

APPENDIX 3: LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

The sensitivity of the landscape character areas which may receive landscape effects are assessed below. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed development. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the Proposed Development, with additional comments regarding the Site where relevant. In the main this has been taken from the Cumbria Landscape Character Assessment, 2011 (quotes shown in *italics*) as well as from local sources and Site assessment. The table below is based on guidance provided within LI TGN 02/21 - specifically table 1 within that document.

Host Landscape: Sub-type 5d: Urban Fringe (within LCT 5: Lowland)

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to BESS Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscapes				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations within Sub-type 5d.	Community
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	The prevailing land use of Sub-type 5d is agricultural. Field patterns remain distinct, especially around pastoral areas but influenced by urban areas. There are SSSI's at Clints Quarry and the River Ehen.	Community
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	The Site is not covered by any archaeological or historic designations. <i>"In West Cumbria the urban fringes contain much evidence of former coal and iron mining. The settlement pattern is generally dispersed and of fairly recent origin. Traditional fields are regular and indicative of late enclosure".</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to BESS Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The published assessment does not provide an assessment of landscape condition. Observations in the field suggest that the Sub-type within the Study Area is in moderate condition based on the good degree of intact features, including field boundaries and vegetation resource, however there are incongruous features in the host and adjacent landscapes, including high voltage pylons and overhead lines, that reduce the overall landscape quality and condition.	Community
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	There are no known cultural associations within Sub-type 5d.	Community
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character and with no important relationship to a settlement.	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with an important relationship to a settlement.	The area of Sub-type 5d within the Study Area is host to a number of features that are considered to be commonplace within the wider landscape setting, including small villages, rural lanes and agricultural enclosures. There are no settlements that share a particularly important relationship with Sub-type 5d.	Community
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long-distance routes.	The Study Area contains a good Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network and includes National Cycle Network Routes 7 and 72, as well as Wainwright's Coast to Coast Path.	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particular visual.	<i>"This is a busy area where modern development dominates the pastoral character. The towns can be seen as progressively encroaching and areas have an</i>	Community

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to BESS Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>air of neglect. The more agricultural areas and parts where woodland and open green spaces remain are important green lungs close to the towns and cities which provide respite from the busy areas and a connection to the wider countryside".</i>	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	Away from the settlements, the landscape of Sub-type 5d is scenic with the strong dramatic backdrop of the Lake District National Park to the east, which forms a key feature in views. Busy roads and settlements reduce the sense of tranquillity.	Community / Regional
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	The Site and its immediate setting do not form particularly important green or blue infrastructure functions.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community

Susceptibility

Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	The Proposed Development is considered to be small compared to the scale of receiving landscape, comprising a small section of agricultural land, well contained by the surrounding vegetation and landform.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	The landscape is largely uniform and low lying. More dramatic landscapes can be found to the east within the Lake District National Park and its setting.	Low

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to BESS Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	Sub-type 5d is a relatively open landscape, with limited woodland cover. Greater enclosure happens around the edges of settlements, while vegetated field boundaries do provide some further shelter.	Medium
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Extensive areas of simple or regular landcover or simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover or complex or irregular patterns	Land cover within the Study Area is predominantly agricultural with areas of dispersed, small settlements. Field patterns are generally regular	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<p><i>“In West Cumbria small settlements associated with former mining and associated activities spread over a ridge and valley landscape. While deep mining of iron ore has largely gone, agricultural areas on restored opencast coal sites introduce modern 20th century field patterns amongst more regular field patterns associated with parliamentary enclosure. Woodland, wetland and scrub has been reintroduced through restoration schemes. Derelict land is dotted throughout the landscape. Despite the scars of former industries, much of the countryside character is still intact with wooded valleys retained along valleys that cut across the landscape”.</i></p> <p>High voltage pylons and overhead lines are visible within the host and adjacent landscapes.</p>	Low
Views intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Visibility within Sub-type 5d varies, although there are longer distance views to the east where the backdrop of the Lake District National Park forms a distinctive feature.	Medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low-lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	There are no distinctive backdrops or focal points within Sub-type 5d. However, the backdrop of the Lake District National Park forms a distinctive feature to the east, outside of the host Sub-type.	Medium

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to BESS Development	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Development	Explanation	Judgement
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium / Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low