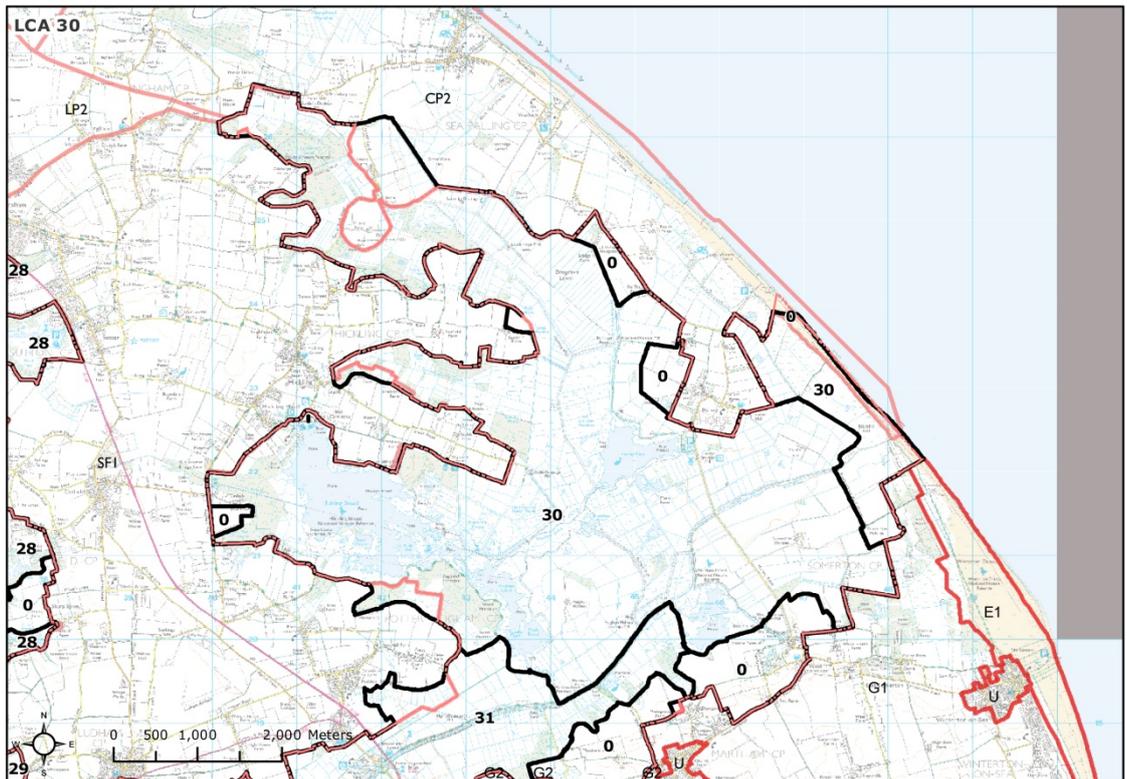


LCA 30: Upper Thurne Open Marsh, Broads and Fens

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			
	A considerable number of special qualities sensitive to solar PV development are presented in this area. These are namely the sense of tranquillity and wildness created by open marshes and coastal landscapes, and wide open landscape and sense of space evident at Hickling Broad and associated eastern marshes. Perception of tranquillity would be vulnerable to solar PV. Similarly the perception of the wide, open landscape and sense of space would be potentially vulnerable to such structures, hence the high sensitivity rating.		
2.Sense of openness / enclosure			
	The mostly open character of this marshland landscape would be extremely sensitive to solar PV development, due to the potential impact such development would have on the perception of this characteristic of the landscape. Whilst localised enclosure is provided by carr woodland and dunes, the general impression is of openness, which results in a high sensitivity rating to solar PV in these terms.		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern and scale			
	The variation in pattern and texture created by the intricate, fine grain dyke network and the mix of land cover elements such as grazing marsh, arable fields, reed ronds, rush pasture and areas of reed fringed open water create a landscape sensitive to solar PV development. This is in light of the potential impact that land take and footprint could have on such elements, resulting in a high sensitivity to solar PV development in these terms.		
4.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	This landscape is sensitive to solar PV in perceptual terms. This is due to the tranquil rural and part coastal character of this landscape, and the scant presence of modern human development and influence, save for localised intrusions such as Somerton Windfarm and perception of settlement edges in southernmost parts of the area. This is due to the potential of solar PV to introduce further intrusion.		
5.Historic landscape character			
	The area has a distribution of historic landscape types such as peat broad at Hickling and unimproved freshwater fen (including associated small scale landscape mosaic which would be sensitive to solar PV, due to development footprint and the effect that solar PV would have on the coherence of such historic landscapes). This results in a high sensitivity to solar PV in historic landscape character terms.		
6.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility			
	This is a landscape of mostly open visual character, with expansive views across the more locally elevated 'holmes' and from the Winterton Dunes, and with intervisibility both with the coast and adjacent character areas in Great Yarmouth Borough (G1: East Flegg Settled Farmland) and North Norfolk District (Coastal Plain landscape type – area CP2), with more filtered and framed views into the North Norfolk District Settled Fen landscape type (area SF1). Given the above, the landscape of this area is sensitive in visual terms to solar PV.		
Discussion on landscape sensitivity			
	This character area has a high overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in general. This is due to the diversity of special qualities sensitive to solar PV in the area, notably the sense of tranquillity and wildness created by grazing marsh, fen and coastal landscapes, and the wide open character of the landscape and associated sense of space. Other		

	<p>factors which are important in contributing to this sensitivity judgement are elements of historic landscape character such as freshwater fens and windmills, the coherence of which would potentially be vulnerable to introduction of solar PV development footprints. These could also potentially affect elements of landscape pattern in general, such as the intricacy of the dyke pattern. Also the visual character and the extent of visibility across the area and intervisibility with adjacent landscape character areas within Great Yarmouth Borough and North Norfolk District.</p>			
<p>Sensitivity to different sizes of solar PV development</p>	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: Within the character area, overall landscape sensitivity remains high to all the solar PV typologies defined in this assessment, due to the potential impact of development footprints on intricate landscape patterns and due to the open visual character of the area. This sensitivity judgement is particularly the case in relation to roof mounted solar PV of any scale, due to these reasons and particularly the potential for visual prominence.</p> <p>Landscapes outside the Executive Area</p> <p>Relevant character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p>Great Yarmouth Borough G1: East Flegg Settled Farmland: Fieldwork confirmed that the wooded landscape of the Broads, notably the carr woodlands at Ormesby Broad, form a prominent backdrop which contains views.</p> <p>North Norfolk District Coastal Plain CP2: Open, undeveloped skylines are sensitive.</p> <p>Settled Fen SF1: Fieldwork confirmed that filtered views between this area and the Broads are sensitive.</p> <p>The landscape has a marginally lower sensitivity (moderate-high) in relation to the Executive Area for small scale roof mounted solar PV requiring planning permission, although this is dependent on siting and orientation in relation to intervisibility with the Executive Area. In addition, the landscape has a moderate-high sensitivity to small (sub 1 hectare) field scale solar PV, where this could be contained within field boundaries and in areas of stronger landscape structure, counteracting intervisibility issues. For all other typologies outside the Executive Area, overall landscape sensitivity remains high, due to potential intervisibility and perception issues.</p>			