

**Landscape Susceptibility in relation
to Energy Generation, Storage
and Transmission**

for

South Norfolk Council

Appendix 4

Local Landscape Character Analysis

December 2025

the**landscape**partnership

Table 01: Tas Tributary Farmland LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria

Criterion	
Scale	<i>'large scale arable landscape'</i> ¹
Enclosure	<i>'The large-scale arable landscape has an open to semi-enclosed character, and there are very few hedgerows remaining'</i> <i>'Scattered remnant hedgerow trees, particularly oak, sometimes including avenues lining the roads or marking former, denuded, field boundaries'</i>
Landform	<i>'gently undulating to flat and sloping landscape incised by shallow tributary valleys'</i>
Landcover	<i>'Large open arable fields or cereal, sugarbeet and occasionally maize'</i> <i>'Small blocks of deciduous woodland of high ecological and visual quality'</i> <i>'Damp grasslands of ecological importance located within the tributary valleys'</i> <i>'tributary streams which are not prominent landscape features'</i>
Human influence	<i>'The eastern part of the LCA includes modern infrastructure, with large double line of pylons and electricity substation, west of Dunston Hall. A large transmitting station west of Howe is visible from a wide area extending vertically from wooded horizons.'</i> <i>'Transportation corridors including main connecting roads. Ditches, low banks and wide grass verges associated with the network of rural roads'</i> <i>'Settlement characterised by a small number of large villages includes the administrative centre of South Norfolk – Long Stratton – with smaller hamlets, scattered farmhouses and agricultural buildings'</i> <i>'Mixed vernacular or timber-frame, stepped and Dutch Gables, thatch and round-towered churches'</i> <i>'Networks of recreational footpaths'</i>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<i>'a landscape of gentle slopes leading down to shallow tributary valleys, the streams of which are frequently hidden within the landscape'</i> <i>'Hedgerow trees are sparse and appear as lone landmarks in the farmed landscape. There are also a number of intact avenues of mature oak standard hedgerow trees which punctuate the open arable landscape and provide an important vertical element.'</i>
Visual characteristics including skyline	<i>'views to Norwich and the Norwich Southern Bypass from the northern area of the LCA and also into the Tas Rural River Valley LCA including towards the earthworks of Venta Icenorum at Caister St Edmund. In the north of the LCA there are clear views into the Broads.'</i> <i>'wooded horizons which add variety to, and create intimacy within, the landscape'</i>
Intactness	<i>'few hedgerows remaining'</i>

¹ Quotes have been taken from the South Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment, 2001

Table 02: Tas Tributary Farmland LCA Value Characteristics

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Natural heritage</p> <p>Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contributes positively to the landscape</p>	<p>No national landscape designations.</p> <p>SSSI designated ecological assemblages including hornbeam coppice habitats and ancient woodlands of particular importance - Little Wood, plus some grasslands – Fritton Common. North of Caistor St. Edmund - SSSI Chalk Pit.</p> <p>A number of County Wildlife Sites including several sites of ancient woodland - Great Wood, Popes Wood, Pye’s Covert and, Brooke Wood, Howe Grove - semi natural woodland (Hill Farm Woodland)</p>
<p>Cultural heritage</p> <p>Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape</p>	<p>Medieval deer parks and a number of historic parklands were once a characteristic of this area, including examples at Bixley, Stoke Hall, Kirstead Hall, Brook House, Woodton and Boylands, but these have now largely disappeared.</p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments feature parts of the remains of medieval settlements at Bixley and Arminghall.</p> <p>Presence of round-towered churches e.g. Topcroft and Fritton.</p> <p>Presence of isolated churches e.g. Tibenham</p> <p>Numerous Listed Buildings</p>
<p>Landscape condition</p> <p>Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure</p>	<p>Historic pattern of the landscape has altered due to hedgerow removal and development</p> <p>Landscape remains predominantly agricultural</p> <p>Small woodland blocks and individual mature trees create a wooded horizon</p> <p>Some overgrown hedgerows</p>
<p>Associations</p> <p>Landscape that is connected with notable people, events and the arts</p>	<p>Boudica Way long distance national trail cuts through the eastern half of the LCA – named after the legendary warrior Queen of the Iceni whose tribes once inhabited the area, with the Venta Icenorum (marketplace of the Iceni) in the neighbouring Tas Rural River Valley LCA.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness</p> <p>Landscape that has a strong sense of identity</p>	<p>Area provides strategic break between settled areas, particularly the area north of the Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA and south of Norwich.</p>

Table 02: Tas Tributary Farmland LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Recreational</p> <p>Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important</p>	<p>PRoW offering some opportunities for recreation</p>
<p>Perceptual (scenic)</p> <p>Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense</p>	<p>Agricultural landscape with large open fields. Some areas of pastoral farmland with visible grazing animals</p> <p>Areas where pylons, transmission masts and substations are notable and rise above the mature tree canopy</p>
<p>Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity)</p> <p>Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies</p>	<p>No perception of wilderness.</p> <p>Some sense of tranquillity through the agricultural landscape via PRoWs and within golf course, diminishing around the Norwich Southern Bypass (A47) and other A roads such as the A140</p>
<p>Functional</p> <p>Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape</p>	<p>Trees and small woodland blocks perform ecosystem services</p> <p>Predominantly arable landscape and some drainage ditches</p> <p>Contributes to separation between southern edge of Norwich and surrounding settlements.</p> <p>The northern edge of the LCA is overlapped by the Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone (NSBLPZ). This Landscape Zone has been identified where there are high levels of visual accessibility to and from the road to a predominantly open rural area that plays an important part in making the landscape setting of Norwich.</p>
<p>Other observations</p>	<p><i>'further loss of vegetation structure including woodland and hedgerows from the landscape which would lead to a greater sense of openness;</i></p> <p><i>gently sloping topography and open landscape making this area sensitive to intrusion by tall and large elements, including large farm buildings and pylons;</i></p> <p><i>potential for adverse effects upon views in the north of this character area to/from Norwich and the Bypass;</i></p> <p><i>key reciprocal views to and from The Broads.'</i></p>

Table 03: Tas Rural River Valley LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria

Criterion	
Scale	<i>'Distinct, moderately wide, simple valley form'</i>
Enclosure	<i>'Less enclosed than some other valleys'</i>
Landform	<i>'medium-scale clearly defined flat valley floor, shallow side slopes and adjoining smaller-scale tributary valleys'</i>
Landcover	<i>'Pastoral valley floor with cattle grazing and distinctive willow pollards lining the watercourses on the valley floor'</i> <i>'Upper tributary valleys of great ecological richness and importance, including areas of fen, marsh and unimproved wet and neutral grassland'</i> <i>'Fragmented woodlands and shelterbelts on the valley sides creating a wooded fringe to much of the valley interspersed with more open areas of arable land'</i>
Human influence	<i>'Presence of historic earthworks including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including the large highly visible defensive earthworks of Venta Icenorum and the earthworks at Tasburgh'</i> <i>'Sparsely settled character with buildings clustered around fording points and at the top of the valley sides'</i> <i>'Characteristic vernacular buildings particularly notable including weatherboarded mill houses and Dutch gable ends'</i> <i>'Presence of a small number of distinctive halls and parkland including English Heritage listed parkland at Rainthorpe Hall'</i>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<i>'a feeling of exposure and openness and some long views with the valley but restricted external views'</i> <i>'A large number of attractive fords and small bridges occurring at regular intervals along the river and side tributaries'</i> <i>'Network of narrow peaceful rural lanes throughout the valley including sunken lanes'</i> <i>'Role in dividing and defining east and west of South Norfolk District'</i>
Visual characteristics including skyline	<i>'River alternately visible and hidden marked by sparse waterside vegetation including reed filled ditches and narrow woodland belts. The flat, wide, green valley floor is a distinctive feature'</i>
Intactness	<i>'A more disturbed character in the north of the area due to the influence of pylons, railway and roads'</i>

Table 04: Tas Rural River Valley LCA Value Characteristics

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Natural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contributes positively to the landscape</p>	<p>No national landscape designations. SSSIs including Shotesham marshy and wet neutral grassland, Forncett Meadows, Aslacton Parish Land spring line meadow, Flordon Common shallow fenland peat, Caistor St. Edmund quarry.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape</p>	<p>English Heritage listed Grade II parkland at Rainthorpe Hall. SAM at Tasburgh (earthworks) and Roman Centre at Caistor St. Edmund (Venta Icenorum) and associated sites, visible across the valley and create a distinct open landscape. Although not a principal defining characteristic of this character area, there are attractive ornamental gardens at Rainthorpe Hall, near Tasburgh, which are listed by English Heritage. There are also areas of parkland at associated with Dunston Hall (a hotel with golf course) and at Shotesham Park. Presence of round-towered churches (Tasburgh) and isolated churches (Caistor St. Edmund).</p>
<p>Landscape condition Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure</p>	<p>Landscape remains predominantly pastoral Small woodlands in the southern part of the valley with linear wet woodland lining the river corridor, plus larger woodland blocks in the valley near Newton Flotman create a wooded horizon Good hedgerow network. Mature hedgerow trees</p>
<p>Associations Landscape that is connected with notable people, events and the arts</p>	<p>Boudica Way long distance national trail cuts through the eastern half of the LCA – named after the legendary warrior Queen of the Iceni whose tribes once inhabited the area, with the Venta Icenorum (marketplace of the Iceni).</p>
<p>Distinctiveness Landscape that has a strong sense of identity</p>	<p>Distinctive valley landform. Sunken lanes.</p>

Table 04: Tas Rural River Valley LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Recreational</p> <p>Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important</p>	<p>Golf course and Spa at Dunston Hall</p> <p>PRoW offering some opportunities for recreation</p>
<p>Perceptual (scenic)</p> <p>Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense</p>	<p>The river itself is not a particularly dominant feature and is often hidden within a wide green floodplain. The main indication of the presence of the river is the vegetation, which intermittently lines its banks, including some lines of willow pollards. The river is also observable from the crossing points - the large number of fords are a particularly characteristic and memorable feature of the Tas Valley. There are also a number of small bridged crossings such as the bridge at Newton Flotman.</p>
<p>Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity)</p> <p>Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies</p>	<p>No perception of wildness.</p> <p>The valley is distinct for the perceived scarcity of settlement due to the well integrated nature of the built environment with the surrounding landscape.</p>
<p>Functional</p> <p>Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape</p>	<p>Trees and small woodland blocks perform ecosystem services</p> <p>Predominantly a strong pastoral quality and is grazed by cattle, creating a strong contrast with the more intensive arable land use of much of the district.</p> <p>The former Roman Road linking Norwich and Ipswich (now the A140) which runs along the upper slopes on the western side of the valley and effectively forms the boundary of the character area, adding an element of noise and movement to this peaceful valley landscape. Other modern intrusions include the pylons to the north of the area and the Norwich Southern Bypass, which defines the northern limit of the character area.</p> <p>Valley provides an important landscape division between settled plateaux to east and west of District.</p> <p>The northern edge of the LCA is overlapped by the Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone (NSBLPZ). This Landscape Zone has been identified where there are high levels of visual accessibility to and from the road to a predominantly open rural area that plays an important part in making the landscape setting of Norwich.</p>

Table 04: Tas Rural River Valley LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Other observations</p>	<p><i>'The need to conserve the peaceful rural character of the Tas Valley and the threat of incremental change, including upgrading of the rural lane network (e.g. kerbing would be very detrimental to the character of the sunken lanes which are a feature of the valley, with their small fords and river crossings);</i></p> <p><i>Particular vulnerabilities in the northern part of the valley due to the impact of infrastructure and large scale land uses relating to the urban edge of Norwich including pylons, golf courses and development in association with the transport corridors (A140 and A47);</i></p> <p><i>Visual sensitivities of the Tas Valley to new development/landscape change as a result of its open character, wide flat floor and long valley views;</i></p> <p><i>Loss of hedgerow boundaries and trees, resulting in a further opening up of the landscape creating some very large scale and bleak areas on valley sides;</i></p> <p><i>Sensitivity of historic landscapes, particularly Caistor St Edmund to visual intrusion'</i></p>

Table 05: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria

Criterion	
Scale	<p><i>'a variety of open / more intimate landscape settings'</i></p> <p><i>'Transitional landscape occupying the mid ground between the upland plateau of the Wymondham-Hethersett settled plateau farmland and the principal Yare Valley and forming part of the transition between the rural and urban landscape'</i></p>
Enclosure	<p><i>'Fields surrounded by sparse hedges and hedgerow trees, with occasional mature/veteran oaks forming a distinctive feature alongside the lanes'</i></p> <p><i>'Estate railings, boundary fences and tree lined avenues'</i></p>
Landform	<p><i>'Shelving landform with a gently undulating topography created by the presence of small tributary stream valleys cutting through the landscape'</i></p>
Landcover	<p><i>'Arable and pastoral farmland of cereals and sugarbeet with more pastoral land uses within the immediate tributary valley corridor'</i></p> <p><i>'Presence of large parkland estates, tree lined avenues and traditional wooded parkland contribute to landscape character'</i></p> <p><i>'small farm woodlands and intermittently wooded tributary valleys'</i></p>
Human influence	<p><i>'Sparsely settled landscape of small clusters of farmhouses, small villages and rural dwellings interspersed with large manorial buildings and halls'</i></p> <p><i>'Vernacular architectural character, predominantly of rural buildings and estate dwellings. More modern dwellings are found in the larger villages'</i></p> <p><i>'High number of large dwelling set in extensive grounds including characteristic large detached halls and manor houses. Usually constructed of brick, of high architectural quality, associated with the parkland estates of Keswick, Intwood, Thickthorn and Colney.'</i></p> <p><i>'Presence of large institutional buildings including new hospital and areas of the Research Park at Colney'</i></p> <p><i>'The Norwich Southern Bypass and A11 Wymondham Road trisect the landscape and the area is also traversed by the main Norwich-London railway line. These routes create corridors of movement and noise in this otherwise peaceful landscape. Elsewhere, there is an intricate network of narrow rural roads and lanes'</i></p>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<p><i>'Peaceful farmland with small farm woodlands and intermittently wooded tributary valleys creating a quiet rural atmosphere'</i></p> <p><i>'A sense of impenetrability and remoteness despite the presence of major transportation corridors'</i></p>

Table 05: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria (continued)

Criterion	
Visual characteristics including skyline	<p><i>'long / framed views'</i></p> <p><i>'Intermittent long views towards the City of Norwich and cathedral spire, particularly from the Southern Bypass which bisects this area'</i></p> <p><i>Halls and manor houses - These are frequently screened by woodland, and therefore visible only at close range</i></p>
Intactness	<p><i>'The parkland estates, including areas of English Heritage registered historic parkland, are one of the most distinguishing features of this area. Main examples are Thickthorn Hall, Colney Hall, Intwood Hall, Keswick Hall and East Carleton Manor.</i></p>

Table 06: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA Value Characteristics

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Natural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contributes positively to the landscape</p>	<p>No national landscape designations. Presence of round-towered churches – Keswick Church particularly noteworthy Presence of isolated churches</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape</p>	<p>Registered Park and Garden of Intwood Hall. Other estate parklands</p>
<p>Landscape condition Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure</p>	<p>Woodlands</p>
<p>Associations Landscape that is connected with notable people, events and the arts</p>	<p>No known associations</p>
<p>Distinctiveness Landscape that has a strong sense of identity</p>	<p>Presence of historic parkland, very characteristic, some have origins as a medieval deer park.</p>
<p>Recreational Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important</p>	<p>PRoW offering some opportunities for recreation</p>

Table 06: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Perceptual (scenic) Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense</p>	<p>Wooded appearance Attractive and impressive gatehouses and railings provide visual reference to the presence of historic Halls and parklands.</p>
<p>Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies</p>	<p>No perception of wildness.</p>
<p>Functional Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape</p>	<p>Trees and small woodland blocks perform ecosystem services The north eastern edge of the LCA is overlapped by the Norwich Southern Bypass Landscape Protection Zone (NSBLPZ). This Landscape Zone has been identified where there are high levels of visual accessibility to and from the road to a predominantly open rural area that plays an important part in making the landscape setting of Norwich. Area of or including significant strategic breaks between settled areas – very important strategic gap between Hethersett and Cringleford (Norwich).</p>
<p>Other observations</p>	<p><i>'Proximity to Norwich and loss of rural farmland character through expansion of the urban edge of the City beyond the Yare Valley, or development associated with the Southern Bypass/A11;</i> <i>Particular vulnerability to loss of clarity of the rural/urban divide created by the Yare Valley;</i> <i>Incremental change including upgrading of the rural land network (eg kerbing and lighting) plus isolated developments (eg institutions) resulting in a more urban character;</i> <i>A gently shelving topography from the plateau and on views making this area especially sensitive to the location of any new development / infrastructure – and potential impact on views to the City;</i> <i>Loss and degradation in the character of the historic parkland and designed landscapes, [particularly with changing uses and demands];</i> <i>Loss of mature tree boundaries (without replacement) resulting in further 'opening up' of views plus loss of woodland;</i> <i>Suburbanisation of field and parkland boundaries'</i></p>

Table 07: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria

Criterion	
Scale	<i>'Large-scale, open arable fields' 'Long views from plateau edge'</i>
Enclosure	<i>'Poor hedgerows generally, which accentuates the openness of the landscape. The resulting wide verges beside roads often contain attractive wildflowers. Some mature hedgerow trees are found, particularly besides roads, which are a distinctive feature.'</i>
Landform	<i>'Large expanses of flat landform with little variation'</i>
Landcover	<i>'Large-scale, open arable fields including sugarbeet, cereal and oilseed rape monocultures creating simple, often monotonous, character' 'Sparsely wooded but with occasional woodland blocks, sometimes associated with former parkland areas, creating a more wooded character and wooded horizons in parts of this generally open landscape'</i>
Human influence	<i>'A settled landscape with large edge-of-plateau towns (including market towns and those of more modern origin) and villages plus, smaller, nucleated settlements which are dispersed across the plateau' 'Vernacular buildings particularly brick built, timber-framed, and stepped gables. Some isolated churches, sometimes hidden by dense screening churchyard vegetation'</i>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<i>'Large expanses of flat landform with little variation over long distances with strong horizons – the archetypal 'Norfolk' landscape of popular imagination.'</i>
Visual characteristics including skyline	<i>'Long views from plateau edge, including to Norwich from the northern plateau edge.'</i>
Intactness	<i>'Poor hedgerows generally. Areas of more intact hedgerow network sometimes occur around settlements.'</i>

Table 08: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Value Characteristics

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Natural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contributes positively to the landscape</p>	<p>No national landscape designations. Areas of ancient woodland. Water bodies e.g. village pond at Mulbarton.</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape</p>	<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments Presence of round-towered churches. Presence of isolated churches. Ketteringham parkland Moated structures occur around Hethel.</p>
<p>Landscape condition Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure</p>	<p>Large fields denuded of hedgerow and boundary vegetation, although some retained alongside roads. Woodlands</p>
<p>Associations Landscape that is connected with notable people, events and the arts</p>	<p>Just outside of the study area, to the north of the A11 - Kett's Oak, believed to be where William Kett addressed a group of men in what was to become Kett's Rebellion.</p>
<p>Distinctiveness Landscape that has a strong sense of identity</p>	<p>Presence of historic parkland, very characteristic, some have origins as a medieval deer park.</p>
<p>Recreational Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important</p>	<p>PRoW offering some opportunities for recreation</p>

Table 08: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Perceptual (scenic) Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense</p>	<p>Wooded appearance Strong regional vernacular character, partly eroded by modern development. Distinctive plateau landscape Important views to Norwich from north of area</p>
<p>Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies</p>	<p>No perception of wildness Wooded appearance</p>
<p>Functional Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape</p>	<p>Trees and small woodland blocks perform ecosystem services To Note: this study area does not extend beyond the A11, to the north of which, between Norwich, Hethersett and Wymondham is an area designated as Strategic Gap</p>
<p>Other observations</p>	<p><i>'imposition of insensitive developments and tall structures such as masts/grain silos and other large scale farm or industrial/commercial buildings that break up the skyline and intrude upon the sense of openness; loss of vernacular character, particularly as a result of sprawl from the edge of the existing plateau top settlements; development that intrudes upon the view to important landmarks e.g. Wymondham Abbey or the City of Norwich; further "opening up" of the landscape through loss of woodland, hedgerows or hedgerow trees.</i></p>

Table 09: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Characteristics by Susceptibility Criteria

Criterion	
Scale	<i>'Large scale open arable fields'</i> <i>'Long views from plateau edge'</i>
Enclosure	<i>'Large scale open arable fields'</i> <i>'Long views from plateau edge'</i>
Landform	<i>'Flat landscape, which rises to a gentle central dome, with strong open horizons'</i>
Landcover	<i>'Large scale open arable fields including sugarbeet, cereal and oilseed rape monoculture'</i> <i>'Wooded character in parts and when viewed from afar, particularly around the settlements and due to the presence of woodland blocks in the north of the character area.'</i>
Human influence	<i>'Densely settled core area, predominantly of ribbons of post-war bungalows and other development which interconnect the older village cores. These older cores have a strong vernacular appeal.'</i> <i>'Vernacular buildings present but somewhat 'diluted' by more recent development'</i>
Perceptual aspects (e.g. rural character, stillness, solitude, tranquillity, dark skies)	<i>'Recreational routeways including Boudica's Way leading to the Tas Valley'</i>
Visual characteristics including skyline	<i>'Long views from plateau edge including to Norwich from northern plateau edge and to the Tas Valley.'</i> <i>'Prominent landmark telecommunications towers (radio and radar) located at the high point of the plateau and visible from a large area of the surrounding countryside'</i>
Intactness	<i>'Poor hedgerows but wide roadside verges and numerous remnant hedgerow standards, particularly around settled areas'</i>

Table 10: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Value Characteristics

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Natural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contributes positively to the landscape</p>	<p>No national landscape designations Areas of ancient woodland. Water bodies</p>
<p>Cultural heritage Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape</p>	<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Presence of round-towered churches. Presence of isolated churches.</p>
<p>Landscape condition Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure</p>	<p>Wide grass verges alongside roads – often wide and flowery, particularly where they are a result of hedgerow removal Good hedgerow network Mature hedgerow trees</p>
<p>Associations Landscape that is connected with notable people, events and the arts</p>	<p>Boudica Way long distance national trail cuts through the western edge of the LCA – named after the legendary warrior Queen of the Iceni whose tribes once inhabited the area, with the Venta Icenorum (marketplace of the Iceni).</p>
<p>Distinctiveness Landscape that has a strong sense of identity</p>	<p>Distinctive plateau landscape</p>
<p>Recreational Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important</p>	<p>PRoW offering some opportunities for recreation</p>

Table 10: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA Value Characteristics (continued)

Criterion	Commentary
<p>Perceptual (scenic) Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense</p>	<p>Wooded appearance – large mixed coniferous-deciduous blocks Strong regional vernacular character. Moats present Important views to and from Norwich – telecommunications towers are distinct local landmarks.</p>
<p>Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies</p>	<p>No perception of wildness. Reduced levels of tranquillity near settlements.</p>
<p>Functional Landscape that performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape</p>	<p>Area of or including significant strategic breaks between settled areas. Drainage ditches</p>
<p>Other observations</p>	<p><i>‘Further ribbon development along the rural lanes would blur the distinction between individual settlements; Developments that intrude upon plateau edge views either from the plateau or visible from the surrounding countryside, particularly the visually sensitive area between the plateau and the city of Norwich; Developments that impact upon or intrude upon the setting or views from recreational routes; Location of further tall structures such as communications towers which would break the skyline and would adversely affect the perception of a rural hinterland to the city of Norwich; Further opening up of the landscape through loss of woodland, hedgerows or hedgerow trees; Improvement of remaining rural lanes including kerbing, lighting or loss of verges.’</i></p>