## Landscape susceptibility in relation to energy generation, storage and transmission

for

South Norfolk Council

### Appendix 2

Criteria for Assessing Susceptibility to Change

# the landscape partnership

April 2025

# Criteria for assessing susceptibility to change

Table 1: Solar PV

Table 2: AD plants

Table 3: Battery Storage

Table 4: Overhead powerlines

Table 5: Underground cable routes

Table 6: Substations

#### Table 1: Assessment criteria and definitions in relation to solar PV

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Scale	<ul> <li>Vast or larger-scale landscapes</li> <li>Larger scale field patterns</li> <li>Larger scale elements within landscape</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of scale</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intimate and intricate landscapes</li> <li>Smaller-scale field patterns</li> <li>Smaller-scale landscape elements</li> </ul>
Sense of enclosure	<ul> <li>Landscapes enclosed with large-scale elements such as woodland or plantation belts and/or by topographic variation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of enclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Landscapes open with only a few boundary features or woodland/tree cover and no topographical variation</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul> <li>Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Field pattern	<ul> <li>Simple, regular, uniform or planned field pattern suggesting mainly modern origin</li> <li>20<sup>th</sup> century enclosures</li> <li>Large fields with weak hedgerows</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mixed field patterns</li> <li>Medium-sized fields</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular field pattern mainly of ancient origin</li> <li>Small-scale fields with intact hedgerows</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Meaningful areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern</li> <li>Meaningful areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
			<ul> <li>cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Settlement pattern and human influence	<ul> <li>Modern settlement pattern</li> <li>Developed character with modern elements such as larger roads, airfields, railways, industrial estates, housing estates, caravan parks, pylons and poly tunnels</li> <li>Prominent urban edges within or beyond the LCA</li> <li>General absence of historic features</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Stronger sense of historic settlement pattern, which relates to the landscape e.g. to a river or a green, or forms part of the historic fabric of the landscape e.g. halls and churches, farms, hamlets, villages</li> <li>Historic features, e.g. halls, moats, medieval churches, ponds, hundred lanes</li> <li>Traditional rural land uses</li> <li>General absence of modern development</li> <li>Absence of industrial development</li> </ul>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<ul> <li>Strong sense of urbanising influences</li> <li>Higher levels of noise from, e.g. airport, road, quarry or industrial plant</li> <li>Higher levels of brighter lit landscapes</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of rural character</li> <li>Meaningful sense of tranquillity and/or solitude</li> <li>General absence of artificial noise</li> <li>Limited artificial light sources</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Generally non-prominent skylines</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
	<ul> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>		<ul><li>features such as church towers and windmills</li><li>Presence of landmark features</li></ul>
Intactness	<ul> <li>Weak sense of place</li> <li>Disturbed, fragmented landscape</li> <li>Poorly maintained or abandoned land</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of place</li> <li>Individual elements in good condition</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Scale	<ul> <li>Vast or larger-scale landscapes</li> <li>Larger-scale field patterns</li> <li>Larger-scale elements within landscape</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of scale</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intimate and intricate landscapes</li> <li>Smaller-scale field patterns</li> <li>Smaller-scale landscape elements</li> </ul>
Sense of enclosure	<ul> <li>Landscapes enclosed with large-scale elements such as woodland or plantation belts and/or by topographic variation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of enclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Landscapes open with only a few boundary features or woodland/tree cover and no topographical variation</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul> <li>Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Significant areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	• Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern</li> <li>Significant areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Settlement pattern and human influence	<ul> <li>Developed character with modern elements such as main roads, airfields, railways, industrial estates, housing estates, caravan parks, pylons and poly tunnels</li> <li>Prominent urban edges</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Traditional rural land uses</li> <li>General absence of modern development (beyond farm complexes)</li> <li>Absence of industrial development</li> </ul>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<ul> <li>Generally modern sense of place with a lack of natural features</li> <li>Strong sense of urbanising influences</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of rural character</li> <li>Meaningful sense of tranquillity and/or solitude</li> <li>General absence of artificial noise</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
	<ul> <li>Higher levels of noise from, e.g. airport, road, quarry or industrial plant</li> <li>Higher levels of brighter lit landscapes</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Limited artificial light sources</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics including skyline	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Generally non-prominent skylines</li> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> <li>Presence of landmark features</li> </ul>
Intactness	<ul> <li>Weak sense of place</li> <li>Disturbed, fragmented landscape</li> <li>Poorly maintained or abandoned land</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of place</li> <li>Individual elements in good condition</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Sense of enclosure	<ul> <li>Landscapes enclosed with large-scale elements such as woodland or plantation belts and/or by topographic variation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of enclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Landscapes open with only a few boundary features or woodland/tree cover and no topographical variation</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul> <li>Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Meaningful areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern</li> <li>Meaningful areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Settlement pattern and human influence	<ul> <li>Modern settlement pattern</li> <li>Developed character with modern elements such as larger roads, airfields, railways, industrial estates, housing estates, caravan parks, pylons and poly tunnels</li> <li>Prominent urban edges within or beyond the LCA</li> <li>General absence of historic features</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Stronger sense of historic settlement pattern, which relates to the landscape e.g. to a river or a green, or forms part of the historic fabric of the landscape e.g. halls and churches, farms, hamlets, villages</li> <li>General absence of modern development</li> <li>Historic features, e.g. halls, moats, medieval churches, ponds, hundred lanes</li> </ul>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness,	<ul> <li>Generally modern sense of place with a lack of natural features</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of rural character</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<ul> <li>Strong sense of urbanising influences</li> <li>Higher levels of noise from, e.g. airport, road, quarry or industrial plant</li> <li>Higher levels of brighter lit landscapes</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Meaningful sense of tranquillity and/or solitude</li> <li>General absence of artificial noise</li> <li>Limited artificial light sources</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Generally non-prominent skylines</li> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> <li>Presence of landmark features</li> </ul>
Intactness	<ul> <li>Weak sense of place</li> <li>Disturbed, fragmented landscape</li> <li>Poorly maintained or abandoned land</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of place</li> <li>Individual elements in good condition</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Scale	<ul> <li>Vast or larger-scale landscapes</li> <li>Larger scale field patterns</li> <li>Larger scale elements within landscape</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of scale</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intimate and intricate landscapes</li> <li>Smaller-scale field patterns</li> <li>Smaller-scale landscape elements</li> </ul>
Landform	• Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Field pattern	<ul> <li>Simple, regular, uniform or planned field pattern suggesting mainly modern origin</li> <li>20<sup>th</sup> century enclosures</li> <li>Large fields with weak hedgerows</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Mixed field patterns</li><li>Medium-sized fields</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular field pattern mainly of ancient origin</li> <li>Small-scale fields with intact hedgerows</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Meaningful areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern.</li> <li>Meaningful areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Settlement patterns and human influence	<ul> <li>Modern settlement pattern</li> <li>Developed character with modern elements such as larger roads, airfields, railways, industrial estates, housing estates, caravan parks, pylons and poly tunnels</li> <li>Prominent urban edges within or beyond the LCA</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Stronger sense of historic settlement pattern, which relates to the landscape e.g. to a river or a green, or forms part of the historic fabric of the landscape e.g. halls and churches, farms, hamlets, villages</li> <li>General absence of modern development</li> </ul>

Table 4: Assessment of	criteria and	definitions i	in relation to	overhead powerlines
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Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
	General absence of historic features		<ul> <li>Historic features, e.g. halls, moats, medieval churches, ponds, hundred lanes</li> </ul>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<ul> <li>Generally modern sense of place with a lack of natural features</li> <li>Strong sense of urbanising influences</li> <li>Presence of artificial or modified watercourses</li> <li>Higher levels of noise from, e.g. airport, road, quarry or industrial plant</li> <li>Higher levels of brighter lit landscapes</li> <li>Limited public right of way network</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of rural character</li> <li>Meaningful sense of tranquillity and/or solitude</li> <li>Meaningful areas of natural features and seminatural habitats</li> <li>Strong influence of natural watercourses</li> <li>General absence of artificial noise</li> <li>Limited artificial light sources</li> <li>Comprehensive public right of way network</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Presence of landmark features</li> </ul>
Skylines	<ul> <li>Lack of prominent or notable skylines</li> <li>Developed skylines</li> <li>Existing pylons or masts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Longer views to distant horizons</li> <li>Wooded skylines</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Prominent or distinctive skyl</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> <li>Characteristic skylines</li> </ul>
Intactness	<ul> <li>Weak sense of place</li> <li>Disturbed, fragmented landscape</li> <li>Poorly maintained or abandoned land</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of place</li> <li>Individual elements in good condition</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Sense of enclosure	<ul> <li>Landscapes enclosed with large-scale elements such as woodland or plantation belts and/or by topographic variation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of enclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Landscapes open with only a few boundary features or woodland/tree cover and no topographical variation</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul> <li>Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Field patterns	<ul> <li>Simple, regular, uniform or planned field pattern suggesting mainly modern origin</li> <li>20<sup>th</sup> century enclosures</li> <li>Large fields with weak hedgerows</li> <li>Species-poor hedgerows</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mixed field patterns</li> <li>Medium-sized fields</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular field pattern mainly of ancient origin</li> <li>Small-scale fields with intact hedgerows</li> <li>Important hedgerows</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Significant areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern.</li> <li>Significant areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Generally non-prominent skylines</li> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
			<ul> <li>Presence of landmark features</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
Sense of enclosure	<ul> <li>Landscapes enclosed with large-scale elements such as woodland or plantation belts and/or by topographic variation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intermediary or varied sense of enclosure</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Landscapes open with only a few boundary features or woodland/tree cover and no topographical variation</li> </ul>
Landform	<ul> <li>Simple landform e.g. wide plain or plateau</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Undulating landform</li><li>Plateau edges</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Irregular, complex or distinctive landform e.g. hills and ridges, steep slopes, narrow valleys</li> </ul>
Landcover	<ul> <li>Significant areas of urban, industrial/commercial, brownfield landscape or previously developed land</li> <li>Substantial areas of settlement</li> </ul>	• Arable agriculture	<ul> <li>Complex, mosaic landcover pattern.</li> <li>Meaningful areas of natural or semi-natural landcover in form of woodlands, extensive tree cover or/and permanent pasture</li> <li>Limited areas of settlement such as villages and small hamlets</li> <li>Historic landscapes, e.g. parkland</li> </ul>
Settlement pattern and human influence	<ul> <li>Modern settlement pattern</li> <li>Developed character with modern elements such as larger roads, airfields, railways, industrial estates, housing estates, caravan parks, pylons and poly tunnels</li> <li>Prominent urban edges within or beyond the LCA</li> <li>General absence of historic features</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Stronger sense of historic settlement pattern, which relates to the landscape e.g. to a river or a green, or forms part of the historic fabric of the landscape e.g. halls and churches, farms, hamlets, villages</li> <li>General absence of modern development</li> <li>Historic features, e.g. halls, moats, medieval churches, ponds, hundred lanes</li> </ul>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude,	<ul> <li>Generally modern sense of place with a lack of natural features</li> <li>Strong sense of urbanising influences</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of rural character</li> <li>Meaningful sense of tranquillity and/or solitude</li> </ul>

Landscape attribute	Lower susceptibility	Medium susceptibility	Higher susceptibility
tranquillity, dark skies)	<ul> <li>Presence of artificial or modified watercourses</li> <li>Higher levels of noise from, e.g. airport, road, quarry or industrial plant</li> <li>Higher levels of brighter lit landscapes</li> <li>Limited public right of way network</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Meaningful areas of natural features and semi- natural habitats</li> <li>Strong influence of natural watercourses</li> <li>General absence of artificial noise</li> <li>Limited artificial light sources</li> <li>Comprehensive public right of way network</li> </ul>
Visual characteristics	<ul> <li>General absence of important/characteristic views</li> <li>Enclosed landscape with weak visual connections to adjacent areas</li> <li>Generally non-prominent skylines</li> <li>Few important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of typical views across the landscape</li> <li>Some visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Presence of important, characteristics and/or promoted views</li> <li>Strong visual connections to adjacent areas including landforms and historic landscapes</li> <li>Skylines with prominent and important landmark features such as church towers and windmills</li> <li>Presence of landmark features</li> </ul>
Intactness	<ul> <li>Weak sense of place</li> <li>Disturbed, fragmented landscape</li> <li>Poorly maintained or abandoned land</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>Strong sense of place</li> <li>Individual elements in good condition</li> </ul>