

Appendix 14.6

Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity – Summary

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 The seascape character type environment is typically vast or large scale and considered to have the capability to accommodate most if not all of the Project without causing significant harm to it. The vast scale, open shoreline of SCA-1a with its expanse of open sea and sky, at the west edge of the study area would be temporarily affected by the construction of the brine outfall, resulting in a **neutral** significance of effect on its character but a **slight to moderate** adverse significance of effect on its visual amenity within 500 m of the Project. The more enclosed, but large scale Wyre estuary (SCA-1b) would be affected in the short term by construction activity within the adjacent rural low lying coastal hinterland of LCT-4, resulting in a **slight** adverse significance of effect on its tranquil characteristics and visual amenity. Within SCA-1a the operational phase would comprise a few permanent above ground features considered to be in keeping with the maritime character of the area with the observation platform considered to bring about positive change resulting in a **neutral** significance of effect on its character and a **slight to moderate** beneficial effect on visual amenity within 500 m of it. The operational effects of the permanent Project elements within LCT-4 on the adjacent SCA-1b would result in residual **neutral** impact on its character and visual amenity.

Landscape Character and Visual Amenity

- 1.1.2 The rural landscape character types are relatively widespread and varied and for the most part are considered to have the capability to accommodate the Project without causing significant harm to it. However the rural landscape type LCT-4 which also forms the hinterland to the Wyre Estuary (SCA-1b) has the highest sensitivity as this is where the main construction activity and operational above ground elements would be located. The urban fringe landscape type LCT-2 is relatively small scale in comparison to those types on the east side of the Wyre Estuary, but in comparison to their surrounding urban environment they are relatively open as well as being protected by green belt designation.
- 1.1.3 The landscape character and the visual amenity of both LCT 2 (LCA-2a, LCA-2b and LCA-2c) and the nearby LCT 3 (LCA-3a, LCA-3b, LCA-3c and LCA-3d) are heavily influenced by their built edges and other visually intrusive elements and in the main would be affected by construction activity associated with the brine outfall pipeline and the sea water pump station new build which would occur within a relatively narrow corridor resulting in a temporary **slight** adverse effect on their character and temporary **large, moderate** and **slight** adverse impacts on visual amenity depending on the proximity of the receptor to the respective activity. The operational effects of the Project would result in no significant impact on the character and visual amenity of these types.
- 1.1.4 The rural landscape types within the east part of the study area are larger scale and comprise the tranquil flat open mosslands of LCT-6 (LCA-6a) and the more enclosed undulating lowland of LCT-7 (LCA-7a) and LCT-5 (LCA-5d). Although these areas are notably lacking in intrusive elements they have, due to their scale and natural attributes the capability to accommodating the Project. Again these types would be affected in the main by construction activity associated with the NTS interconnector and which would occur within a relatively narrow

corridor resulting in a temporary **slight** adverse impact on their character and temporary **moderate** and **slight** adverse impacts on visual amenity depending on the proximity of the receptor to the respective activity. The operational effects of the Project would result in no significant impact on the character and visual amenity of these types.

- 1.1.5 The rural east hinterland of the Wyre estuary (SCA-1b) comprises the tranquil low lying and undulating LCT-4 (LCA-4a, LCA-4b; LCA-4c, LCA-4d; LCA-4e, LCA-4f, LCT-4g, LCT-4h and LCT4i) and LCT-5 (LCA-5a, LCA-5b and LCA-5c), This is a complex type which is characterised by its historic relationship with salt mines and brine extraction, by its pattern of settlement, its subtle changes in landform, land use, enclosure and changing relationships with the estuary to the west resulting in a number of locally distinct areas. The capability of the type to accommodate the Project varies across it depending on the nature and duration of the activity in any one area. A number of the areas within the type e.g. LCA-4g, LCA-4h and LCA-4i would be affected in the main by construction activity associated with the HV cable routing and which would occur within a relatively narrow corridor resulting in a temporary **slight** adverse impact on their character and visual amenity. The operational effects of the Project would result in no significant impact on the character and visual amenity of these areas within the type.
- 1.1.6 Two other areas (LCA-4e and LCA-4f) because of their enclosed and contained nature would not be affected by any of the various Project phases.
- 1.1.7 Three of the four remaining areas (LCA-4b, LCA-4c and LCA-4d), which are low lying and predominantly open, although the subtle changes in landform and vegetation helps to provide local enclosure, are all considered to have a high sensitivity and as a result of the widespread construction activity associated with them they would have the least capability of accommodating the Project resulting in a **large** adverse impact on their character and **large to moderate** adverse impacts on their visual amenity. Although these areas are considered to have the highest sensitivity they would be capable of accommodating some of the Project's operational elements as most would be either underground or form relatively low lying above ground elements. The Project would also include one medium scale above ground industrial compound within LCA-4b and one large scale industrial compound within LCA-4c, both of which, in plan view, would be noticeably larger than the typical rural development within the type. However, through careful siting and Project design, including the use of screen earth mounds and associated planting, it would be possible to accommodate some if not all of these elements and with further mitigation in the form of planting, would result in a residual **slight** adverse impact on the character and visual amenity of these areas.

Townscape Character and Visual Amenity

- 1.1.8 The townscape character falls in to three distinct types, suburban (TCT-8), urban / industrial (TCT-9) and rural settlement (TCT-10). The Project would result in no significant impacts on townscape character or its visual amenity, including those individual receptors with views out to the Project.

Cumulative Effects

- 1.1.9 There would be potential cumulative landscape and visual impacts during the project construction and operation phases on three character types (LCT-3, LCT-6 and LCT-7) and cumulative visual impacts on one other (TCT-9). These cumulative impacts would arise as a result of the Project being constructed and operated simultaneously with two other developments which would be located nearby.

Riverside Waste Transfer and Recycling Centre, Jameson Road (TCT-9)

- 1.1.10 This development would be located in LCA-9a and in close proximity to the Project's sea water pump (TCA-9b). Under the worst case scenario i.e. the Project and the development constructed at the same time, there would be potential **moderate** adverse cumulative impacts of a temporary duration on LCA-3 and **moderate** or **large** adverse cumulative impacts on visual receptors within LCA-3a and TCA-9c during Year 1.

Orchard End Wind Farm, Eagland Hill (adjacent to LCA-6/LCA-7)

- 1.1.11 This development would be located just outside the study area, but, bearing in mind the height of the proposed turbines (125 m tip height), would be in relatively close proximity to the Project' NTS metering station near Nateby. Under the worst case scenario i.e. the project and the development constructed and operated at the same time, there would be potential **moderate** adverse cumulative impacts of a temporary nature in Year 1/Year 2 for a number of visual receptors in the east part of LCA-6a and west part of LCA-7. In addition there would be potential **significant** cumulative impacts of a long term nature between Year 3 and Year 8 on visual receptors located on the boundary between LCA-6a and LCA-7a and which would have a view to both the Projects metering station and to the turbines beyond.