

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements

TR010044

Volume 6

6.3 Environmental Statement

Appendix 7.3: Landscape Baseline and Assessment

Planning Act 2008

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009

26 February 2021

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

**A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
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Appendix 7.3: Landscape Baseline and Assessment

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1 Landscape baseline and assessment

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Appendix to **Chapter 7, Landscape and visual effects** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.1] sets out:
- Relevant extracts of the published district landscape character assessments which have informed the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).
 - Descriptions of the Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) which have been defined via desk-based review and fieldwork, to provide an additional and more proportionate level of analysis for the assessment of the Scheme.
 - Detailed descriptions of the likely landscape effects of the Scheme (significant and not significant) during construction, year 1 and year 15 of operation, using the methodology set out in Appendix 7.2 of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.3].

The role of landscape character assessment

- 1.1.2 Landscape character assessment is defined within *LA 107: Landscape and visual effects* (Ref 1-1) as the “*process of identifying and describing variation in character of the landscape - the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive - to assist in managing change in the landscape*”.
- 1.1.3 With reference to the Landscape Institute and IEMA's *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition* (Ref 1-2) (GLVIA3), the first stage of LVIA includes establishing the baseline landscape conditions within the study area. This information forms the basis for identifying and describing the likely impacts of the Scheme and the resulting effects.
- 1.1.4 The landscape baseline across the study area is summarised in **Chapter 7, Landscape and visual effects** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.1] and includes descriptions under a series of headings, based on features and elements within the landscape. It also details the combination of elements, which make a particular contribution to distinctive character and includes a summary of published landscape character assessment work at the national, regional, country and district levels. These are used by local planning authorities as part of their planning policy evidence base and often provide specific guidance or recommendations on managing landscape change.
- 1.1.5 *GLVIA3* (Ref 1-2) (paras 5.12 – 5.18) indicates that broad-scale character assessments, such as those produced at the national and regional level, can be used to set the scene and indicate the key characteristics that may be apparent in the study area. It suggests that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these can be mapped to show how the Scheme relates to them. *GLVIA3* (Ref 1-2) (paragraph 5.16) acknowledges that it is likely that it will be necessary to carry out specific and more detailed surveys of the site and its immediate setting or surroundings and that is proportionate to the assessment of

the Scheme. This LVIA takes that approach, by identifying 16 LLCAs upon which the assessment of landscape effects is based.

1.2 Published landscape character assessments

1.2.1 The following section summarises the relevant published landscape character assessments at the national, regional, county and district level and the associated Landscape Character Types (LCT) or Landscape Character Areas (LCA) likely to be affected by the Scheme. In each case, only the key characteristics which are relevant to the study area or directly adjacent are included. These LCAs have been included to provide context and have been used to inform the identification of more detailed Local Landscape Character Areas described in section 1.3.

1.2.2 The extent of these LCAs is illustrated on **Figure 7.8 – Figure 7.10** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

National Character Areas

1.2.3 National Character Areas (NCA) are broad scale and provide context to more detailed studies of local landscape character.

1.2.4 The Scheme and the majority of the study area lies within *National Character Area Profile 88: Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands* (Ref 1-3) (NCA 88), defined by Natural England and illustrated on **Figure 7.8** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

1.2.5 NCA 88 (Ref 1-3) is summarised as:

“a broad, gently undulating, lowland plateau dissected by shallow river valleys that gradually widen as they approach The Fens NCA in the east. Within it, but distinct from it, is the Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge, a contrasting narrow and elevated outcrop of Greensand, with its associated habitats on acidic soils such as grassland, heathland and woodland.”

NCA88 Supporting document 2: Landscape change notes that major transport corridors cross the NCA, acknowledging that the existing A428, A1, M1, and A421 have had an impact on local landscape character. The section on other key drivers explains that development pressure in this NCA is high and that the need to accommodate further growth and expansion would present a challenge in ensuring that character and tranquillity are not adversely affected. It goes on to note that opportunities exist to improve multi-functional green infrastructure links and the design of the urban fringes in ways that respect landscape character and improve access to the countryside for local communities. The profile also notes enhancing the quality, state and structure of the River Great Ouse and supporting initiatives that include well-planned green infrastructure that would increase people’s access to and contact with the natural environment to benefit their health and wellbeing”

- 1.2.6 The following Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) within *NCA 88* (Ref 1-3) are relevant to the Scheme:
- Managing, expanding and linking woodlands, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity, and recreational opportunities (SEO 1).
 - Identifying opportunities to plan and create high-quality green infrastructure to help accommodate growth and expansion, linking and enhancing existing semi-natural habitats (SEO 3).
 - Opportunities to protect, conserve and enhance cultural heritage (SEO 4).

- 1.2.7 *National Character Area Profile 90: Bedfordshire Greensand Ridge* (Ref 1-4) (NCA 90) extends into the south-eastern corner of the study area, approximately 3 kilometres (1.8 miles) from the Scheme at its closest point. Its character is summarised as:

“A narrow ridge running north-east, south-west, rising out of – and entirely surrounded by – the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands NCA. It is a distinctive ridge with a north-west-facing scarp slope, formed by the underlying sandstone geology which has shaped the landscape and industry of the Ridge. Its historic landscapes, including the farmland, parklands and historic architecture, combined with small settlements, greenbelt and woodlands ancient and modern, give parts of the NCA a more timeless feel than the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands which surround it.

There is a patchwork of semi-natural habitats throughout the NCA, including flood plain grazing marshes, lowland heathland and meadows and mixed deciduous woodland.”

Regional landscape character assessments

- 1.2.8 The *East of England Landscape Framework* (Ref 1-5) established by the Landscape East forum sets out a landscape typology for the region, which is a structured, spatial framework for describing and evaluating the character of the countryside.
- 1.2.9 The typology breaks the region down into landscape character types (LCTs). Two LCTs are relevant to the study area: Lowland Village Farmlands, and Wooded Village Farmlands.
- 1.2.10 The description for the Lowland Village Farms LCT notes:

“A gently rolling, elevated arable landscape with ancient woodland blocks and small, nuclear villages. Often an open landscape with long distance views, although woodland contains views particularly around settlements”

1.2.11 The description for the Wooded Village Farms LCT notes:

“This is a well settled, low lying landscape which is often crossed by major river corridors. The high density of settlement, intensive agriculture and major transport infrastructure mean that this is often a busy, rural landscape”

1.2.12 These LCTs have informed the definition of LLCA, the boundaries of which are illustrated on **Figure 7.10** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

County landscape character assessments

1.2.13 The *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6) published in 1991 provides some context for the eastern part of the study area, covering the districts of Huntingdonshire and South East Cambridgeshire.

1.2.14 Two LCAs identified in the guidelines are relevant to the study area: the ‘Western Claylands’ and ‘Ouse Valley’. It notes that the underlying clay geology influences the whole study area with subtle variations locally at a district level.

1.2.15 These LCAs have been used to inform landscape character assessments at the district level, the extents of which are illustrated on **Figure 7.9** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

1.2.16 Descriptions of these LCAs are provided under the headings relevant to each district below.

Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough landscape character assessments

1.2.17 Bedford Borough Council (Ref 1-7) and Central Bedfordshire Council (Ref 1-8) have published separate but integrated Landscape Character Assessments.

1.2.18 These published assessments cover the areas around the existing Black Cat roundabout and north towards Wyboston, Little Barford and the southern edge of St Neots. The LCAs that fall within the study area are set out below, with LCAs LCA4A, LCA5F and LCA1C spanning across both local authority areas, as shown on **Figure 7.9** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

Thurleigh Clay Farmland (LCA1D)

1.2.19 The Scheme is not located within LCA1D, as shown in **Figure 7.9** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

1.2.20 The nearest point of LCA1D lies approximately 300 metres to the northwest of the existing Black Cat roundabout. LCA1D extends north-west across the study area. The key characteristics of relevance to the study area are:

- a. Open, largely level area.
- b. Dominated by arable farmland generally with large irregular fields plus smaller fields around settlements. Remnant areas of unimproved grassland persist along road verges.

- c. Hedgerows are in mixed condition with some low, flailed and gappy or lost leaving areas of open arable land with long views.
- d. Hedgerow trees are prominent in the level landscape, many of them mature, including remnant trees within fields plus substantial recent plantings lining some rural roads.
- e. A few scattered woods give variety to distant views, particularly to the north and east of the area.
- f. Minor tributaries of the River Great Ouse cross the eastern part of the area from east to west causing subtle variations in topography.
- g. Dispersed low density settlement, consists of scattered farmsteads and villages, often made up of loose knit small groups of buildings known as 'ends', with some villages spreading along roads.
- h. Stone churches with tall towers are landmarks in the level landscape.
- i. Farms and cottages are built of brick and render, with thatch and clay tile roofs, large-scale modern farm buildings are highly visible on the skyline in some sections.
- j. Settlements often shelter amongst mature trees, with occasional coniferous or poplar shelter belts associated with farmsteads.
- k. A network of small rural roads and lanes cross the area.
- l. Rich heritage of earthwork sites (particularly moats).
- m. Network of footpaths, bridleways and green lanes particularly in the east.
- n. Views are generally distant over the largely level farmland.

Renhold Clay Farmland (LCA1E)

1.2.21 The western tie-in of the Scheme is within LCA1E. The key characteristics of LCA1E of relevance to the study area are:

- a. Open lowland subtly varied with gently undulating valleys contrasting with an exposed plateau.
- b. A rural, peaceful area but with some urbanising influences.
- c. Dominated by arable farmland with some scattered woodlands.
- d. Large geometric fields are bounded by hedgerows, fences and ditches, with smaller fields immediately around historic villages.
- e. Hedgerows are in mixed condition with some low flailed and gappy or lost leaving areas of open, featureless, arable land.
- f. Hedgerow trees are prominent in the level landscape, many of them mature, including remnant trees within fields.
- g. Scattered woods give variety to the distant views and include some ancient woodlands of high biodiversity interest.

- h. A few isolated areas of neutral unimproved grassland retain national importance for their biodiversity.
- i. Tributaries of the River Great Ouse traverse the area from east to west.
- j. Dispersed settlement, low but even in density, consists mainly of scattered farmsteads and villages, the latter often sheltered amongst mature trees.
- k. Farms and cottages are built of brick and render, with thatch and clay tile roofs.
- l. A network of small rural roads and lanes cross the area and the presence of the A421 Great Barford Bypass is felt locally in new features associated with the trunk road.
- m. Late Iron Age and Roman period occupation of the area is demonstrated by scatters of enclosure cropmarks.
- n. Many historic earthwork sites (particularly moats), including, Palaceyard Wood moat (Roxton), Birchfield Farm moat (Great Barford).
- o. Consistent network of footpaths, bridleways and green lanes.
- p. Views are generally distant over the subtly undulating open farmland.
- q. The network of brooks and minor watercourses add local character and are often lined with mature willow or poplar.

1.2.22 In summary, the two clay farmland areas (LCA1D and LCA1E) are characterised by the gently undulating landform and flatter, elevated plateaux (to the west). The underlying geology is Oxford Clay, overlain with Boulder Clay. This supports a large-scale, open landscape of intensive arable farmland with a pattern of fragmented hedges and remnant, mature hedgerow trees and some scattered woodlands. Shallow valleys formed by small tributaries of the River Great Ouse are tree-lined, with small rural settlements generally of low density sparsely scattered across the area.

Great Ouse Clay Valley (LCA4A)

1.2.23 With reference to **Figure 7.9** of the Environmental Statement **[TR010044/APP/6.2]**, the existing Black Cat roundabout, A1 corridor and land towards the River Great Ouse, up to Wyboston and St Neots, lie within LCA4A. This area continues along the river to the southwest and the south (along the A1) of the study area. The key characteristics of LCA4A of relevance to the study area are:

- a. A shallow fairly wide valley of the River Great Ouse. Large scale open waterbodies, multiple channels and tributary streams are scattered across the floodplain. The course of the river is marked by riverside vegetation including mature willows. Shelterbelts and distinctive clusters of woodland create a semi-enclosed landscape.
- b. Mixed land use of arable on the shallow slopes of the valley with pasture, quarrying and recreational uses along the valley floor.

- c. Large and medium scale geometric fields are bounded by hedgerows in mixed condition with some hedgerow trees.
- d. Restored sand and gravel workings are a recreational and ecological resource including Wyboston Leisure Park, while active, large-scale quarrying continues particularly adjacent to Black Cat.
- e. Extensive tree planting linked to the on-going restoration of mineral sites in the valley.
- f. The importance of the area in prehistoric times as a focus for ritual sites and funerary monuments is reflected in the presence of a number of ancient monuments.
- g. Historic parks at Roxton, Little Barford and Tempsford contain parkland trees, medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow. Moated sites and remains of castles are present particularly at strategic points commanding the rivers.
- h. Settlement consists of medium size villages and large industrial complexes including the power station at Little Barford and mixed development around Wyboston Lakes, and clusters of glasshouses and nurseries e.g. around Wyboston.
- i. Building materials are varied with local stone churches, red brick dwellings, black painted clapboard barns, clay tile and thatch roofs and more recent industrial buildings of brick, metal and glass.
- j. An urban fringe character results from the aural and visual presence of major road corridors of the A1 (M) and A421, large-scale industrial development, restored sand and gravel workings and large arable fields, although with pockets of intact river valley landscape.
- k. The Ouse Valley Way long distance route and National Cycle Route 12 cross the landscape.

Biggin Wood Clay Vale (LCA5F)

- 1.2.24 The part of the study area between Little Barford Road and the south of Alington Hill lies within LCA5F. The LCA continues to extend to the south and east of the study area, towards Sandy and the Everton Greensand Ridge. The key characteristics of LCA5F of relevance to the study area are.
- a. A medium scale, open vale landscape. A predominantly flat landscape with dominant open skies to the south of Alington Hill.
 - b. Area forms a transition between the valley of the Great Ouse Clay Valley (4A) to the west and the Everton Heath Wooded Greensand Ridge (6C) to the east.
 - c. Clear views across the vale terminated by the backdrop of the Everton Heath Wooded Greensand Ridge (6C) providing some sense of containment. To the west the more wooded landscape of the river valley is defined by willows and poplars.

- d. Land use is predominantly defined by arable cropping contained within medium to large arable fields, with hedgerow boundaries in variable condition.
- e. Roadside hedgerows are important features and include tall overgrown mixed hedgerows creating a shaded wooded context and wide grass verges and mature hedgerow and roadside trees (ash, field maple and oaks).
- f. Presence of small field ditches draining to the River Great Ouse, plus occasional field ponds.
- g. Small woodland blocks, hedgerow trees and copses provide texture, variety and enclosure in close range views, and forming a valuable biodiversity resource.
- h. Occasional small-scale industrial units with associated industrial boundaries (chainlink fencing/security measures/ access splays and gates) interrupt the rural agricultural character.
- i. Former Tempsford airfield, now under arable cropping at Gibraltar Farm - used during wartime espionage operations. The airfield includes a memorial to WW2 pilots.
- j. A bridleway running north south through the area and linking to Sandy to the south preserves the line of the White Way Roman Road between Baldock and Godmanchester.
- k. The area is severed by the East Coast Mail Line (ECML) railway which runs north south across the vale. It is crossed by two roads (bridge and level crossing) - although much of the area to the east of the railway line is isolated and 'remote' with access limited to unmarked tracks.
- l. Locally, the overhead electric lines associated with the railway and line of pylons which cross the area form visually dominant built elements. The regular noise from the railway of passing trains also impinges on the quiet rural character.
- m. Settlement is limited to occasional solitary farms and buildings - often isolated at the end of unmarked lanes. The village of Tempsford on the boundary is associated with the valley of the River Great Ouse.

Everton Heath Greensand Ridge (LCA6A)

- 1.2.25 The Scheme is not located within LCA6A, the nearest point lying approximately 3 kilometres (1.8 miles) to the southeast at Alington Hill. It forms an elevated ridge orientated from northeast to southwest. The key characteristics of relevance to the study area are:
- a. An elevated landscape occurring over the solid band of Lower Greensand (running SW to NE across Central Bedfordshire). This character area forms the easternmost part of the ridge – it has a steep northwest facing 'escarpment' backed by an area of high undulating land forming the ridge top.

- b. Varied land cover pattern with large-scale mosaic of plantation and deciduous woodland, open areas of heathland creation, arable cropping and set - together creating a diverse textured landscape. Pine clumps are a distinctive landscape feature.
- c. Sense of scale and enclosure varying from enclosed dark beech plantations, to vast open panoramas from the ridge top, for example, Warden Hill near Everton. Experience of the landscape includes filtered views through woodland opened up for heathland creation, directed views associated with parkland planting, and extensive views from the open arable ridge top.
- d. Strong underlying heathland character evident in road names e.g. 'Heath Road', verge and woodland understorey vegetation, and in the areas of heathland recreation initiated by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) (Sandy Warren Site of Special Scientific Interest).
- e. Variable field and roadside boundaries - ranging from mature shelterbelts to gappy, short flailed boundaries to intact hedges.
- f. Large, deciduous, mixed and plantation woodland blocks - some of which are ancient - e.g. White Wood, to the north and woods associated with areas of parkland result in a strong wooded context - contrasting with more open arable areas.
- g. Strong estate parkland character - with houses, parkland planting, formal avenues, estate woodlands and gatehouse lodges forming an important landscape element at Woodbury Park, Hazells Hall, and Everton Park.
- h. Iron Age hillforts control the gap in the Greensand Ridge as at Caesar's Camp and Galley Hill. Springs occur along the steep northern ridge - otherwise water is largely absent within the landscape apart from a reservoir at Woodbury Park and a pond at The Lodge.
- i. Limited road network with a triangle of routes connecting settlements of Everton and Potton, and the market town of Sandy (outside of the study area)- at the foot of the ridge.
- j. The sparse road network contrasts with the extensive unmarked tracks which cross through the area providing access. The Greensand Ridge Walk is a popular long distance route.
- k. Active and restored mineral extraction works are dispersed across the area. Workings are generally well screened within the landscape.
- l. Small linear village of Everton above the 'escarpment' with the larger expanded village of Potton (outside the study area) to the south, based around the market square.
- m. Landmark churches, with distinct towers act as focal points in the landscape e.g. at Everton. The mast at Sandy transmitter station is a dominant feature in views to the ridge and across the ridge.
- n. Recreational landscape with the long distance route of the Greensand Ridge Walk.

Bedford Borough landscape character assessment, 2007 (superseded)

Alington Hill Clay Farmland LCA1C

- 1.2.26 A sub LCA of the current LCA5F defined above was formerly included as a separate LCA referred to as Alington Hill Clay Farmland LCA1C within the now superseded 2007 *Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-9). LCA1C has been introduced for the purposes of this LVIA as it explains the change in character within the study area and provides a further level of detail in understanding the baseline.
- 1.2.27 The section of the route of the Scheme across Alington Hill lies at the centre of LCA1C. The key characteristics of LCA1C of relevance to the study area are:
- Open low plateaux gently rising from the east.
 - A peaceful rural area with little settlement.
 - Predominantly arable farmland with mixed woodland blocks and coniferous shelter belts.
 - Large geometric fields are bounded by hedgerows.
 - Hedgerows are full and thick although some have gaps and there are few hedgerow trees.
 - Scattered woods clothe the slopes up to the plateau and are prominent in views from the lower ground to the west.
 - Dispersed and low-density settlement consists of a few scattered farmsteads.
 - Farms are built of brick with weatherboard or metal farm buildings, and clay tile roofs they shelter amongst mature trees or coniferous shelter belts.
 - A few farm tracks cross the area and the former Sandy-Godmanchester Roman road runs along the parish and county boundary to the east, partly followed by a modern road.
 - Views are generally distant over the open farmland with blocks of woodland providing some enclosure; to the north views of the power station towers at Little Barford are an urbanising influence.

Huntingdon District Landscape and Townscape Assessment (2007)

- 1.2.28 The landscape character across the central sections of the study area from St Neots, to Yelling and Abbotsley, is defined within the *Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).

- 1.2.29 The following three LCAs are of relevance to the study area.

LCA4: Ouse Valley (LCA4)

- 1.2.30 At its nearest point LCA4: Ouse Valley lies approximately 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) to the west of the route of the Scheme, to the west of the B1046, Potton Road junction. It continues to extend northwards beyond the study area, through the centre of St Neots. The key characteristics of LCA4 of relevance to the study are:

- a. A mosaic of land uses, united by their topography and relationship to the River Great Ouse.
- b. The constant feature in the landscape is the River Great Ouse.
- c. Several significant towns and large villages contain attractive buildings and have a strong relationship with the river.
- d. Urbanising influences occur at road crossings and where the valley passes through towns. Otherwise, the valley floor feels tranquil and isolated.
- e. Wetlands, flood meadows and unimproved grassland are of high ecological value.
- f. Willow and poplar trees flourish in the valley and increase its sense of identity and enclosure.
- g. Existing gravel workings, and former workings which have been flooded to create significant areas of open water.
- h. Traditional structures of bridges and mill/industrial buildings are characteristic man-made elements.
- i. Many recreational activities, including the Ouse Valley Way, boating, fishing and camping.

LCA5: South East Claylands (LCA5)

1.2.31 The central sections of the Scheme, from the south of the B1046/Potton Road junction to the B1040, to the north of Eltisley lie within LCA5. LCA5 continues to extend across the southeast of the study area. The key characteristics of LCA5 of relevance to the study area are:

- a. Subtle variations in topography, including valley, gently undulating landform and plateaux.
- b. Tall hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees are a distinctive feature in the central part of the area. Woodland cover increases towards the south.
- c. Sparsely settled with few villages.
- d. Village forms may be nucleated around village greens or linear. Buildings reflect the traditional vernacular.
- e. Evidence of its past Medieval settlement includes green lanes, moated sites and deserted villages, indicating that the landscape was once more densely populated.
- f. Heavy clay soils support cereal crops and arable production.

LCA8: Southern Wolds (LCA8)

1.2.32 The site proposed for a temporary vehicle recovery area during construction, to the northwest of St Neots, alongside the A1, lies within a small part of LCA8. This area extends to the north and west of the study area. The key characteristics of LCA8 of relevance to the study area are:

- a. Relatively gentle topography, including the broad valley of the River Kym.

- b. A well-wooded landscape, with hedged fields, and some more recent plantations.
- c. Scattered villages and few isolated farms.
- d. Significant modern influences on the landscape, including conifer plantations, power lines and housing estates.

Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in The Rural Landscape

- 1.2.33 The eastern sections of the Scheme and study area from Croxton, Eltisley and Papworth Everard to Cambourne lie within the district of South Cambridgeshire. The relevant landscape character assessment for this district is included within the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in The Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6), with the relevant LCA outlined below and illustrated on **Figure 7.9** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2].

Western Claylands LCA3 (LCA3)

- 1.2.34 The route of the Scheme crosses the western sections of LCA3, which continues to the southeast and northeast of the study area. The key characteristics of LCA3 of relevance to the study area are:
- a. Ridge and furrow and deserted medieval villages are features within this sparsely populated landscape.
 - b. Gently undulating landscape is subdivided by the Ouse Valley (north of St Neots).
 - c. Consists of large-scale arable farmland with open fields, sparse trimmed hedgerows and watercourses often cleared of bankside vegetation.
 - d. Scattered woodlands, some of which are ancient semi-natural woodlands of considerable importance in the County context.
 - e. Individual woods are of importance in visual and nature conservation terms, but they tend to be isolated incidents in an area dominated by arable farmland.
 - f. The landscape of this part of Cambridgeshire has been greatly affected by modern agricultural practices. Increased mechanisation has led to the removal of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields. Many of the remaining hedges are 'gappy'.
 - g. Dutch Elm Disease has taken a considerable toll on hedgerow trees.
 - h. Marginal land has been brought into production by drainage and other soil improvements. Larger farm units have created a need for large storage buildings, which can be prominent in the landscape.
 - i. Small villages and hamlets are scattered throughout the area, usually in sheltered places with existing trees. Small grass paddocks occur on the edges of the villages.

- j. Church spires and towers enliven the skyline.
- k. Existing and former wartime airfields have a significant impact on the wider area.

1.3 Local Landscape Character Areas

- 1.3.1 The following section outlines the LLCA which have been defined through desk study and fieldwork to provide a more detailed baseline of the existing landscape character at a proportionate scale to the Scheme. They derive from and are informed by the NCAs and LCAs defined at the national and district scale, which are described above.
- 1.3.2 The descriptions for each LLCA include details on tranquillity and night time lighting and the character of the night sky. This has been established through night-time fieldwork and a review of published information including:
 - a. *Tranquillity Map: England* (Ref 1-11), as mapped by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).
 - b. *England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies* (Ref 1-12), mapped by CPRE.
- 1.3.3 The location and extent of the LLCA are identified on **Figure 7.10** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.2]. This section also defines the value, susceptibility to change and landscape sensitivity of each LLCA.

LLCA 01: East Renhold Clay Farmland

- 1.3.4 This is located in the western part of the study area, covering the existing A421, west of the A1 and to the southwest of Chawston.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.5 This is an open, flat to gently undulating, area of arable farmland with scattered woodlands and isolated farmsteads, distant skylines and some urbanising influences focused towards the east.
- 1.3.6 LLCA 01 includes the eastern parts of the Renhold Clay Farmland LCA1E defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8).



Key characteristics:

- a. Open, subtly undulating topography.

- b. Dominated by large-scale arable land use with some scattered woodlands which give some variety to the land cover.
- c. Rural and peaceful away from strong urbanising influences to the east and south, particularly the A421 Great Barford Bypass. At adjacent points to the east there are horticultural and industrial uses, including glasshouses at Chawston.
- d. Dispersed settlement consists mainly of scattered farmsteads often enclosed by mature trees woodlands or linear development surrounded by glasshouses, in the east.
- e. Recreational uses, including Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and a section of the North Bedfordshire Heritage Trail.
- f. Vehicle headlights on the A421 and are prominent sources of night time lighting, but beyond the road the landscape is dark at night.
- g. References to the historic landscape include moated sites and larger properties with areas of parkland trees.

Landscape value

- 1.3.7 Condition is moderate due to the arable land use and vegetation patterns, despite some urbanising influences to the east and south. It is representative of key characteristics within the Renhold Clay Farmland LCA1 and provides recreational opportunities but is not covered by any landscape designations. LLCA 01 is considered to be of community value due to its recreational value and overall value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.8 LLCA 01 is largely undeveloped and it is open in character, but the existing A421 Great Barford Bypass is a strong influence across the southern sections of the LLCA. As such the LLCA is considered to have a **low** susceptibility to the proposed change.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.9 The combination of the medium landscape value and low landscape susceptibility results in a **medium sensitivity** to the Scheme.

LLCA 02: Settled Ouse Valley

- 1.3.10 This LLCA is located in the western part of the study area, covering the area south of the existing A421, west of the A1 and the existing Black Cat roundabout.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.11 A settled landscape with historic village enclosures surrounded by arable farmland on the slopes of the shallow valley of the River Great Ouse. A range of landcover patterns define medium scale arable fields, with smaller pockets of pasture and parkland closer to the villages. Existing road infrastructure and other

urbanising influences are present to the northern fringes which contrast with the otherwise generally peaceful settled valley

- 1.3.12 This area extends across the western valley slopes of the Great Ouse Clay Valley LCA4A to the southwest the existing Black Cat roundabout as defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8). It includes a small area around Great Barford House on the border of LCA1E.



Key characteristics

- a. A shallow, settled part of the valley associated with the River Great Ouse.
- b. The course of the river is marked by riverside vegetation including mature willows. Shelterbelts and distinctive clusters of woodland create a semi-enclosed landscape along the River.
- c. Mixed land use, with arable fields on shallow valley slopes and pasture and recreational uses surrounding settlement, including The Ouse Valley Way long distance trail and National Cycle Route 12.
- d. Large and medium scale geometric fields are bounded by hedgerows in mixed condition with some hedgerow trees.
- e. Settlement consists of medium size villages with some light industrial nursery uses towards the A1, A421 Black Cat roundabout.
- f. An historic park at Roxton contains parkland trees and medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow and evidence of moated sites.
- g. A rural, peaceful area to the south and west but with some urbanising influences defining the northern boundaries, including the existing A1 and the existing Black Cat roundabout which is a prominent source of night time light pollution across the area.

Landscape value

- 1.3.13 LLCA 02 is representative of key characteristics within the Great Ouse Clay Valley LCA LCA4A. The semi-enclosed arable landscape along the river provides some scenic and landscape qualities. There are some recreational opportunities, including long distance walking and cycling routes. Roxton is covered in part by a Conservation Area and contains listed buildings which contribute to landscape value, but the northern part is degraded by industrial land uses and major

infrastructure. The LLCA is considered to be of regional geographic value and the value overall is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.14 The LLCA is dominated by semi-enclosed arable fields along the river and the village of Roxton. The character of the LLCA is locally influenced to the north and east by the existing A428, A1 and the existing Black Cat roundabout. The LLCA is considered to be of **low** susceptibility indicating some capacity to accommodate the proposed development.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.15 The combination of the medium value and low susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 03: Wyboston and Chawston

- 1.3.16 This LLCA is located in the western part of the study area, covering the existing A1 and the landscape to the west of the A1 and to the northwest of the existing Black Cat roundabout.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.17 The layout of the area is strongly influenced by the inter-war land settlement scheme, whereby small holdings were established to encourage market gardening. The area is now defined by a varied mixture of dispersed, generally low density settlement, laid out on a loose grid and including small groups of buildings interspersed with a variety of light industrial land-uses including nurseries and glasshouses, many of which are now disused. In places, particularly to the north, this mixture of land-use and settlement, creates a distinctive, planned, urban fringe character, but it is fragmented and discordant in place, particularly adjacent to the existing A1. The area is also dominated by major road infrastructure to the east and south comprising the existing A1 and A421.
- 1.3.18 LLCA 03 extends north to the southern fringe of St Neots and includes the western sections of the Great Ouse Clay Valley LCA4A, as defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8). It also includes a small section of the Renhold Clay Farmland LCA1E at its easternmost point, where glasshouses define the fringes.



Key characteristics

- a. Generally flat upper valley slopes of the River Great Ouse.
- b. Mixed land use of medium to large arable fields with regular fields of pasture surrounding dispersed areas of settlement.
- c. Dispersed settlement consists of medium size villages interspersed with a range of horticulture and light industry including clusters of glasshouses and plant nurseries, some of which are no longer in use.
- d. Much of the development which lines the A1 dates from the interwar Land Settlement Schemes, with distinctive architecture and a regular but dispersed layout.
- e. An urban fringe character results from the noise and visual disturbance of major road corridors of the A1 and A421 and some industrial development and restored sand and gravel workings.
- f. Shelterbelts and clusters of woodland create a semi-enclosed landscape between settlements in places.
- g. The Ouse Valley Way long distance trail and National Cycle Route 12 cross the landscape on sections of roads away from the river.
- h. A busy, active landscape with high levels of night time light pollution across the area particularly to the north of the existing Black Cat roundabout and north along the A1 to the southern edge of St Neots.

Landscape value

- 1.3.19 The LLCA contains features common for an urban fringe, including major road corridors of the A1 and the existing A428. The landscape is not covered by any landscape designations and is of limited scenic quality with many detracting elements, particularly close to existing infrastructure. There are some, albeit limited, recreational opportunities of community value. Overall value is assessed as **low** with a mix of common and some discordant features and limited scenic and landscape quality.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.20 The LLCA is characterised by a fragmented landscape pattern of urban fringe land use, strongly influenced by major road corridors of the existing A1 and A428. As such susceptibility to change is **low**.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.21 The combination of the low landscape value and low landscape susceptibility results in **low** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 04: Ouse Valley Lakes

- 1.3.22 This LLCA is located in the western part of the study area, covering the landscape east of the existing A1.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.23 LLCA 04 is a landscape dominated by open water and the legacy of mineral extraction sites, now used for leisure and business parks, set within a wide shallow valley. There are further urban and industrial influences including high voltage pylons and power lines and active quarrying sites and small linear settlements at Little Barford and Tempsford.
- 1.3.24 The area extends north to the southern fringe of St Neots and south to Blunham and covers the valley floor of the Great Ouse Clay Valley LCA4A as defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8).



Key characteristics

- a. A shallow, wide valley with large-scale open waterbodies, multiple channels and tributary streams across the floodplain.
- b. The course of the River Great Ouse is marked by riparian vegetation including mature willows. Shelterbelts and clusters of woodland create a semi-enclosed character.
- c. Mixed land use of arable on the shallow slopes of the valley with pasture, quarrying and recreational uses along the valley floor.
- d. Large and medium scale geometric fields are bounded by hedgerows in mixed condition with some hedgerow trees.
- e. Restored sand and gravel workings are a recreational and ecological resource including the Wyboston Lakes Resort and south of Roxton, while active large-scale quarrying continues adjacent to the existing Black Cat roundabout.
- f. Extensive tree planting linked to the on-going restoration of mineral sites in the valley.
- g. Historic parkland at Little Barford and Tempsford contains features such as parkland trees, and medieval earthworks, ridge and furrow and moated sites.
- h. Settlement consists of small linear villages of Little Barford and Tempsford the character of which is strongly influenced by former estates.
- i. Urban fringe character in the north results from the noise and visual disturbance of major road corridors of the A1 and A421, large-scale industrial development including Little Barford Power Station to the north.

- j. Prominent sources of night time light pollution across the western part of the area alongside the A1 and associated with the Wyboston Lakes Resort in the north.
- k. The Ouse Valley Way long distance route and National Cycle Route 12 and 51 cross the landscape.

Landscape value

- 1.3.25 LLCA 04 is representative of the key characteristics within the Great Ouse Clay Valley LCA4A. It has some scenic and landscape quality due to the expansive lakes, and a high recreational value due to the associated leisure activities but is also located in close proximity to major infrastructure and is crossed by high voltage power lines. The LLCA is considered to be of local geographical value due to and in combination with the recreational value and overall value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.26 The landscape pattern, whilst simple, is coherent and settled. The existing A1, A428 and pylons are detracting features located across the western boundary and central parts of the area, which in combination with this being a modified landscape (following its former use), LLCA 04 is considered to have a **low** susceptibility to the Scheme.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.27 The combination of the medium value and low susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 05: Biggin Wood Clay Vale

- 1.3.28 LLCA 05 is located in the southwestern part of the study area, extending east from Tempsford and south of Little Barford, to more elevated areas at base of Alington Hill and the Greensand Ridge at Everton. The area takes its name from the Biggin Wood moated enclosure at Tempsford, which is a Schedule Monument.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.29 This is an open vale landscape with gently undulating landform rising to the east, forms a transition between the Ouse valley and the elevated landscape of Alington Hill and the Everton Heath Wooded Greensand Ridge. It is defined by medium to large-scale arable fields, with limited hedgerow boundaries in variable condition and small woodland blocks providing localised enclosure. The area is severed by the ECML which runs north south across the vale and it is crossed by several high voltage overhead powerlines, also running north to south.

- 1.3.30 This LLCA encompasses the northern sections of the Biggin Wood Clay Vale LCA5F as defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8), and includes a small section of the lower vale slopes of the South East Claylands LCA5 defined within the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. A gently undulating medium scale, open vale landscape.
- b. The area forms a transition between the Great Ouse Valley to the west and the elevated landscape of Alington Hill and the Everton Heath Wooded Greensand Ridge to the east, which provide some sense of containment.
- c. Land use is predominantly arable with medium to large fields and hedgerow boundaries in variable condition.
- d. Roadside hedgerows are important features and include some tall overgrown mixed hedgerows. Small woodland blocks, hedgerow trees and copses provide texture, variety and enclosure in places.
- e. The area is severed by the ECML which runs north south across the vale, raised on embankment in sections.
- f. Much of the area to the east of the railway line is more isolated and 'remote' with access limited to unmarked tracks. The area is notably darker at night than other parts of the study area, particularly to the east of the ECML railway.
- g. Locally, overhead power lines associated with the railway and pylons which cross the area form visually dominant elements on the skyline. The regular noise from the railway of passing trains also intrudes on the otherwise quiet rural character.
- h. Occasional small-scale industrial units also interrupt the rural agricultural character.
- i. Recreational uses include a bridleway running north-south through the area preserving the line of the White Way Roman Road between Baldock and Godmanchester.
- j. Settlement is limited to occasional isolated farms and buildings – often isolated at the end of unmarked lanes. The village of Tempsford on the boundary is associated with the valley of the River Great Ouse.

- k. References to the historic landscape in the south include a moated site at Biggin Wood and the former Tempsford airfield at Gibraltar Farm – used during wartime espionage operations.
- l. A bridleway running north south through the area and linking to Sandy to the south preserves the line of the White Way Roman Road.

Landscape value

- 1.3.31 The area is representative of key characteristics within the Biggin Wood Clay Valley LCA. There are no landscape designations but some recreational opportunities. Cultural associations are limited to the southern fringe of the area. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographical value and overall the value is assessed as **low**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.32 This is an open, simple, arable landscape with some features in reasonable condition. The ECML severs the landscape pattern with embankments and cuttings and pylons are prominent features. The pattern of the landscape is mostly intact but with some localised alteration to landform via the cutting along the ECML railway and other industrial features. As such LLCA 05 is considered to have **medium** susceptibility to the proposed change.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.33 The combination of the low value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 06: Alington Hill Clay Farmland

- 1.3.34 This LLCA is located in the south-central parts of the study area. It covers the elevated ground to the east of the ECML extending along Alington Hill to the east of Little Barford, south of Abbotsley and north of the Greensand Ridge at Tetworth.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.35 Well-wooded arable farmland lies on elevated ground to the east of Little Barford. It comprises scattered, mixed woodland blocks, mature shelterbelts and hedgerows providing a strong wooded character to the skyline. The area is quiet and remote, with settlement restricted to a few isolated farmsteads and access limited to unmarked tracks and a minor road to Potton.

- 1.3.36 This area falls within the Alington Hill Clay Farmland LCA1C as defined within the superseded 2007 *Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-9), but also includes elevated ground to the east as defined in the South East Claylands LCA5, from the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. Open, low plateaux gently rising to the east and with more pronounced west facing slopes.
- b. A generally peaceful, rural area disrupted by the noise of trains on the ECML with little settlement.
- c. A dark landscape with low levels of night time light pollution.
- d. Predominantly arable farmland with mixed woodland blocks and coniferous shelter belts.
- e. Large, geometric fields bounded by hedgerows.
- f. Hedgerows are generally full and thick although some have gaps and there are few hedgerow trees.
- g. Scattered woods clothe the slopes up to the plateau and are prominent on the skyline in views from the lower ground to the west.
- h. A few isolated farmsteads built of brick with weatherboard or metal farm buildings with clay tile roofs. They shelter amongst mature trees or coniferous shelter belts.
- i. A few farm tracks cross the area and the White Way Roman Road between Baldock and Godmanchester which forms a bridleway.
- j. Further recreational uses at Abbotsley Golf Hotel and Cromwell Golf Course.
- k. Views are generally distant over the surrounding landscape, with blocks of woodland providing some enclosure; views extend south to the power station towers and tower cranes at Little Barford which are an urbanising influence.

Landscape value

- 1.3.37 The LLCA is representative of key characteristics within the Alington Hill Clay Farmland LCA, as defined within the superseded 2007 *Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-9). It has higher sense of tranquillity and remoteness than the surrounding landscape, despite its proximity to the ECML on the western boundary. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographical value and overall the value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.38 The western part of the LLCA has an essentially intact landscape pattern. Scattered woodlands exposed on Alington Hill create simple but distinctive character. As such the LLCA is considered to have a **high** susceptibility to proposed change.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.39 The combination of the medium value and high susceptibility results in a **high** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 07: Everton Greensand Ridge

- 1.3.40 This LLCA is located on the south fringes of the study area, covering an elevated ridge between Everton and Tetworth.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.41 This area comprises a well-wooded section of the elevated Everton Greensand Ridge. It comprises a steep northwest facing escarpment backed by undulating high ground to the south, defined by a strong heathland character, small linear villages and a sparse road network.
- 1.3.42 It is orientated from northeast to southwest and is located within the Everton Heath Greensand Ridge LCA6C as defined within the *Central Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment* (Ref 1-8). It also includes similar sections of elevated ground to the east as defined in the western fringes of the South East Claylands LCA5, defined within the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. An elevated ridge running northeast to southwest, with a steep northwest facing escarpment backed by an area of high undulating land.
- b. Varied land cover pattern with large-scale mosaic of plantation and deciduous woodland, some with ancient woodland designations. Pine clumps, open heathland, estate parkland, and arable add to a diverse textured landscape.
- c. Sense of scale and enclosure vary from enclosed beech plantations, to vast open panoramas from the ridge top.
- d. Variable field and roadside boundaries range from mature shelterbelts to gappy, short flailed hedgerows.
- e. The sparse road network contrasts with the extensive unmarked tracks which cross the area.
- f. Small linear village of Everton on the escarpment with the larger, expanded village of Potton to the south.
- g. Landmark churches, with distinct towers act as focal points in the landscape e.g. at Everton. The Sandy Heath Transmitting station is a dominant feature in views to the ridge and across the ridge.
- h. Recreational facilities and extensive walks associated with the RSPB reserve and the long-distance route of the popular Greensand Ridge Walk.
- i. A rural and peaceful area with low levels of night time light pollution.

Landscape value

- 1.3.43 The LLCA is representative of key characteristics within the Everton Heath Greensand Ridge LCA. The elevated ridge with landmark churches and blocks of woodland provide some scenic value and recreational opportunities. The majority of woodland is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland. The value of LLCA 07 is therefore **high**.

Landscape Susceptibility

- 1.3.44 The elevated ridge landform of the character area is distinctive and rare in the wider landscape context and this gives rise to a strong sense of place. This limits the capacity for change compared to flatter lower lying landscapes to the north. The varied landcover creates a strong landscape pattern with a degree of complexity and with features mostly in reasonable condition. As such the LLCA is considered to have a **high** susceptibility to proposed change.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.3.45 The combination of the medium value and high susceptibility results in a **high** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 08: Settled Clayland Vale

- 1.3.46 This LLCA is located in the central part of the study area, extending from Abbotsley to the existing A428 east of St Neots.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.47 Located between two areas of elevated plateaux farmland, this broad, sweeping, vale landscape comprises an open and gently undulating area of arable farmland. Limited hedgerow boundaries and small scattered woodland blocks provide localised enclosure, principally relating to watercourses and dispersed farmsteads. Most of the area is sparsely settled but to the west towards St Neots the landscape is experiencing some change. This includes new housing areas on the eastern edge of St. Neots at Wintringham and Loves Farm extending urban influences towards the existing A428.
- 1.3.48 This area includes the lower, western vale sections of the South East Claylands LCA5, from the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. Subtle variations in topography, including valley, gently undulating landform and plateaux.
- b. Tall hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees are a distinctive feature but hedgerows have been removed in many areas to amalgamate fields which contributes to a larger scale. Woodland cover increases towards the south.
- c. Sparsely settled to the east, but stronger urbanising influences and degree of changes in the landscape, to the west associated with St Neots, the existing A428 and other industrial influences such as the power station towers at Little Barford and wind farms to the north. These elements also create some night time light pollution including skyglow across the western sections of the area.
- d. Evidence of past Medieval settlement includes green lanes, moated sites and the White Way Roman Road between Baldock and Godmanchester.
- e. Heavy clay soils support cereal crops and arable production.
- f. Recreational uses include several PRow extending east from St Neots and south from Weald to Alington Hill along the Roman Road.
- g. Tall pylons traverse the area from north to south.

Landscape value

- 1.3.49 The landscape is open with some urbanising influences to the west and has some scenic quality. Recreational opportunities to the east comprising a strong network of PRow. There are no landscape designations within the area, but the area is more remote and tranquil than the landscape to the west. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographical value and overall the value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.50 The arable landscape is open, with common features mostly in reasonable condition. Urban extensions to St. Neots, the existing A428, ECML and high voltage power lines are detracting features which have altered the pattern and character of the arable landscape to the west while the area is more remote and tranquil in the east. Subtle variations in landform and larger fields provide simplicity in scale. Overall, LLCA 08 is considered to have **medium** susceptibility to the proposed change.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.3.51 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 09: St. Neots

- 1.3.52 This LLCA is located in the central part of the study area extending west from the existing A428 to the A1.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.53 This area extends across the densely settled townscape of St Neots. The centre of this market town contains a range of attractive buildings focussed on the River Great Ouse. The eastern boundaries of the area are defined by the elevated ECML and by large areas of industrial and commercial estates. In the south the townscape is defined by further areas of industry and commerce and by the existing A1 and A428. New housing areas to the north of Cambridge Road are located on more elevated land but are generally contained by dense planting.

- 1.3.54 This area includes parts of three district level LCAs defined in the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10) comprising the South East Claylands LCA05, the Ouse Valley LCA04 and the Southern Wolds LCA08.



Key characteristics

- a. A large market town with an historic core defined by a conservation area containing a range of attractive buildings primarily on the eastern bank of the River Great Ouse developed around the bridge head.
- b. The River Great Ouse runs north to south through the town with open parkland, tranquil and isolated common land, wetlands, flood meadows along the valley floor.
- c. The southern and eastern edges are defined by larger industrial areas.
- d. Recent settlement expansion has extended the town to the east of the ECML.
- e. Many recreational opportunities, including the Ouse Valley Way, boating, fishing and camping.
- f. To the north, subtle variations in topography define a transition to the Southern Wolds (LCA8) landscape.
- g. A busy, active townscape with high level of night time skyglow across the area.

Landscape value

- 1.3.55 The townscape of the historic core has many layers of history, reflected in its conservation area designation. Towards the southern and eastern fringes the townscape quality is reduced due to the business and industrial estates in proximity to A1, the existing A428, ECML and Little Barford Power Station. There are many recreational opportunities, especially along the River Great Ouse. Overall, the value of LLCA 09 is therefore assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.56 The townscape of LLCA 09 on the southern and eastern fringes comprise business and industrial estates. Little Barford Power Station, the existing A428, A1 and ECML are strong built features. As such the LLCA is considered to have a **low** susceptibility to Scheme.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.57 The combination of the medium value and low susceptibility results in **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 10: Eastern Wold Slopes

- 1.3.58 This LLCA is located in the north-western part of the study area to the west of the A1 and north west of St Neots.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.59 This area comprises a relatively flat, locally elevated landscape with the landform falling away to the north and south. It is located to the west of St Neots adjacent to the existing A1. It is defined by medium to large-scale arable farmland with open fields. Scattered woodlands are present along fringes of the area around the settlement edges of Hail Weston, the River Kym and the A1.
- 1.3.60 This area falls within the eastern fringes of the Southern Wolds LCA08 as defined in the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. Relatively gentle topography, including the broad valley of the River Kym.
- b. An open landscape with distant views from elevated points.
- c. More wooded, with hedged fields, and some more recent plantations around village edges and at lower fringe points.
- d. A sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms.
- e. Overhead power lines traverse the area.
- f. Recreational uses include a PRoW and the National Cycle Route 12 which crosses the landscape on sections of road.
- g. A relatively quiet, rural area but close to the more active, densely settled area of St. Neots to the east, which also creates some night time light pollution across the area.

- h. Views are generally distant to surrounding landscapes, and include power lines, wind turbines and settlement edges of St Neots, which are an urbanising influence.

Landscape value

- 1.3.61 The LLCA 10 contains features common for the arable landscape which are not designated. The landscape quality is reduced in proximity to the existing A1. PRoW provides some recreational opportunities. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographic value and overall the value is assessed as **low**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.62 The open, large-scale arable landscape with common features in reasonable condition is affected by the presence of the existing A1. As such the LLCA 10 is considered to have **low** susceptibility to the proposed change.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.3.63 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **low** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 11: Wintringham, Weald and Toseland Clay Farmland

- 1.3.64 This LLCA is located in the central part of the study area covering the gently undulating landscape between St Neots to the west, Toseland and Yelling.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.65 This elevated plateau comprises an open, undulating landscape of medium to large-scale arable fields with scattered, mixed woodland blocks, and field boundary trees and mature hedgerows in variable condition. Settlement is limited to scattered farmsteads across the centre, although there is evidence of historical settlement indicating that the landscape was once more populated.
- 1.3.66 The small linear settlements of Toseland and Yelling are located at high points on the northern boundary. The small hamlet of Wintringham lies in the south, straddling the existing A428. This area extends across more elevated sections of the South East Claylands LCA5 to the north-east of St Neots, identified in the *Huntingdon Landscape and Townscape Assessment* (Ref 1-10).



Key characteristics

- a. Subtle variations in topography define a gently undulating plateau with shallow clay vales.
- b. Tall hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees are distinctive, particularly along watercourses, but in many cases hedgerows have been removed to amalgamate fields.
- c. Farmland is interspersed with woodland blocks and tree groups.
- d. Sparsely settled with scattered farmsteads across central areas and linear settlements of Toseland and Yelling to the north at high points on the plateau.
- e. Occasional dwellings lie adjacent to the existing A428 enclosed by vegetation.
- f. Open and rural area but with some industrial influences such wind turbines to the north and the urban fringe of St Neots to the west.
- g. Evidence of Medieval settlement includes green lanes, moated sites and the archaeological remains of deserted villages, which indicate that the landscape was once more densely populated.
- h. Heavy clay soils support large-scale arable production.
- i. Recreational opportunities include PRoW extending generally north to south.
- j. Generally a quiet rural landscape with low levels of night time light pollution away from the fringes of St Neots, but with a notable contribution from vehicles on the existing A428.

Landscape value

- 1.3.67 Features are common for the arable landscape and are not designated. The landscape quality is reduced in proximity to the existing A428. Yelling is covered in part by a Conservation Area and contains listed buildings which contribute locally to landscape value. PRoW provide some recreational opportunities. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographic value overall the value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.68 The pattern of arable fields interspersed with woodland is mostly intact, with common features in reasonable condition. The existing A428 is a detracting feature. Overall, LLCA 11 is considered to have **medium** susceptibility to the proposed change.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.69 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 12: Croxton

1.3.70 This LLCA is located in the centre of the study area between the settlements of St Neots and Eltisley.

Summary of landscape character

1.3.71 This is a well wooded, settled landscape that includes the settlement of Croxton and the Grade II* registered historic park and garden of Croxton Park. The area contributes to the immediate landscape context and setting of the registered park.

1.3.72 Croxton extends south along the High Street and Abbotsley Road from the existing A428. Small scale pasture, large arable fields and large woodland plantations lie to the north and south of the registered park. North of the existing A428, which defines the northern boundary of the registered park, the landscape becomes gradually more open. Tranquillity increases but is still affected by the noise of traffic on the existing A428.

1.3.73 This is a relatively small but distinct landscape. The area is located within the western part of the Western Claylands LCA3, as defined in the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6).



Key characteristics

- a. A well wooded landscape, distinct from the landcover pattern of the surrounding farmland.
- b. Croxton Park (listed Grade II*) lies in the south, with a distinctive Georgian country house set within an early C16 deer park with three lodges at entrances. It was enlarged and landscaped in the early C19.
- c. The park is defined by parkland trees and woodland and is enclosed by large C19 plantations, particularly to the south and north and some of these contain blocks of pine. These are set within large-scale arable farmland.
- d. The existing A428 forms the northern boundary of the registered park, running through mature woodland on both sides of the road.
- e. Small linear village of Croxton is located in the north-western corner of the park, on roads leading south from the existing A428.
- f. Extensive PRoW across the historic parkland and surrounding farmland, but more limited to the north of the existing A428.

- g. A quiet and peaceful area with generally low levels of night time light pollution, traffic on the existing A428 being a notable exception.

Landscape value

- 1.3.74 This LLCA comprises features representative of the historic parkland which is of high landscape quality. Croxton Park is designated as Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. PRow provide some recreational opportunities. The LLCA is considered of regional geographical value and the overall value is assessed as **high**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.75 The strong and mostly intact parkland landscape means that the susceptibility to change is **high**.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.76 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in a **high** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 13: Eltisley

- 1.3.77 This LLCA is located in the eastern part of the study area, south of the existing A428.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.78 Eltisley, an historic nucleated village, lies at the centre of this area on a plateau of higher ground rising from the west. Within the centre of the village buildings are set around a village green. The immediate village enclosures comprise small scale pastures, mature hedgerows and woodland. The wider landscape setting is defined by larger scale, open, arable farmland which extends west to Croxton Park and east to Caxton.
- 1.3.79 This area is located within a small section on the western fringes of the Western Claylands LCA3, as defined in the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6).



Key characteristics

- a. An attractive, nucleated settlement with buildings set around a central village green and a well wooded context to the south of the existing A428 Cambridge Road west of the junction with the B1040.
- b. Small scale pasture, bounded by mature hedgerows, trees and woodland which surround and enclose the village.
- c. The landmark steeple of the church of St Pandionia and St John the Baptist is a focal point in the surrounding landscape.
- d. The village is surrounded by flat, open arable farmland with scattered woodland blocks, notably the large ancient semi-natural woodland of Eltisley Wood to the south of the village.
- e. Historic landscape features include several moated properties including scheduled monuments at Manor Farm, Pond Farm and Pastures to the south and Caxton Moats to the north-east of the village.
- f. Recreational uses with PRow extending to the north, south and east of the village.
- g. Tranquillity within the village is increased due to the density of vegetation enclosing it and its separation from the surrounding landscape. Noise from the existing A428 is apparent in the background, particularly in the north.
- h. Street lighting in the village contributes some night time light pollution, exacerbated by the lit junctions with the B1040 and traffic on the existing A428 to the north.

Landscape value

- 1.3.80 The village has a distinctive, rural settlement character enhanced by its central green and buildings of historic interest, many of which are listed and together fall within a conservation area. Eltisley Wood is designated as ancient semi-natural woodland and there are some recreational opportunities associated with the village green and PRow. The LLCA is considered to be of local value and overall high landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.81 The LLCA is a rural village with a degree of complexity and with a range of historic built features in good condition. It is located within close proximity to the existing A428 which cuts across the northern boundary but is separated by hedgerows, woodland and pasture which enclose the village and help to retain the integrity of the built elements. As such the overall its susceptibility to change is considered to be **medium**.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.3.82 The combination of the high value and medium susceptibility results in a high sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 14: Western Claylands

1.3.83 This LLCA is located in the eastern part of the study area covering a broad area between Eltisley, Papworth Everard and Cambourne.

Summary of landscape character

1.3.84 This area of plateau farmland comprises an open, undulating, medium to large-scale landscape of arable fields with limited field boundaries and occasional woodland blocks. Settlement is restricted to scattered farmsteads across the centre, with the influence of larger settlement and urban fringe to the north at Papworth Everard and east at Cambourne.

1.3.85 This area extends across the western sections of the Western Claylands LCA3, as defined in the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6).



Key characteristics

- a. Gently undulating landscape, consists of large-scale arable farmland with open fields and watercourses often cleared of bankside vegetation.
- b. Scattered woodlands are present and include ancient semi-natural woodland which are important in landscape, visual and nature conservation terms.
- c. The landscape of this part of Cambridgeshire has been greatly affected by modern agricultural practices. Increased mechanisation has led to the removal of many hedgerows and amalgamation of fields.
- d. Larger farm units have created a need for large storage buildings, which can be prominent in the landscape although these tend to be surrounded plantation woodlands, such as at North East Farm, north of the existing A428.
- e. Church spires, such as the church of St Pandionia and St John the Baptist at Eltisley enliven the skyline.
- f. A few PRoW extends across the area.
- g. A rural and sparsely settled landscape but with some urbanising influences on the skyline, including large settlement at Papworth Everard to the north Cambourne to the east and often heavy traffic along the existing A428.
- h. Widespread change occurring in the landscape to the east, associated with extensions to settlement of Cambourne.

- i. Generally a landscape with low levels of night time light pollution across the western sections of the area. There are higher levels in the east around the existing Caxton Gibbet junction and associated services and to the north at Papworth Everard and east at Cambourne.

Landscape value

- 1.3.86 The LLCA is representative of key characteristics within the Western Claylands Landscape Area LCA (LCA3). It comprises common landscape features and is not designated. The existing A428 and the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout cut through the area and pylons form prominent built elements. There are few recreational opportunities. The LLCA is considered to be of community geographical value and overall the value is assessed as **low**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.87 The landscape pattern of LLCA 14 is simple and open with limited variation in features and is influenced by the existing A428 and the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout. It is considered to be of **medium** susceptibility to change of the type proposed.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.88 The combination of the low value and low susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 15: Papworth Everard

- 1.3.89 LLCA 015 is located in the eastern part of the study area, extending the north from the existing A1198.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.90 This small area covers the southern fringe of Papworth Everard. It is defined by an area of new housing on high ground to the southwest and by an area of industrial and commercial buildings to the southeast. This settlement stretches across landform which falls away to the south and west. The northern boundaries of the area are defined by a more historic settlement pattern, including the southern extent of Papworth Hall.
- 1.3.91 This area is located within the western part of the Western Claylands LCA3, as defined in the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6).



Key characteristics

- a. Defined by new housing estates and light industrial estates and business parks on slightly elevated above the surrounding landscape on the southern edge of Papworth Everard.
- b. The existing A1198 bypasses and separates the settlement from the surrounding landscape, which is more open to the south.
- c. Views extend south towards prominent farm units which are prominent on higher ground.
- d. Some recreational uses with PRoW extending around the south west of the settlement and to the west from the northern fringe of the area.
- e. Some night time light pollution in the form of skyglow from the village and more intense lighting associated with industrial estates.

Landscape value

- 1.3.1 Industrial development and the A1198 Papworth bypass are detracting features; however, the undulating landform and scattered woodland add to the setting. The landscape is not designated but provides some recreational opportunities. As such the landscape value is assessed as **medium**.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.1 The southern edges comprise a mix of built influences including some industrial and business estates and new road infrastructure. As such the LLCA is considered to have a **low** susceptibility to Scheme.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.2 The combination of the medium value and low susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

LLCA 16: Cambourne

- 1.3.3 This LLCA is located in the eastern part of the study area, adjacent to the existing A428 dual carriageway and to the east of the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout.

Summary of landscape character

- 1.3.4 This small area is focussed on the western fringes of the new, planned settlement of Cambourne, development of which commenced in the late 1990s. It comprises a large business and commercial estate with institutional buildings to the north and modern housing to the south with associated public open space.

- 1.3.5 This area is located within the Western Claylands LCA03, as defined in the *Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines – A Manual for Management and Change in the Rural Landscape* (Ref 1-6).



Key characteristics

- a. Large area of modern residential development with a unified building style separated from open farmland by shelter belts of trees and shrubs.
- b. The western boundary of the settlement is defined by large buildings associated with Cambourne Village College and a business park with associated grounds and public open space.
- c. A relatively flat landscape that is experiencing some change, with large scale earthworks and infrastructure under construction to facilitate a new extension to Cambourne extending west towards A1198 Ermine Street and the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout.
- d. Some recreational uses with public open space on the settlement edge and PRow extending along the western settlement boundaries.
- e. An active settlement fringe character with some night time sky glow, including high intensity lighting associated with sports facilities within the settlement which is prominent across the surrounding open landscape.

Landscape value

- 1.3.6 The LLCA represents a mixed character of residential development, commercial and institutional buildings with open space and some recreational opportunities and surrounded by open farmland. It is considered to be of community value and overall **medium** landscape value.

Landscape susceptibility

- 1.3.7 The LLCA comprises mostly of an urban area in the east and an area of former farmland undergoing change to extend Cambourne to the west. It is influenced by the existing A428 on the northern boundary which adds to the urban fringe character and reduces its susceptibility. It is considered to be of **low** susceptibility with capacity to accommodate the proposed change.

Landscape sensitivity

- 1.3.8 The combination of the medium value and low susceptibility results in a **low** sensitivity to the Scheme.

1.4 Landscape effects

- 1.4.1 **Table 1-1** presents an assessment of the landscape effects likely to arise with respect to the LLCAs described in the baseline, during the construction and operational phases of the Scheme.
- 1.4.2 A summary of these effects is provided in **Chapter 7, Landscape and Visual Effects** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.1] and details of the mitigation measures incorporated (embedded) into the design of the Scheme are described in **Chapter 2, The Scheme** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.1].
- 1.4.3 Embedded mitigation measures are illustrated on the Environmental Masterplan on **Figure 2.4** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.3] and on the Landscape Cross-Section drawings on **Figure 7.16.01 – Figure 7.16.07** of the Environmental Statement [TR010044/APP/6.3].
- 1.4.4 Essential mitigation measures to be implemented during construction of the Scheme are described in the First Iteration EMP [TR010044/APP/6.8].

Table 1-1: Landscape effects table

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 01 East Renhold Clay Farmland	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>Construction activity would be localised to the north eastern fringes of the character area alongside the existing A421, therefore affecting only a small extent of the LLCA.</p> <p>The construction works associated with changes to the existing A421 would include removal of existing roadside vegetation along the A421 and a slight widening of the existing A421. The excavation of borrow pits for engineering fill material and soil storage adjacent to the north eastern LLCA boundary, west of Roxton Road would temporarily modify the surrounding landform patterns adjacent to this LLCA and increase construction traffic and presence of heavy plant vehicles in the north eastern part of the area. The temporary vehicle recovery area would be a new additional feature to the character for the duration of construction but contained by the existing cutting and in the context of the existing A421 trunk road.</p> <p>Some night time lighting is likely to be associated with the temporary vehicle recovery facility, which would be located in an area of relative darkness but adjacent to the existing A421. There may also be some light spill from construction activities to the north of the LLCA related to the construction of the new Roxton Road bridge and link road and the new Black Cat junction.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would largely follow and the existing road alignment of the A421 through this area with minor widening of the dual carriageway. As a result, changes to the character in this LLCA would be limited to the north eastern fringes of the LLCA and in the context of the existing road infrastructure that traverses across this section of the LLCA. Planting provided to mitigate the loss of existing vegetation will not have matured to integrate the new landform. However, the wider landscape pattern and characteristics including the large open arable land use and vegetation patterns will be unaffected.</p> <p>The borrow pit located adjacent to LLCA 01 within the southern fringes of LLCA 02, would have been restored to agriculture to reinstate the land use and subtle undulating pattern of topography and open scale, large scale fields. Mitigation planting would not have matured to replace the existing vegetation removed to facilitate construction.</p> <p>At night, more extensive lighting associated with the Black Cat junction is likely to be more prominent on the skyline to the north.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>At Year 15 the establishment of the proposed planting would reflect the character of the existing vegetation along the road, such that changes in character of LLCA 01 would be barely perceptible compared to the baseline.</p>	No change	Neutral

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 02 Settled Ouse Valley	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>The construction phase would introduce extensive construction activity across the northern sections of the LLCA and in an area which is heavily influenced by existing road infrastructure. The effects of this activity on the character of LLCA 02 would diminish to the south of Roxton and the pattern of characteristics associated with the semi-enclosed valley landscape would remain intact.</p> <p>The main construction activity would be located to the north and east of Roxton and would comprise major excavation and construction of the A1 (ground -1), the combined Kelpie Marina accessroad, the A421 and Roxton Road link and the construction of the Black Cat junction. These activities would introduce construction vehicles on haul roads, traffic diversions and realignments and cranes and other tall plant to implement the new infrastructure. There would be construction activity west of Kelpie Marina where there would be a site compound located to the north of School Lane. The construction phase would include the removal of vegetation along the A421 and A1 and notable changes to landform along the north and eastern fringes of the LLCA. Construction activity would be localised to the northern sections of the character area to the north and east of Roxton. These changes would be in the context of the existing road infrastructure and the existing Black Cat roundabout.</p> <p>Construction would introduce temporary night time lighting to the northern part of the area, to illuminate the works. There is also likely to be some light spill from construction compounds to the west of the existing Black Cat roundabout.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The effects on the character of this LLCA would be associated with the increase in the vertical and horizontal scale of highways infrastructure to the north and east of Roxton. These effects would be localised across the northern and eastern fringes of the LLCA, at points which are already defined by some urbanising influences.</p> <p>The existing road layout would be expanded and minor side roads and tracks would also be realigned. The new Black Cat junction circulatory would be much wider than the existing roundabout and would be elevated on low embankments which would divide the northern sections of the LLCA. The A1 (ground -1) would be lowered into a cutting and while this would reduce the traffic movement on this road and the scale of road elements in the landscape, the new approaches would still be at grade or slightly elevated. The combined Kelpie Marina access road would introduce a further elevated structure to the east of Roxton, in the context of the existing A1. While these changes would alter the scale of infrastructure elements, add new conspicuous features or elements into the landscape and change the existing pattern of landcover and landform features, these changes would be localised to the northern fringes of this LLCA. These changes would not change or alter the existing landscape character to the south of Roxton and the pattern of characteristics associated with the semi-enclosed valley landscape would remain intact.</p> <p>Lighting associated with the Black Cat junction would be more extensive than the existing roundabout, highlighting the scale of the infrastructure at night.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The proposed planting on embankments, principally to the west of the combined Kelpie Marina access road and to the south of the realigned A421 would have established to reinforce the existing landscape pattern and character. This planting would assist in partially enclosing most sections of the A421 and A1 and in integrating the elevated section of the new dual carriageway across the Black Cat junction, reducing the perceived scale of new road infrastructure in the area.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 03: Wyboston and Chawston	Value	Low	Construction (winter)	<p>Construction activity would be focussed within the southern and western parts of the character area. The main construction activity within this area would be associated with lowering and widening the existing A1 and the construction of the new Roxton Road link. There would also be activity associated with the excavation of borrow pits to the west of Roxton Road and north of the existing A421. The character of the area would also be affected by the activity on and adjacent to the southern boundaries of this LLCA, associated with the construction of the Black Cat junction. Works would include the demolition of the existing Roxton Road bridge and construction of a new bridge adjacent to the east.</p> <p>These activities would result in temporary changes to landform across the southern sections of the LLCA. There would also be activities to remove existing vegetation, principally alongside the existing A421, A1, Roxton Road, South Brook and field boundaries and the demolition of existing buildings including the Grade II listed Brook Cottages, garages and services. Construction vehicles on haul roads, cranes and other tall plant to implement the walls supporting the A1 (ground -1) and temporary soil storage areas, with stockpiled material and lifting equipment to implement new signage would disrupt movement, tranquillity and the skyline across the area.</p> <p>At night, lighting associated with the construction works would be bright and conspicuous across the southern and western parts of the area. Construction compounds to the west of the existing Black Cat roundabout would introduce temporary lighting, extending into areas which are affected by light spill from the existing junction.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would extend the influence of road infrastructure across the southern and eastern fringes of this LLCA. These changes would be in the context of the busy, active landscape characterised by highways infrastructure which is already a part of the LLCA.</p> <p>The most extensive changes within this LLCA would be associated with the alterations to the A1 (ground -1) which would be beneath the Black Cat junction. As a result, there would be a range of new structures in the landscape but the influence of traffic on the A1 would be reduced. The Scheme would also introduce additional large-scale infrastructure elements within and adjacent to the southern boundary of the LLCA. This includes the realigned Roxton Road bridge and Roxton Road link (north), the new off and on slip roads to the A1, and the elevated section of the new dual carriageway across the Black Cat junction which would be approximately 12m in height with associated gantries, signs and lighting columns. These would add further built structures at elevated points within the mixed land use pattern and urban fringe character across the southern fringe of the LLCA.</p> <p>Night time lighting would be more extensive, extending further west to the edges of the LLCA.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Low	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>By year 15, the proposed planting, principally associated with the Roxton Road bridge and link road to the west of the A1 would have established to assist in integrating the Scheme with the existing landscape pattern. The establishment of planting on the embankments of the elevated section of the new dual carriageway across the Black Cat junction would assist in breaking up its scale.</p>	Moderate	Slight adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 04 Ouse Valley Lakes	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>Construction activities would be focussed within a localised section of centre of the area, between the Black Cat junction and the River Great Ouse.</p> <p>The principal construction activities would be associated with the construction of the eastern sections of the Black Cat junction and elevated sections of the new dual carriageway and the new River Great Ouse viaduct. It would also include the activity associated with the excavation of the borrow pit to the north east of the Black Cat junction and changes to waterbodies to provide new flood compensation areas between the A1 and the river. These activities would result in a range of changes to landform and landcover patterns around waterbodies, primarily to the east of the existing Black Cat roundabout. There would also be localised removal of vegetation from the field boundaries and in proximity to the River Great Ouse. Construction vehicles on haul roads, cranes and other tall plant to implement the bridge and elevated section of the new dual carriageway across the Black Cat junction and temporary soil storage areas, with stockpiled material and lifting equipment to implement new signage would increase activity in the centre of the area.</p> <p>Temporary lighting of the works at night would be noticeable, particularly east of the Black Cat junction and associated with the River Great Ouse viaduct, where the existing landscape is darker.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would add new road infrastructure across the centre of the LLCA between the Black Cat junction and River Great Ouse. This section is defined by a legacy of mineral extraction and restored sand and gravel workings. At this location the Scheme would cut across the valley landscape from west to east with new elevated sections of dual carriageway on embankments to the west of the River Great Ouse and on the River Great Ouse viaduct across the river. These elements would add a range of new structures in the context of large-scale open waterbodies and other restored landscape elements. Large flood compensation areas south of the Scheme would integrate the restored mineral extraction sites of the Black Cat Quarry into waterbodies and these elements respond to the character of the wider area.</p> <p>To the east of the River Great Ouse the Scheme would be in on embankment and then a cutting beneath the realigned Barford Road. This would create a new line severance in the landscape and would alter the landform in this localised central section of the LLCA.</p> <p>While these features would result in the addition of new uncharacteristic features in the centre of this LLCA, the nature of existing vegetation patterns and landform which provide a semi-enclosed character around large waterbodies and mineral extraction sites, would limit effects to a small section of this area.</p> <p>At night there would be more extensive street lighting associated with the Black Cat junction, extending further east than the existing Black Cat roundabout. Vehicle headlights would also intrude into what is currently a darker area of landscape at the River Great Ouse viaduct.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The establishment of planting along the Scheme and within the restored quarry west of the River Great Ouse would help integrate the Scheme with the surrounding landscape and restoring lost landscape features around modified waterbodies and associated with the restored quarry workings. The scale of the Black Cat junction circulatory and the movement of traffic on elevated sections of the Scheme would remain prominent detracting elements in the landscape at the centre of the area.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 05 Biggin Wood Clay Vale	Value	Low	Construction (winter)	<p>The main construction activities would be limited to the north western part of this LLCA across what is currently open, gently undulating, medium scale farmland, at a point which is severed by the raised ECML which runs north to south across the LLCA.</p> <p>The gently undulating landform within this landscape combined with characteristic small woodland blocks around Tempsford and south of Little Barford to the north, would limit effects further across the central and southern sections of this LLCA and areas of settlement and more valued historic features with higher levels of remoteness.</p> <p>Activities would include construction of the new dual carriageway on raised embankments across open farmland and the construction of the ECML underbridge. It would also include operations associated with the realignment of Barford Road on the western boundary and associated embankments, flood compensation areas and drainage features. These activities would be localised to the northern part of the area and the gently undulating farmland to the north of Tempsford which is characterised by medium scale fields and infrastructure including the ECML and high voltage overhead powerlines. Given the open character of this area, the removal of existing vegetation would be minimal.</p> <p>Temporary effects would arise from general construction activity within the open farmland including compounds, cranes and other tall plant to install bridges and temporary soil storage areas east of the ECML railway. Other effects would also relate to adjacent sites for soil storage along with vehicle movements and haul routes.</p> <p>At night there would be lighting to illuminate the works in what is currently a relatively dark area of open countryside and this would be apparent across the northern part of the area.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Medium	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The principal effects within this LLCA would be associated with the addition of new elevated road infrastructure within the northern sections of the LLCA and the resulting alterations to underlying landform patterns across the gently undulating vale landscape to the north of Tempsford. This would contribute to north-south severance in addition to the east-west severance of the ECML.</p> <p>The ECML underbridge would introduce a further elevated structure into the gently undulating medium scale landscape although this would be at a relatively contained point at the base of Alington Hill, with the land rising up to the east.</p> <p>To the east of the ECML, the dual carriageway will remain on elevated embankments cutting across the existing landscape pattern of fields bounded by hedgerows. This would introduce traffic into an area of landscape which is currently remote and relatively tranquil compared to other parts of the study area.</p> <p>Operation of the Scheme would also introduce lighting from traffic into an area which is progressively darker to the east with few other sources of artificial lighting.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The proposed planting would have established, linking with and reinforcing the existing landscape pattern and assisting in integrating the Scheme into the landscape. Whilst the elevated nature of the road across the northern sections of the LLCA would remain, existing vegetation including woodland blocks between Tempsford and Everton would limit effects further south such that effects would be further localised.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 06 Alington Hill Clay Farmland	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>Construction activity would be widespread and would disrupt the tranquillity and landform within the character area. The extensive earthworks including the excavation of the cutting through the hillside of Alington Hill, the realignment of the B1046, the construction of the B1046 bridge and realignment of Potton Road would be prominent. Construction vehicles on haul roads, cranes and other tall plant to construct the new B1046 bridge would be prominent on the northern edge of the area, which is open and lies above the surrounding landscape. There would be extensive temporary soil storage at several points across the area, including to the south of B1046 and to the east of the ECML. There would also be temporary construction compounds, including to the south of Alington Top Farm and north of the B1046 realignment, where construction traffic would be intense. Field boundary vegetation would be removed on where intersected by the Scheme and on the southern slopes but elsewhere woodland would be retained and protected.</p> <p>Night time lighting to illuminate the works and construction compounds would be conspicuous in this sparsely settled area which is elevated and relatively dark compared to the landscape to the north.</p>	Major	Very large adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	High	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>Effects would be associated with the addition of road infrastructure within this LLCA, where remoteness and higher levels of tranquillity have been identified as key characteristics. This would bring about a large-scale change to existing landscape character with the addition of new uncharacteristic features within the area which would disrupt the tranquillity and landform of the area.</p> <p>The Scheme would cut across Alington Hill disrupting the existing landform and introducing movement into a landscape where human activity is currently limited. However, the alignment of the Scheme would be at a point where the landform rises more gradually across the northern and southern fringes of the LLCA rather than across the more pronounced western slopes and the more distinctive hill top features associated with the adjacent LLCA 06 to the north. The top of cutting slopes and earthworks across Alington Hill would also be contoured to assist in integrating the new route into the sloping ridge landform.</p> <p>The Scheme would also interrupt and sever landcover patterns of mature field boundaries within the LLCA but the Scheme has been aligned to avoid but also make use of valued, distinctive and woodland which are prominent features on the skyline to aid landscape integration.</p> <p>Whilst not as intense as during construction, vehicle headlights would introduce lighting into the relatively dark landscape with few sources of artificial lighting.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	High	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>By year 15, proposed planting would have established to assist in integrating the Scheme with the surrounding landscape. The proposed woodland blocks would still be maturing but would reflect and enhance the pattern of scattered woods across the slopes up to the plateau and reduce the prominence of the Scheme, whilst the changes to landform would remain.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
	Value	High				
LLCA 07 Everton Greensand Ridge	Value	High	Construction (winter)	The route of the Scheme is located approximately 3km from this LLCA at its closest point. There would be no construction activity in this area and there would not be a perceptible change in character as a result of construction.	No change	Neutral
	Susceptibility to change	High	Year 1 of operation (winter)	The Scheme would not result in perceptible changes in the character of LLCA 07 Everton Greensand Ridge during operation.	No change	Neutral
	Sensitivity	High	Year 15 of operation (summer)	Effects would remain as reported during year 1 of operation.	No change	Neutral

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 08 Settled Clayland Vale	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>There would be extensive construction activity across the western half of this character area. This would include extensive earthworks to form the embankments and culverts over Hen Brook and Wintringham Brook, the construction of the pedestrian footbridge and flood attenuation features on both sides of the Scheme. Construction vehicles on haul roads, cranes and other tall plant would introduce high levels of activity across the open landscape.</p> <p>The main construction compound would be located within this LLCA to the west of the existing A428, introducing a complex of site offices and ancillary buildings, vehicle parking areas and materials processing facilities and associated high levels of activity. A smaller construction compound would be located north of Wintringham Brook. There would be temporary soil storage areas with stockpiled material located south of Hen Brook on northern of the Cambridge Road, south of Hen Brook along the Scheme, north of Wintringham Brook and two areas south of Cambridge Road Junction. Earthworks would be required to form a large flood compensation area east of the Scheme, south of Hen Brook.</p> <p>Some existing vegetation along watercourses and field boundaries within the Scheme would be removed to facilitate construction. This would reduce the landcover and increase the perception of the construction activity across the area. The construction would be in the context of the construction of the new Wintringham housing development, which is changing the character of the landscape between the ECML and the existing A428. This development would extend the influence of settlement and built elements in the area to the west side of the Scheme. Three PRow would be permanently stopped up by the Scheme, reflecting changes to the PRow network to the west as part of the Wintringham development.</p> <p>The main construction compound would be lit and lighting would also be used to illuminate the works at night. Whilst light spill from St. Neots and the existing A428 to the west is apparent, this would be a noticeable intrusion into darker areas further east.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Medium	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would cross the rolling landscape on a series of embankments and cutting, reflecting the character of the existing A428 which would be parallel to the west. The. This would alter the pattern of landform and fields and introduce additional crossings of Hen Brook and Wintringham Brook. The route would be elevated on embankments, culverts and bridges across the valleys of these brooks.</p> <p>The pedestrian footbridge would introduce a prominent, elevated feature but located where the natural landform is slightly higher than the surrounding landscape, with earthworks shaped to minimise its impact. It would link with the footpath on the western side of the Scheme, with footpath No. 194/52 and with footpaths along Hen Brook to the south to enhance connectivity across the Scheme and to the eastern fringes of St Neots. These new footpaths would be located within new areas of landscape and enhancements along watercourses to help integrate the proposals into this section of the landscape. A new footpath along the eastern edge of the Scheme would create opportunities for circular walks from the eastern edge of St. Neots.</p> <p>Tranquillity within the western part of the character area would be noticeably reduced by the presence of new infrastructure in the landscape and vehicles travelling along the Scheme.</p> <p>At night vehicle headlights would introduce sources of light into an area of relatively dark landscape, albeit in the context of the existing A428 to the west.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The new hedgerows, woodland and grassland along the road and around the flood attenuation features to the east of the Scheme would have established, reflecting and reinforcing the existing landscape pattern, and reducing the apparent scale of the Scheme. These areas would also have established to provide amenity for the footpath connections and links to circular walks from the eastern edge of St. Neots, linking with the network of existing network of PRow to the east and west.</p> <p>Further areas of proposed planting alongside Hen Brook and Wintringham brook would have also established to help integrate the Scheme with the surrounding landscape. The planting along Hen Brook and Wintringham Brook would reinforce the green corridors along these watercourses which lead north-west through the Wintringham development to the eastern edge of St. Neots, enhancing opportunities for recreation.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
	Value	Medium				
LLCA 09 St Neots	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	Construction of the Scheme would lie beyond this LLCA. The closest activities would include the main construction compound to the west of the existing A428, north of the B1046 and east of the ECML. There would be very minor alterations to the existing A428 along the southern edge of the area. These activities would not result in a noticeable change to the character of this area.	No change	Neutral
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	The Scheme would not result in perceptible changes in the character of LLCA 09 St. Neots during operation.	No change	Neutral
	Sensitivity	Low	Year 15 of operation (summer)	Effects would remain as reported during year 1 of operation.	No change	Neutral

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
	Value	Low				
LLCA 10 Eastern Wolds	Value	Low	Construction (winter)	A temporary vehicle recovery area would be located to the north of the B645 within the existing pattern of fields. This would necessitate minimal vegetation removal and would introduce vehicles and temporary buildings into the landscape. The majority of the area would be unaffected.	Minor	Slight adverse
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	There would be no noticeable change to the character area in operation because the temporary vehicle recovery area would have been removed and the area returned to farmland.	No change	Neutral
	Sensitivity	Low	Year 15 of operation (summer)	Effects would remain as reported during year 1 of operation.	No change	Neutral

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 11 Wintringham and Weald Clay Farmland	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	<p>There would be extensive construction activity across the centre of this LLCA, disrupting the landscape pattern and reducing tranquillity of the elevated plateau landscape, away from the existing A428. Vegetation would be removed from hedgerows and woodland blocks which intersect the working areas. The excavation and construction of the new road would be large in scale but generally at lower points in the landscape.</p> <p>Earthworks to facilitate the construction of the Cambridge Road junction would affect the gently undulating landform across the western edge of LLCA 11, between the existing Cambridge Road roundabout and Wintringham Hall. There would also be extensive vegetation removal, including sections of roadside hedgerow alongside the existing A428, which would increase openness of the landscape.</p> <p>Temporary effects associated with construction would include a construction compound which would be located to the south of the existing A428 and soil storage areas to the north and south of the existing A428. There would be further construction compounds and soil storage areas to the north of Weald Farm and south of Fox Holes woodland, Toseland Road to the north and south of Gallow Brook and large soil storage areas to the south of woodland at High Hayden.</p> <p>At night time there would be lighting from compounds and to illuminate the works, drawing attention to construction activities across the centre of the area. There would be a particular focus around the Cambridge Road junction.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Medium	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would cut across the gently undulating landscape, introducing large-scale infrastructure to the north of the existing A428, but generally at a slightly lower elevation than the existing A428. The new grade separated Cambridge Road junction would be located across the existing A428, east of the existing Cambridge Road roundabout and on a substantially larger footprint. Bridges at the bridleway north of Wintringham and also at Toseland Road would sit above the surrounding landscape. The bridleway accommodation bridge would be located between two blocks of existing woodland to reduce their impact on the landscape.</p> <p>The design of the earthworks would aid in integrating the new Scheme into the existing landscape, with the dual carriageway at grade, on slight embankments or in slight cutting for the majority of the route through this area. This would limit the extent of landscape effects further north as the route would be largely concealed by intervening topography or vegetation. The exceptions to this would be the embankments around the new junction and bridges.</p> <p>At night light from vehicle headlights would intrude further north into what is currently farmland, but this would be in the context of traffic on the existing A428.</p>	Major	Large adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The new hedgerows, woodland and grassland along the road and within the flood attenuation features would have established, reflecting and reinforcing the existing landscape pattern, and reducing the apparent scale of the Scheme. The new road infrastructure would remain a dominant feature through the centre of the LLCA due to its scale, the severance it would cause in the landscape and traffic.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse (significant)

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 12 Croxton	Value	High	Construction (winter)	<p>There would be some construction activity on the north-western fringe of this LLCA, including a construction compound alongside Toseland Road. This activity on the boundary of LLCA 12 and wider construction activity within LLCA 11 would reduce tranquility locally. However, these activities would be temporary and would be focused to the north of the existing A428 where the landscape becomes more open and therefore focused away from the well wooded, settled landscape to the south and the more valued aspects and characteristics associated with the village of Croxton and the Grade II* registered Croxton Park to the south.</p> <p>Construction of the Toseland Road bridge would require the removal of some existing roadside vegetation along Toseland Road, slightly increasing openness in this part of the landscape.</p> <p>There would also be construction activity associated with traffic management on the existing A428 but would not noticeably alter the character of the existing A428 or tranquility within the wider LLCA.</p> <p>At night time there would be lighting from the compound on the north-western boundary to illuminate the works, drawing attention to construction activities in the surrounding landscape but this would not affect the key characteristics of this LLCA and the more valued characteristics of the well wooded, settled landscape and the registered Croxton Park to the south.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse
	Susceptibility to change	High	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would result in direct effects on the north-western corner of this LLCA through the realignment of Toseland Road and the presence of the Toseland Road bridge, which would introduce a new vertical element into the relatively flat landscape. Due to the extent and density of tree and woodland cover, effects would be localised and the character of the majority of the majority of the area would not be affected by the Scheme.</p> <p>The Scheme would cause severance and traffic would reduce tranquillity in the northern part of the area due to the Scheme being located up to 700 metres (0.43 Miles) further north than the existing A428. This would be balanced by a reduction of traffic on the existing A428, improving the landscape setting of the registered Croxton Park and the settlement of Croxton.</p> <p>At night, light from vehicle headlights would intrude across the northern boundaries of the LLCA into what is currently farmland. This would be limited by existing woodland blocks and balanced by reductions in traffic on the existing A428, which runs in close proximity to the registered park and settlement of Croxton, thus decreasing the level of light intrusion within more valued parts of the LLCA.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse
	Sensitivity	High	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>At Year 15, the new hedgerows, woodland and tree planting and grassland along the Scheme would have established. This would help to integrate the Scheme into the existing landscape pattern on the northern boundary of the LLCA and reduce the apparent scale of the Toseland Road bridge.</p> <p>The new road infrastructure would remain a noticeable feature in the surrounding landscape from the northern fringes of the LLCA due to its scale, however this would be balanced by reduced levels of traffic on the existing A428, improving the landscape setting of the registered Croxton Park and the settlement of Croxton</p>	Minor	Slight adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 13 Eltisley	Value	High	Construction (winter)	<p>There would be construction activity alongside the northern boundary of the LLCA, to the north of the village. This would be associated with the realignment of the existing A428, involving the removal of existing roadside vegetation to the north side of the existing A428 and a short section on the south side. This would also involve the breaking out of sections of redundant carriageway. These activities would disrupt the landcover pattern alongside the northern boundary of the LLCA, increasing openness locally.</p> <p>Construction activities in the wider setting of the LLCA to the north would also result in temporary effects relating to the laying out of the new dual carriageway and the Eltisley bridge. These activities would locally affect the setting of the LLCA and settlement from the surrounding arable farmland. However, the density of vegetation and buildings on the northern edge of the village would limit effects on the more valued aspects and key characteristics of the LLCA.</p> <p>Night time lighting of the works and the construction compound west of the B1040 would be in the context of street lighting along the existing A428 north of the village.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse
	Susceptibility to change	Medium	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The existing A428 that defines the northern boundary of the LLCA would be downgraded to a local road and would experience lower volumes of traffic, while the Scheme would be located approximately 300m further to the north and in a slight cutting beneath the realigned B1040. This would improve the setting, tranquillity and sense of arrival to the village as well as the pattern of landscape features and character along the northern boundary of the LLCA.</p> <p>Lighting of the existing detrunked A428 would be located further away but extending further north than the baseline. This would reduce night time effects on the setting of the character area.</p>	Minor	Slight adverse
	Sensitivity	High	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>The establishment of tree, woodland and hedgerow planting would assist in mitigating the loss of vegetation north of the village along the existing A428, integrating the Scheme into the local landscape and reinforcing the existing wooded setting to the village. These measures would help to reduce the apparent scale of the road infrastructure in the surrounding landscape to the north and reduce effects on LLCA and setting of the village ..</p>	Negligible	Slight adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
LLCA 14 Western Claylands	Value	Low	Construction (winter)	<p>There would be extensive construction activity across the centre of this LLCA relating to the removal of existing field boundary and roadside vegetation, detrunking of the existing A428, the construction of the new dual carriageway and the Caxton Gibbet junction. This would include earthwork operations, including the excavation of two large borrow pits and soil storage to the north of the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout and a construction compound to the north of the existing A428. There would be further soil storage areas to the north and south of the existing A428 to the west of Caxton Gibbet, south and west of North East Farm. These activities would temporarily reduce tranquility away from the existing A428.</p> <p>At night lighting of the construction compounds and to illuminate the works would intrude into the open landscape north and west of the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout. Around the Caxton Gibbet junction itself this would be in the context of the existing lighting around the Caxton Gibbet roundabout.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Susceptibility to change	Medium	Year 1 of operation (winter)	<p>The Scheme would extend the footprint of the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout further north into currently open fields. It would also move the alignment of the new dual carriageway to the south of the existing A428, which would be retained and realigned as a local road. The open landscape with a pattern of large arable fields with sparsely scattered mixed woodland blocks would be affected, with the additional scale, height and extent of road infrastructure conspicuous across most of the area, particularly in the east.</p> <p>The elevated section of the new dual carriageway across the Caxton Gibbet junction on embankments would be prominent in the otherwise generally flat landscape and would further increase its distinction as a focus of activity. Associated elements including lighting and environmental barriers, and new embankments and a flood attenuation features would extend the effects of the Scheme.</p> <p>Night time lighting of the Caxton Gibbet junction would be more extensive than the existing roundabout, extending the effect of lighting further north. In addition, the headlights of vehicles traveling across the Caxton Gibbet junction on the elevated section of the new dual carriageway would be prominent locally due to the increased elevation compared to the baseline.</p>	Major	Moderate adverse (significant)
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	<p>New hedgerows, woodland and grassland along the road and within the flood attenuation features and surrounding areas would have established. This would assist in integrating the Scheme into the landscape and would reflect and reinforce the pattern along the existing A428 corridor and reduce the apparent scale of the Caxton Gibbet junction and its associated infrastructure.</p>	Moderate	Moderate adverse

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
	Value	Medium				
LLCA 15 Papworth Everard	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	Construction of the Scheme would lie beyond this LLCA to the south. The closest activities would include the construction compound areas to the north of the existing A428 and the existing Caxton Gibbet roundabout and borrow pits to the north-east of the junction, which would temporarily alter the setting of the southern edge of the village.	Negligible	Neutral
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	The Scheme would not result in perceptible changes in the character of LLCA 15 Papworth Everard during operation.	No change	Neutral
	Sensitivity	Medium	Year 15 of operation (summer)	Effects would remain as reported during year 1 of operation.	No change	Neutral

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity		Assessment scenario	Commentary	Magnitude of effect	Significance of effect
	Value	Medium				
LLCA 16 Cambourne	Value	Medium	Construction (winter)	Construction of the Scheme would lie beyond this LLCA. The closest activities would include the construction compound areas to the north of the existing A428 at Caxton Gibbet. These activities would affect the setting of the western edge of Cambourne, but in the context of construction activities related to the extension of the settlement.	Negligible	Neutral
	Susceptibility to change	Low	Year 1 of operation (winter)	The Scheme would not result in perceptible changes in the character of LLCA 16 Cambourne during operation.	No change	Neutral
	Sensitivity	Low	Year 15 of operation (summer)	Effects would remain as reported during year 1 of operation.	No change	Neutral

1.5 References

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