higher sensitivity. These areas would also be sensitive to roof mounted PV due to the potential visual prominence of such structures and potential effects on historic settlement character in area 6. Overall however, areas 4, 5 and 6 are considered sensitive to most types of solar PV.

Landscapes outside the Executive Area:
Relevant character areas and sensitivities are:

South Norfolk -
C2 Thurlton Tributary Farmland with Parkland: Views open out to the Broads where land rises up from the low lying Waveney Valley.

Waveney -
B1 Waveney Valley: Rising valley sides (15-20m AOD) evident in views from the Broads.
H2 Waveney Tributary Valley Farmland: Gently sloping valley sides providing views out into the Broads with some smaller blocks of woodland

Due to the extent of intervisibility of adjacent valley sides, the adjoining character areas have a high sensitivity to medium scale field mounted solar PV development. Landscape sensitivity to small scale field mounted solar PV in relation to the Broads would be moderate high, although this would depend on siting and orientation in relation to the Broads. Careful siting and design of <1 hectare roof mounted schemes will be required to ensure they do not influence the uninterrupted skylines from within the Broads.