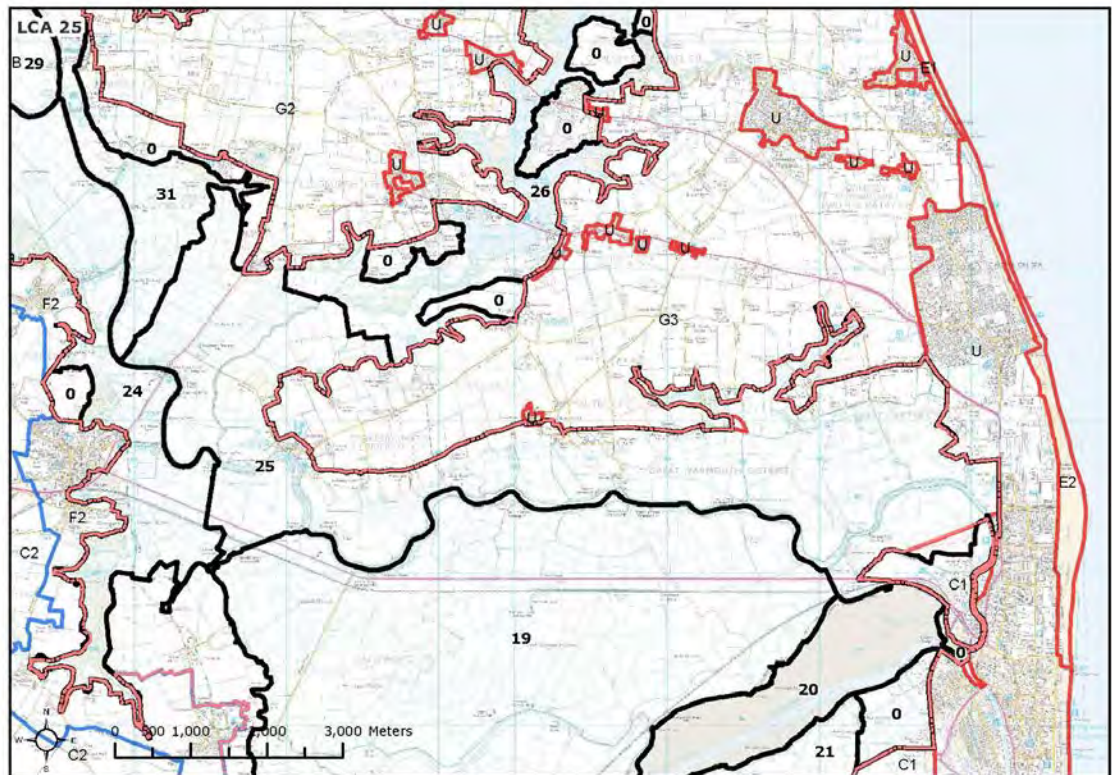


LCA 25: Bure Valley – Lower Bure Arable Marshlands

Location and landscape character context



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Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Wind Turbines

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	← →	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities			
	This character area displays a number of special qualities which would be sensitive to wind turbine development, notably the wide open landscape character and big skies (the perception of which could be altered by wind energy development and associated tall on-shore infrastructure such as pylons for off-shore schemes). Similarly, the area's remote and empty character (which relates to the special quality 'sense of tranquillity') would also be vulnerable to introduction of large moving structures such as turbines, although this would be locally reduced in proximity to the settlement edges at Great Yarmouth and Caister. The character area is highly sensitive overall to wind turbines with regard to scenic and special qualities, taking the above into account.		
2.Enclosure and scale			
	Whilst the large scale open marshland character decreases sensitivity to turbines, the presence of localised elements of enclosure such as the low valley sides beyond the Executive Area, and intermittent blocks of carr woodland, increase landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in these terms.		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern			
	The landscape pattern is relatively simple, being defined mostly by large scale rectilinear marshes and arable fields, albeit with localised complexity and variation provided by the presence of carr woodland fringed tributary valleys such as at Caister Castle. The wide bands of reed associated with the course of the Bure create textural variation, whilst human scale elements are introduced by small scale settlement such as Stokesby and also seasonally by sailing boats using the Bure. In spite of the generally simple landscape pattern, sensitivity is increased by the presence of human scale elements and by areas of textural variation such as carr and reed rond – moderate-high sensitivity to wind turbines.		
4.Skylines			
	The largely undeveloped skylines (including wooded skylines associated with Mautby Decoy) would be sensitive to wind turbine development and associated tall on-shore infrastructure such as pylons due to potential disturbance to perceptual character, although the developed eastern horizon (Great Yarmouth – Caister) would locally decrease landscape sensitivity. Historic skyline features such as wind pumps and Caister Castle would also increase sensitivity, giving a high skyline sensitivity overall.		
5.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	The generally tranquil landscape and remote landscape character, reinforced by mostly undeveloped skylines, would be sensitive to wind turbine development, although this would be locally reduced in the eastern part of the character area, where the landscape is influenced by coastal settlement edge. Overall, the landscape has a high sensitivity to wind turbines in perceptual terms.		
6.Historic landscape character			
	Many of the historic landscape types and features of this area have been affected by boundary loss and resultant erosion of landscape pattern. However, historic features of this character area which would be sensitive to wind turbine development are areas of small scale vernacular settlement such as Stokesby and the traditional wind pumps which define skylines, together with the ruins of Caister Castle. These elements increase landscape sensitivity to turbines to moderate-high in historic terms.		
7.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility			
	The expansive nature of views across the area and to the adjacent		

with areas outside the Broads	Halvergate Marshes mean that this landscape is visually sensitive to the introduction of large scale vertical elements such as turbines and supporting infrastructure of comparable scale such as pylons. This is reinforced by the part intervisibility with adjacent character areas beyond the Broads Authority Executive Area (Great Yarmouth Borough character area G3: Ormesby and Filby Estate Farmland), albeit partly filtered by carr woodland. Given the visual influence on and of the Halvergate Marshes, this landscape character area is highly sensitive to turbines in visual terms.			
Discussion on landscape sensitivity	<p>Overall landscape sensitivity to wind turbine development and to related tall infrastructure such as pylons is judged to be high. This is in view of the representation of special qualities sensitive to wind turbine development, such as the sense of tranquillity and the wide open landscape of big skies. The predominantly open and undeveloped skyline character and the level of intervisibility with other remote landscapes such as the Halvergate Marshes are also important to this sensitivity judgement, as is the presence of occasional historic skyline features such as wind pumps and Caister Castle.</p> <p>This judgement also applies to large infrastructure for off shore wind farm schemes, such as pylons.</p>			
Sensitivity to different turbine heights	Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
	Small (0-20m)	M-H	Small (0-20m)	M-H
	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
Commentary on different cluster sizes	Commentary:			
	Turbines in the smallest height typology would have less impact on human scale feature such as wind pumps, resulting in a marginally lower (moderate-high) sensitivity rating, although for all other typologies the high landscape sensitivity rating would apply, for the reasons outlined in the overall sensitivity judgement above.			
	Landscapes outside the Executive Area			
	Relevant landscape characteristics and key landscape sensitivities are:			
	Great Yarmouth Borough – G3: Ormesby and Filby Settled Farmland: Panoramic views albeit with carr woodlands providing visual filtering in relation to the Broads.			
Whilst the landscape has a slightly reduced (moderate-high) sensitivity in relation to the Broads, to smaller and medium size turbines (due primarily to more filtered visual character), siting would be critical in relation to the Executive Area. Landscape sensitivity to large turbine typologies would be high, due to potential visual prominence in relation to the Broads.				
Commentary on different cluster sizes	Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
	Single turbine	M-H	Single turbine	M-H
	<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>Commentary: Single turbines would better respond to existing skyline elements such as single wind pumps, reducing the visual clutter that would potentially be introduced by larger clusters, hence a slightly lower (moderate-high) sensitivity rating for this typology. Landscape sensitivity to all multi turbine typologies would be high due to the potential for visual clutter in relation to simple skylines within the character area and the adjacent Halvergate Marshes.</p> <p><i>Landscapes outside the Executive Area</i> Relevant landscape characteristics and key landscape sensitivities are:</p> <p>Great Yarmouth Borough: G3: Ormesby and Filby Settled Farmland: Panoramic views albeit with carr woodlands providing filtering in relation to the Broads.</p> <p>The landscape has a slightly reduced (moderate-high) sensitivity in relation to the Broads, to single turbines and small clusters (due primarily to more filtered levels of intervisibility), although siting would be critical in relation to the Executive Area. Landscape sensitivity to larger multi turbine clusters would be high, due to potential visual prominence in relation to the Broads and associated potential for introduction of skyline clutter.</p>			