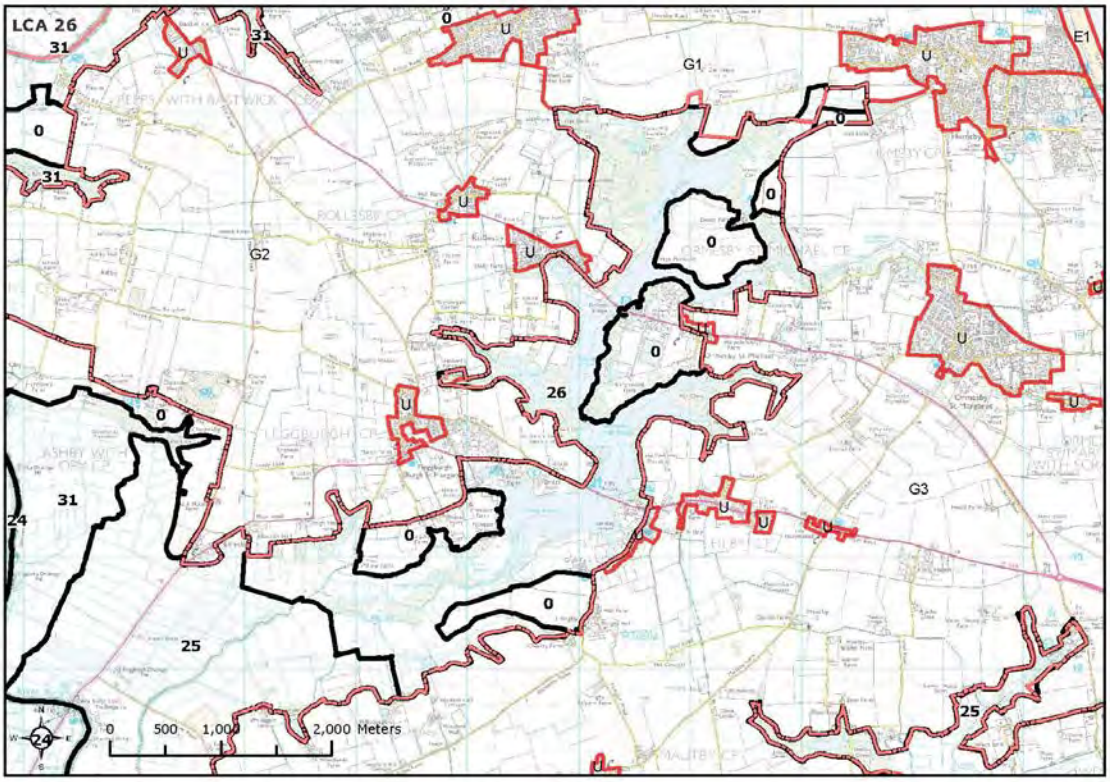
LCA 26: Muck Fleet Valley and the Trinity Broads

Location and landscape character context



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for Wind Turbines

Criteria	Lower sensitivity	⟷	Higher sensitivity
1.Scenic and special qualities			
	The sense of tranquillity and wildness is reflected in the quiet, rural and largely undeveloped character of this area. This sense of tranquillity would be highly sensitive to the introduction of tall, moving structures such as turbines and also to supporting infrastructure (such as pylons for off-shore schemes). This because of the effect that such elements could have upon the perception of these scenic/special qualities.		
2.Enclosure and scale			
	The often enclosed character created by sinuous, reed-fringed broads and carr woodland backdrops, and the associated strong sense of enclosure, would be highly sensitive to large scale elements such as wind turbines, due to the potential confusion they would introduce. The landscape also includes a number of human scale elements (such as seasonal recreational boating) which would also be sensitive to turbines.		
3.Landscape and land cover pattern			
	The richly varied and intricate landscape pattern created by waterways, sinuous broads, reed ronds and carr woodland, together with associated fine grain appearance, would be highly sensitive to turbines due to the difference in scale and the effect they would have on perception/coherence of this landscape pattern.		
4.Skylines			
	The wooded skylines are of an essentially undeveloped character which would be highly sensitive by virtue of this, to introduction of any developed elements such as turbines.		
5.Perception and experience of the landscape			
	The relative absence of human influence and the associated tranquil, rural character associated with the experience of this character area would be sensitive to the introduction of development such as wind turbines.		
6.Historic landscape character			
	This area exhibits a number of historic landscape types whose coherence would potentially be affected by wind turbine development, and which would therefore be sensitive, such as broads/reservoirs fringed by carr woodland and regenerated carr and small scattered areas of 17th-20th century rectilinear grazing marsh.		
7.Visual sensitivities and intervisibility with areas outside the Broads			
	A high degree of visual filtering is created by the valley sides and the presence of the carr woodlands, which create almost continuous visual foiling and results in very little intervisibility with landscapes beyond the area. However, as demonstrated by the existing Somerton Windfarm which is intervisible with the area, the extent of visual filtering such features provide in relation to larger structures such as turbines is limited. Sensitivity to turbines in visual terms is therefore no less than moderate, given the above.		
Discussion on landscape sensitivity			
	Overall landscape sensitivity of this area to wind turbines and associated tall infrastructure such as pylons is high. This is due to the presence of sensitive special qualities, principally represented by the area's sense of tranquillity and undeveloped character, which would be sensitive to the introduction of turbines. Other factors which are essential to this sensitivity judgement are the undeveloped skyline character and the presence of fine grain historic features and landscape elements which would be vulnerable to the introduction of large scale elements such as turbines.		

	This judgement also applies to large infrastructure for off shore wind farm schemes, such as pylons.

Sensitivity to different turbine heights

Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
Small (0-20m)	H	Small (0-20m)	M-H
Medium (20-50m)	H	Medium (20-50m)	H
Large (50-70m)	H	Large (50-70m)	H
Very large (70m+)	H	Very large (70m+)	H

Commentary:
This area has no comparable vertical features or scale references similar to any turbine types in the identified typology. As such, landscape sensitivity is high for all typologies, for the reasons set out in the overall sensitivity judgement above.

Landscapes outside the Executive Area

Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities:

Great Yarmouth Borough -
G1: East Flegg Settled Farmland: Fieldwork confirmed the prominence of Somerton Windfarm in addition to the wooded landscape backdrop created by carr woodlands at the Trinity Broads.

G2: West Flegg Settled Farmland: Views are punctuated by vertical features such as wind pumps, turbines (Somerton and offshore) with views to and from the Broads, although there is a degree of enclosure associated with the edge of the Broads.

G3: Ormesby and Filby Settled Farmland: Panoramic views albeit contained by the wooded backdrop of the Broads. Vertical elements such the turbines at Somerton are visible, and the interface with the wetland landscapes of the Executive Area provide localised textural variation and interest.

Fieldwork confirmed that these character areas are visible through filtered views (carr woodland) from the Executive Area. However, due to the largely undeveloped skyline character and resultant visual prominence of turbines such as those at Somerton, sensitivity of the landscapes outside the Executive Area remains high to nearly all turbine typologies (skylines, prominence of such features in relation to the Broads). The exception is the smallest turbine typology where this could potentially be visually absorbed behind the carr woodlands, although much would depend on siting.

Commentary on different cluster sizes

Single turbine
Small clusters (<5 turbines)
Medium (6-10)
Large (11-25)
Very large (>26)

Land within the character areas		Land outside the Executive Area	
Single turbine	H	Single turbine	M-H
<5 turbines	H	<5 turbines	H
6-10 turbines	H	6-10 turbines	H
11-25 turbines	H	11-25 turbines	H
>26 turbines	H	>26 turbines	H

	Commentary: This area has no comparable vertical features or scale references similar to any turbine types in the identified typology. As such, landscape sensitivity is high for all typologies, for the reasons set out in the overall sensitivity judgement above. ***Landscapes outside the Executive Area*** Relevant landscape character areas and sensitivities: Great Yarmouth Borough - G1: East Flegg Settled Farmland: Fieldwork confirmed the prominence of Somerton Windfarm in addition to the wooded landscape backdrop created by carr woodlands at the Trinity Broads. G2: West Flegg Settled Farmland: Views are punctuated by vertical features such as wind pumps, turbines (Somerton and offshore) with views to and from the Broads, although there is a degree of enclosure associated with the edge of the Broads. G3: Ormesby and Filby Settled Farmland: Panoramic views albeit contained by the wooded backdrop of the Broads. Vertical elements such the turbines at Somerton are visible, and the interface with the wetland landscapes of the Executive Area provide localised textural variation and interest. Site work confirmed that views to these character areas are generally filtered from the Executive Area due to carr woodland. However, due to the largely undeveloped skyline character and prominence of turbines such as those at Somerton, sensitivity of the landscapes outside the Executive Area is high to nearly all turbine typologies (skylines, prominence of such features in relation to the Broads and potential of multiple turbine clusters to introduce visual clutter when viewed from the Broads). The potential exception is the single turbine typology, although siting and distance in relation to the Broads would be critical.