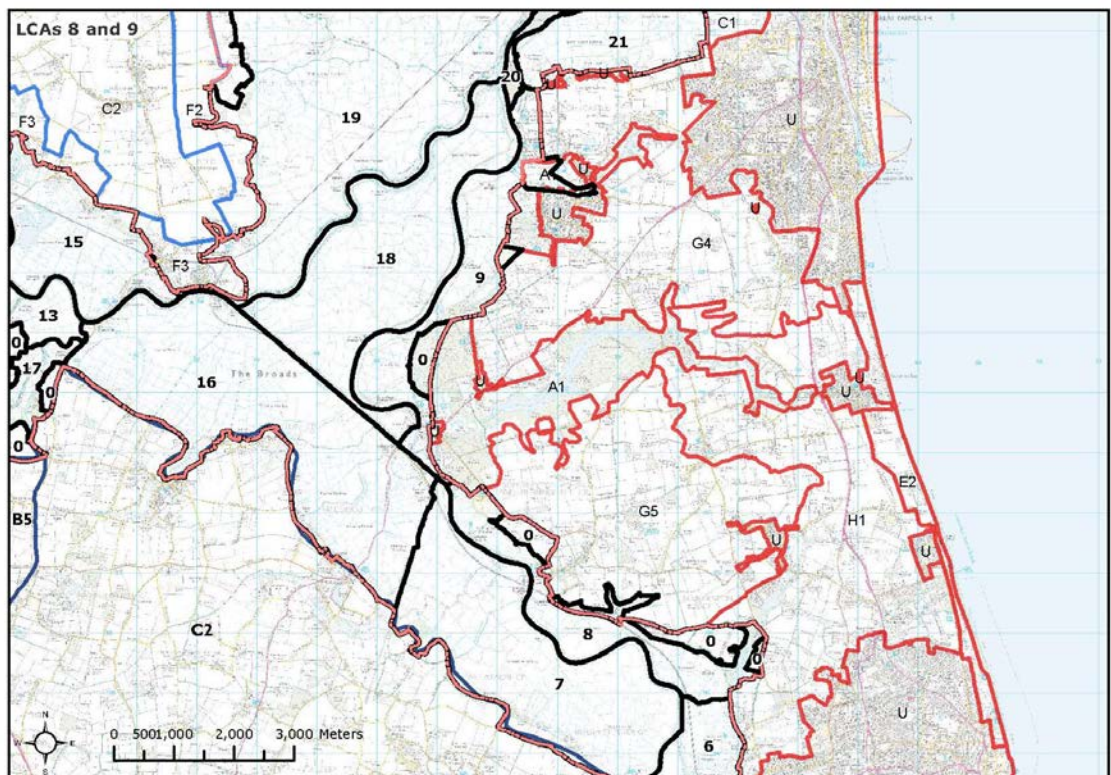


## LCA 8: Waveney Valley - Flixton to Herringfleet Marshes: LCA 9: Waveney Valley – St Olaves to Burgh Castle

Location and landscape character context



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## Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Solar PV Development

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	↔	Higher sensitivity
<b>1.Scenic and special qualities</b>			
	The Broads special qualities reflected in the character areas results in a high sensitivity in relation to solar PV development. Specifically this relates to the sense of tranquillity and wildness, the wide open landscapes with big skies and the sense of space which is perceived within these areas. The landscape has a high sensitivity due to the affect solar arrays could have on the wide, open skyline and the potential of solar array footprint to impinge on the sense of space.		
<b>2.Sense of openness / enclosure</b>			
	Although locally distinctive elements occur (i.e. carr woodland and rising landform to the north of area 8 and east of area 9), both areas are similar in character and have a sense of openness with expansive areas of marshland. This would indicate a highly sensitive landscape in relation to solar PV due to the prominence of development in an open landscape. However, where pockets of woodland and enclosure provide a degree of screening (northern extents of area 8) the landscape is less sensitive due to the potential for the development to be filtered and less easily perceived in distant views, thus indicating a lower sensitivity. Overall however the landscape, due primarily to its wide open character has a high sensitivity.		
<b>3.Landscape and land cover pattern and scale</b>			
	The varied pattern of elements (mixed and coniferous woodland and reed roads) combines to create an intricate pattern which is sensitive to solar PV due to the potential of development footprint to impinge on the pattern and dilute the character of the landscape. The sinuous dyke pattern associated with the Caldecott Marshes in area 9 is also sensitive to changes in pattern. Although sensitive to solar PV, there are areas of grazing marsh which exhibit a simple landscape pattern and are therefore less sensitive, although overall the areas have medium-high sensitivity to solar PV development.		
<b>4.Perception and experience of the landscape</b>			
	The sense of remoteness and tranquillity created by the expansive marshes and lack of development results in a landscape which is highly sensitive to solar PV. This is due to the potential of development footprint to disrupt the sense of remoteness by introducing uncharacteristic features which may detract from the rural character. This perception of tranquillity is somewhat reduced closer to settlement of Belton and Great Yarmouth's character areas G4 and G5 which exhibit a greater deal of intrusion (pylons, boatyards and Kingfisher and Wild Duck caravan parks) and therefore have a negative effect on area 9, reducing sensitivity. Overall however the landscape has a medium-high sensitivity to solar PV development.		
<b>5.Historic landscape character</b>			
	The landscape over time has undergone a series of changes which have resulted in field boundary removal due to the intensification of agricultural practices. Although there are areas of rectilinear 20 <sup>th</sup> century grazing marsh which are less sensitive to solar PV development, there are also areas of 17 <sup>th</sup> century rectilinear enclosures and curvilinear marsh boundary patterns which are sensitive to solar PV. The landscape also retains a number of elements of historic significance (drainage mills, Burgh Castle, the Augustinian Priory at St. Olaves and Wicker Well and Summerhouse Water gardens) which are sensitive to solar PV development due to the potential of development to affect the coherence of these features and the ability to appreciate them. Overall the area has a medium-high sensitivity to solar PV development due to the potential of development footprint to affect the coherence of historic landscape and cultural features.		
<b>6.Visual sensitivities and</b>			
	There are expansive views from within the marshes although these views		

<b>intervisibility</b>	<p>are contained within the Broads character areas. Rising ridges (10m) to the north of area 8 and east of area 9 provide containment, thus limiting views into adjacent areas. The wooded ridge of Great Yarmouth's G5: Somerleyton Settled Farmland character area is apparent in views and filters views in this direction. The wooded nature of this ridge also influences the perception of views from character area 8 and as a result this creates a landscape which is more sensitive to wind turbine development. Views to the east of area 9 are of a similar nature, defined by the ridge of the adjacent Great Yarmouth G4: Hobland Settled Farmland character area. Overall, this degree of containment indicates a lower sensitivity due to the lack of intervisibility to adjacent character areas outside the Broads and as a result the landscape has a medium sensitivity to solar PV.</p>																							
<b>Discussion on landscape sensitivity</b>	<p>These character areas combine to create a landscape of medium-high sensitivity to solar PV development. This is due to the representation of special qualities sensitive to solar PV, specifically the sense of tranquillity, wide open landscape, sense of space and big skies which characterise many parts of the areas. Other important characteristics of these landscapes which contribute to this sensitivity rating in relation to solar PV is the open character of the marshland landscapes and the associated intervisibility with prominent ridges in adjacent local authorities beyond the Executive Area. Also important in relation to this judgement is the sensitivity of the historic landscape pattern, such as small scale curvilinear dykes and 17<sup>th</sup> century enclosure marshes, and prominent historic assets such as drainage mills, the Augustinian Priory of St Olaves and Burgh Castle.</p>																							
<b>Sensitivity to different sizes of solar PV development</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="496 954 1452 1272"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="496 954 879 999"><b>Land within the character areas</b></th> <th data-bbox="879 954 975 999"></th> <th data-bbox="975 954 1358 999"><b>Land outside the Executive Area</b></th> <th data-bbox="1358 954 1452 999"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 999 879 1066">Roof mounted requiring planning permission</td> <td data-bbox="879 999 975 1066"><b>M-H</b></td> <td data-bbox="975 999 1358 1066">Roof mounted requiring planning permission</td> <td data-bbox="1358 999 1452 1066"><b>M-H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 1066 879 1111">Roof mounted - &lt; 1 hectare</td> <td data-bbox="879 1066 975 1111"><b>H</b></td> <td data-bbox="975 1066 1358 1111">Roof mounted - &lt; 1 hectare</td> <td data-bbox="1358 1066 1452 1111"><b>H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 1111 879 1189">Field mounted: Small - &lt; 1 hectare</td> <td data-bbox="879 1111 975 1189"><b>H</b></td> <td data-bbox="975 1111 1358 1189">Field mounted: Small - &lt; 1 hectare</td> <td data-bbox="1358 1111 1452 1189"><b>M-H</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="496 1189 879 1272">Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares</td> <td data-bbox="879 1189 975 1272"><b>H</b></td> <td data-bbox="975 1189 1358 1272">Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares</td> <td data-bbox="1358 1189 1452 1272"><b>H</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="496 1272 1452 1317"><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p data-bbox="496 1317 1452 1653">Roof mounted and field mounted solar PV in the majority of these typologies would have the potential to exacerbate impacts on perceptual characteristics of these areas and associated special qualities such as sense of space and tranquillity, and in terms of views and intervisibility across these landscapes. There are however some areas of enclosed landscape which are of a lower sensitivity to solar PV development. These areas of lower sensitivity relate to the edges of the character areas where appropriate landform and land cover screening is provided. Careful siting will be an important consideration, particularly in relation to skylines and historic features.</p> <p data-bbox="496 1653 1452 1697"><b><i>Landscapes outside the Executive Area</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="496 1697 1452 1742">Relevant character areas and sensitivities are:</p> <p data-bbox="496 1742 1452 1809">Great Yarmouth/Waveney -</p> <p data-bbox="496 1809 1452 1921">A1: Waveney Rural Wooded Valley: Fieldwork has confirmed that the wooded ridge to the edge of area A1 which incorporates Waveney Forest is prominent and therefore sensitive in relation to the Broads.</p> <p data-bbox="496 1921 1452 2033">G4: Sensitive elements of this area in relation to the Broads and revealed through field survey are the low wooded ridge which adjoins the north eastern part of Broads LCA 9 and Burgh Castle Roman Fort, which occupies</p>				<b>Land within the character areas</b>		<b>Land outside the Executive Area</b>		Roof mounted requiring planning permission	<b>M-H</b>	Roof mounted requiring planning permission	<b>M-H</b>	Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	<b>H</b>	Roof mounted - < 1 hectare	<b>H</b>	Field mounted: Small - < 1 hectare	<b>H</b>	Field mounted: Small - < 1 hectare	<b>M-H</b>	Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	<b>H</b>	Field mounted: Medium - 1 to 5 hectares	<b>H</b>
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	<p>the top of the ridge. These are prominent features in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>G5: The wooded parkland fringes on the plateau to the edge of the Waveney Rural Wooded Valley form undeveloped skyline elements to the east of the Broads which contribute to the Broads setting and are therefore sensitive.</p> <p>Due to the degree of intervisibility with prominent ridges, sensitivity ratings are generally the same as for the Broads although there would be a slightly lower sensitivity to the smallest scale (roof mounted) and field mounted solar arrays although this would depend entirely on orientation in relation to the Broads and particularly careful consideration of intervisibility.</p>
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