

# LAND at FORMBY LANE AUGHTON LANCASHIRE

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Walkover Survey &  
Historic Visual Impact Assessment



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# Land at Formby Lane, Aughton Lancashire

## Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Walkover Survey & Historic Visual Impact Assessment

*For*

Amy Williams

*Of*

BE Renewables

*By*



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## Summary

*This report presents the results of a desk-based assessment, walkover survey and historic visual impact assessment carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. on land at Formby Lane, Aughton, Lancashire as part of the pre-planning documentation for a proposed solar farm.*

*The proposed solar farm would be located within two large modern fields north of Walsh Hall. The Manor of Walsh Hall is first documented in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and was held by the Walsh family into the later 17<sup>th</sup> century. The current shape and form of these fields has been determined by arable utility; the earlier fields were rationalised in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. The walkover failed to identify any features of archaeological interest. Undesignated heritage assets in the immediate area relate to the post-medieval farming landscape; the area was under-utilised in the later Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, but earlier Prehistoric activity took place in (former) fen-edge areas.*

*There is one Grade I and two Grade II\* Listed buildings within 3km of the site that fall within the ZTV, together with 14 Grade II Listed buildings or groups. There is only one Scheduled Monument (St Katherine's Chapel, also GII\*). Most of the designated heritage assets in the wider area are located at such a distance to minimise the impact of the proposed development, or else the contribution of setting to overall significance is less important than other factors. The landscape context of most of these buildings and monuments is such that they would be partly or wholly insulated from the effects of the proposed solar park by a combination of local blocking, and the topography, or that other modern intrusions have already impinged upon their settings. The assessment suggests that only two assets (the Church of Our Lady and West Tower CA, negligible-to-negative/minor) a quantifiable level of harm.*

*With this in mind, the overall impact of the proposed solar can be assessed as **negative/minor**. The impact of the development on the buried archaeological resource would be **permanent** and **irreversible**.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

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<b>Location:</b>	Land at Formby Lane
<b>Parish:</b>	Aughton
<b>County:</b>	Lancashire
<b>NGR:</b>	SD379065

### 1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of a desk-based assessment, walkover survey and historical visual impact assessment (HVIA) carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land at Formby Lane, Aughton, Lancashire (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Kirsty Gibson of Aardvark EM Ltd. on behalf of Amy Williams of BE Renewables in order to establish the historic background for the area and identify any heritage assets that might be affected by the construction of a proposed solar farm.

### 1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The proposed site comprises part of one field c.10.9ha in extent on the western boundary between the civil parishes of Aughton and Downholland. The fields are located towards the base of a slightly sloping west-facing hillside dropping down to a tributary of the Sudell Brook, at an altitude of c.20-25m AOD. The soils of this area are the deep, stoneless humose acidic sandy soils of the Sollom 1 Association (SSEW 1983), derived from superficial deposits of the Shirdley Hill Sand Formation which overlie sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group at depth (BGS 2015).

### 1.3 Historical Background

The proposed site is located on the western edge of Aughton parish, within the sub-manor of Walsh Hall. The earliest recorded tenants of Walsh Hall are likely to have been the 12<sup>th</sup> century Welsh retainers of Richard Banastre, expelled from Rhuddlan in 1177. The Walsh family held the manor into the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### 1.4 Archaeological Background

The Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) identifies these fields as falling within an area of 'modern enclosure'; however, it is clear that prior to later 19<sup>th</sup> century rationalisation there is little to distinguish this area from adjacent areas characterised as 'ancient enclosures'. . . Relatively little fieldwork has taken place in the immediate area, with the exception of the extensive surveys carried out as part of the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton *et al.* 2014), and some historic building recording. Land drainage made this landscape suitable for cereals and horticulture, but the low-lying (former) fen edge was favoured by earlier Prehistoric peoples, as evidenced by Mesolithic flint scatters.

### 1.5 Methodology

This document follows the methodology outlined in the Project Design (Appendix 1).

The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (CIfA 2014) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2012).

The historic visual impact assessment follows the guidance outlined in: *Conservation Principles: policies and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment* (English Heritage 2008), *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (English Heritage 2011a), *Seeing History in the View* (English Heritage 2011b), *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (Historic Scotland 2010), and with reference to *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (Landscape Institute 2013), *Photography and Photomontage in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (Landscape Institute 2011).

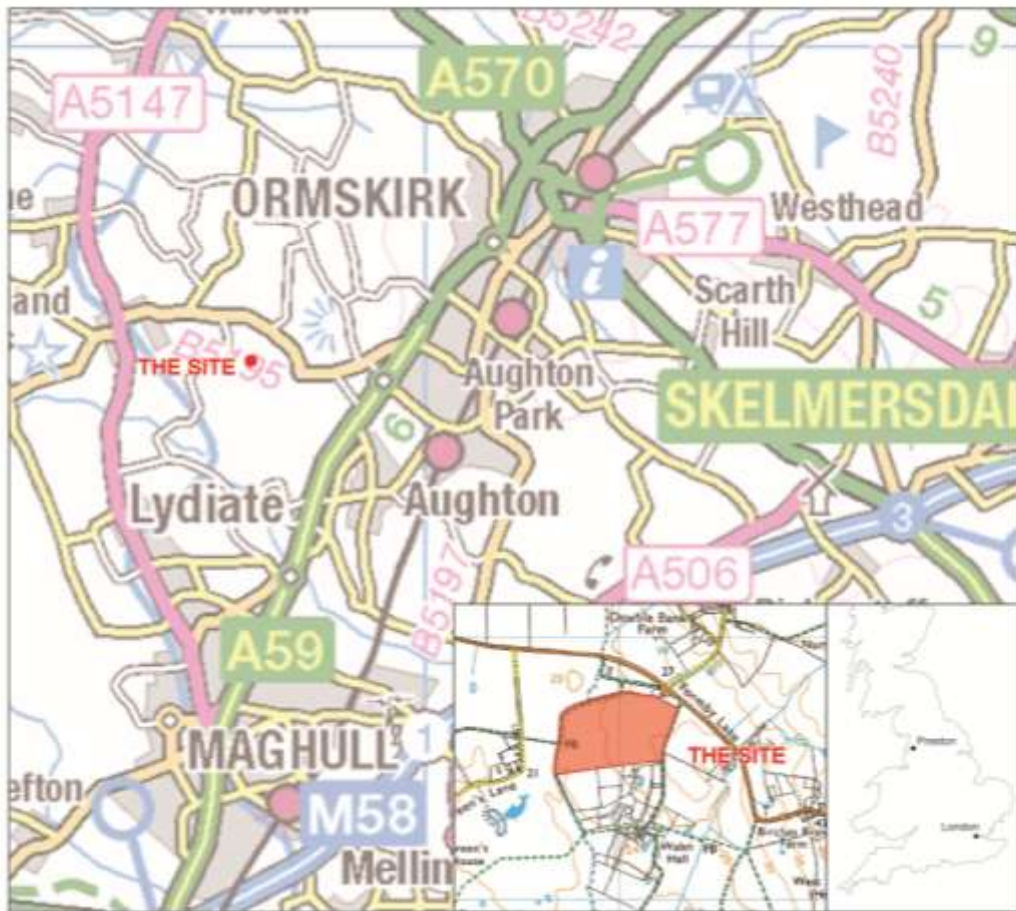


Figure 1: Site location (the proposed site is indicated).



## 2.0 Desk-Based Assessment and Cartographic Analysis

### 2.1 Documentary History

The proposed PV site would be located on the north-western edge of Aughton parish. The ecclesiastical parish contained two Domesday manors: Litherland and Aughton, and these lay within the Domesday Hundred of West Derby. Litherland appears to have been included within the royal demesne or held in thegnage, and granted to Warin de Lancaster in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, and despite some interruption during the reign of King John, was held of that honour thereafter. The first named tenant was Richard de Waleys (i.e. Richard the Welshman), who also held a third part of Aughton from the Robert Banastre. Banastre had been the English seneschal at Rhuddlan, and when the English forces were expelled in 1177 by Owain Gwynedd, he settled a number of his Welsh followers on his own lands (Richard de Waleys, Madoc de Aughton and Bleddyn de Aughton). The Walsh line failed in 1372 and the manor passed by marriage to Roger de Bradshagh.

The proposed site would be located close to the base of a shallow valley and would flank a tributary of the Sudell Brook. In 1848 this land belonged to one Ann Parr and formed part of the eponymous *Walsh Hall*. The Lancashire VCH (1907) provides a detailed account of the descent Litherland and Aughton, and Walsh Hall was a sub-manor first documented in the later 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was held by a junior branch of the Walshes of Litherland and Aughton, and thus presumably formed part of the Domesday estate of Litherland. The Walsh family held the manor until at least the late 17<sup>th</sup> century (Thomas Walsh d.1694), long after the senior branch had failed. An inquisition held in c.1571 described the estate as being comprised of ten messuages, 100 acres of land with meadow in Aughton, Ormskirk and Eggergarth; thus it would seem that, in common with many medieval manors, this manor was comprised of a number of disparate parcels scattered across the local landscape.

The house at Walsh Hall was demolished in 1891, leaving only the two-storey porch and a fragment of moat. The hall reputedly comprised 'a centre with two projecting wings' located on the site of an earlier house, the foundations of which were visible as parchmarks in the grass. During the demolition a datestone (1675) was recovered. The house was "'improved" off the ground to "make" material for the erection of farm premises' (Newstead 1893).

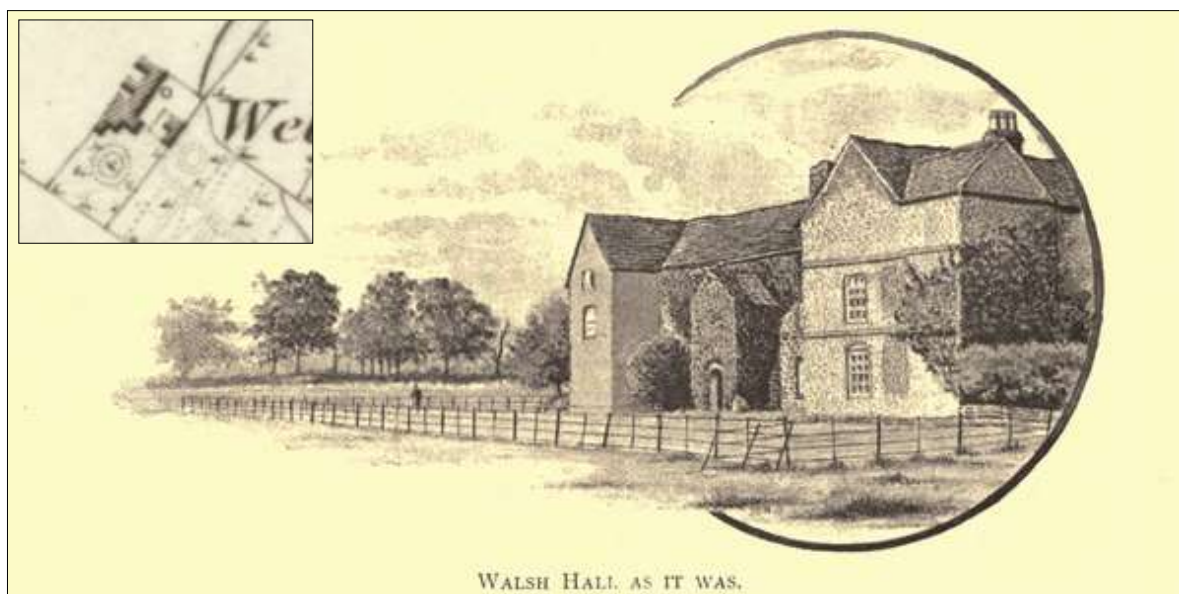


Figure 2: Image of Walsh Hall (from Newstead 1893) (inset shows detail of 1849 OS map).

## 2.2 Early Cartographic sources

While there are a number of early county maps for Lancashire, none of these sources show the landscape around Aughton in any great detail (e.g. see Figure 3). The first relatively detailed map is the OS First Series map of 1843 (Figure 4). This is contemporary with the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map for this area (1845-6, published 1849), and the tithe maps for Aughton (1848).

The contemporary OS map is more detailed and slightly earlier (1845-6) than the Aughton tithe map (1848), and is used, with the tithe apportionment, as the basis of discussion here. The landscape depicted is a complex maze of winding parish roads, straggling linear groups of cottages and smallholdings, interspersed with large farms set within their own fields. This is a relatively interesting area, for a number of reasons. The fields to the north of Walsh are somewhat different, in that the fields are generally larger, and betray a gentle (aratra) curve suggestive of medieval strip fields. Formby lane deviates around Walsh Hall in a long gentle arc, with a return along the western side that defines three sides of a large oval enclosure. This ring-fence boundary could define an early medieval settlement enclosure or small infield related to Walsh Hall. The field-names are relatively straightforward; some are entirely prosaic (*Brook Hey, Barn Hey*), other probably relate to personal names (*Walkers Hey, Nells Craft, Captains Hey*). *Song Meadow* is interesting and evocative but very difficult to interpret; Kiln Croft, in contrast, has clear archaeological implications, but it located at some distance from the site.

The proposed PV array would be located within the holding of Walsh Farm, owned by Ann Parr and leased to William Harrison.

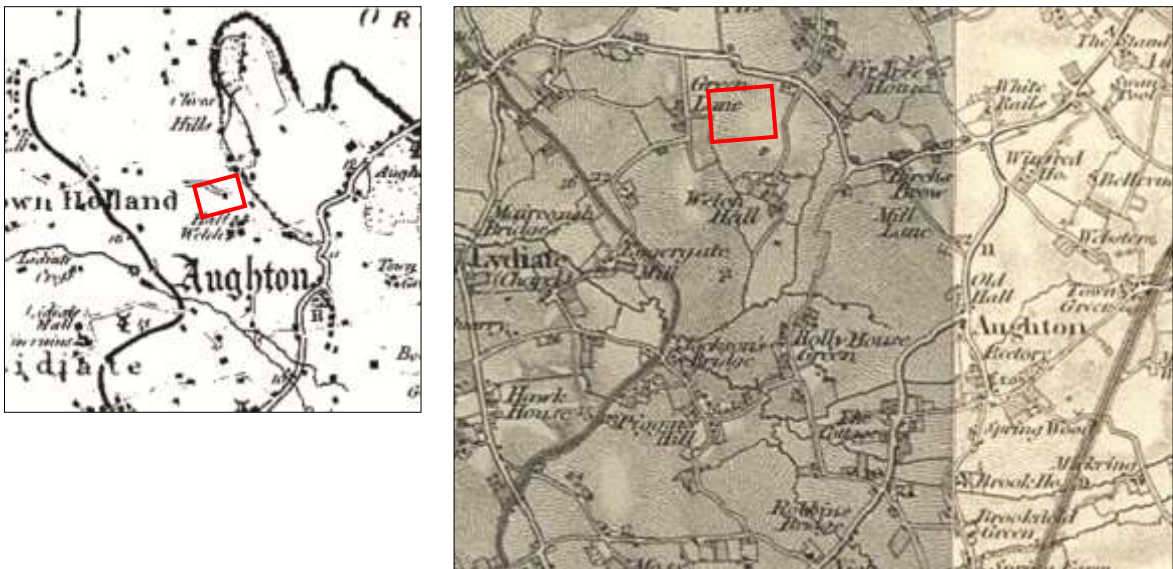


Figure 3 (left): Extract from the Yates map of 1786 (the approximate location of the site is indicated).

Figure 4 (right): Extract from the OS First Series Map, 1843 (the approximate location of the site is indicated).

## 2.3 Later Developments

By 1893 the original and slightly-curving historic field boundaries defining *Brook Hey, Captains Hey, Barn Hey* and *Song Meadow* had been lost and replaced by straight field boundaries dividing the area into four regular fields. Most of the pools ('gravel holes') had been infilled by this date as well. By 1908 the house ('hall') had disappeared, and by 1927 the four fields had become two, with the removal of two of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century hedgerows. Since then the historic farmstead has been augmented by later 20<sup>th</sup> century farmbuildings, and the southern large field (formerly *Barn Hey* with part of *Song Meadow*) subdivided into a number of small paddocks.



Figure 5: Extract from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of the area, surveyed 1845-6, published 1849 (LRO) (the approximate extent of the site is indicated).

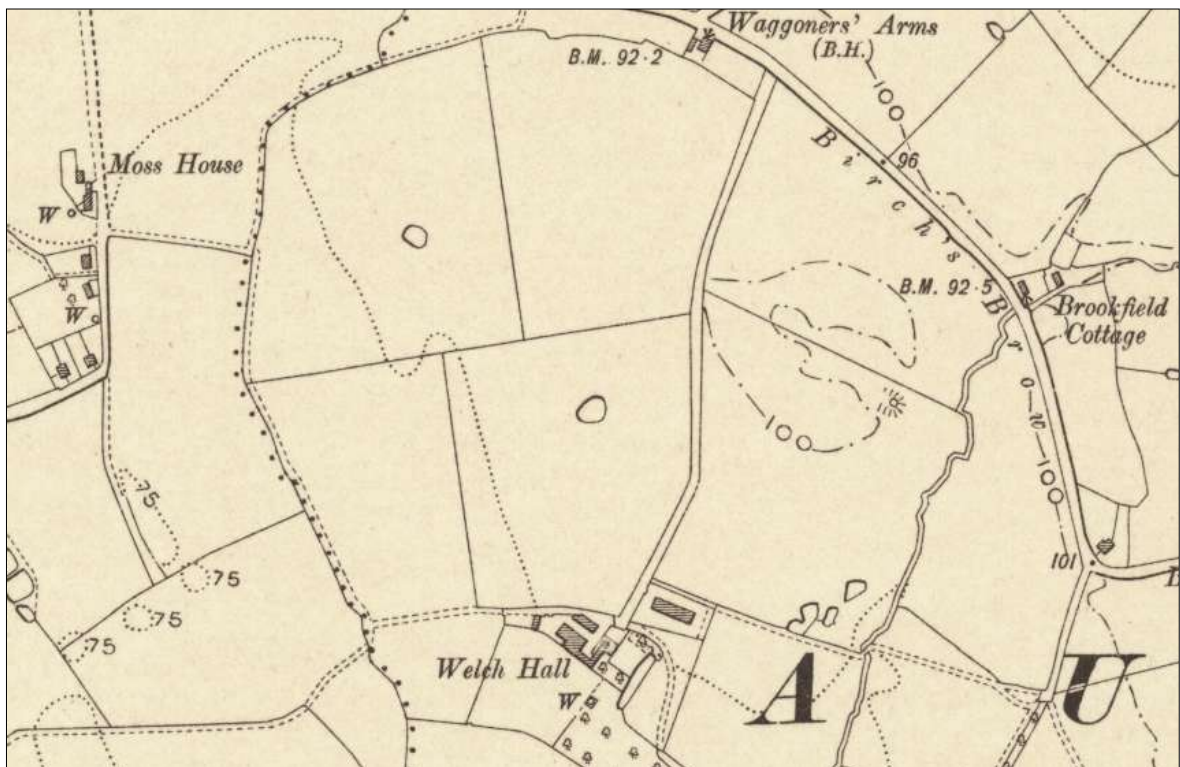


Figure 6: Extract from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of the area, surveyed 1907, published 1909 (LRO).

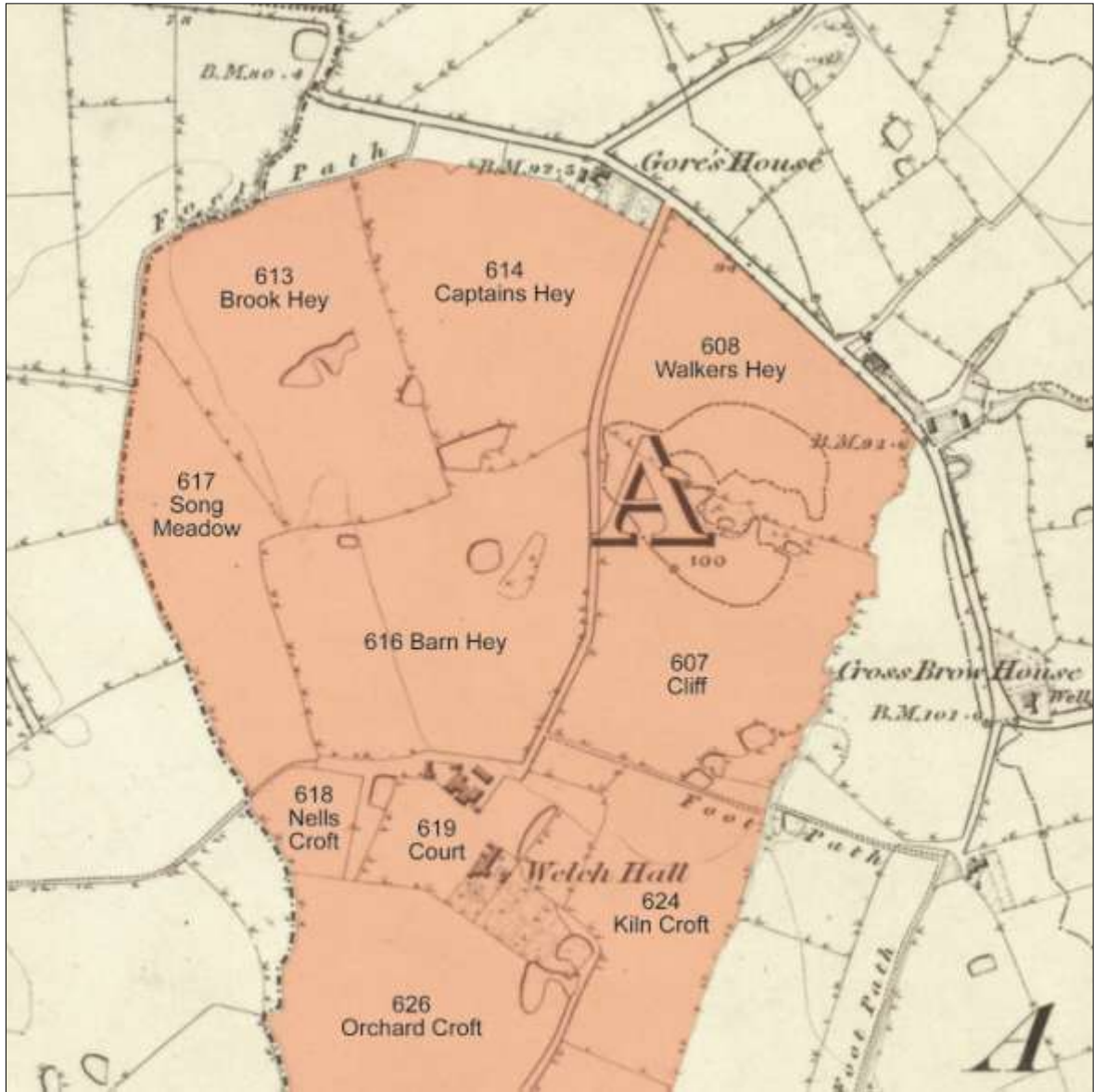


Figure 7: Extract from the mid 1840s OS map, showing the tithe field numbers and field names. The fields shown in **RED** belonged to Ann Parr, leased to William Harrison.

No.	Landowner	Tenant	Field Name	State of Cultivation
Aughton Township, Aughton				
607	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Cliff	Pasture
608	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Walkers Hey	Arable
613	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Brook Hey	Meadow
614	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Captains Hey	Arable
616	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Barn Hey	Arable
617	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Song Meadow	Arable
618	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Nells Croft	Arable
619	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Court	-
624	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Kiln Croft	Pasture
626	Ann Parr	William Harrison	Orchard Croft	Meadow

Table 1: Extract from the tithe apportionments for Aughton (LRO).

## 3.0 Archaeological Background

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### 3.1 Baseline Data

The amount of active fieldwork that has taken place in this area is rather limited, with the notable exception of the extensive survey work that has taken place in the district related to the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton *et al.* 2014). Historic building recording work has been undertaken at Lavender Barn, Downholland (ELA2424) and The Barns, Aughton (ELA1255), in advance of the conversion of large 19<sup>th</sup> century barns to residential use.

The lack of investigative fieldwork hinders interpretation; however, the lack of evidence would appear to be genuine, in that widespread settlement in this landscape does seem to be a late and post-medieval phenomenon. The poorly-drained and acidic soils do not appear to have been very attractive for settled farming before the advent of landscape-level surface and under-drainage (see Middleton *et al.* 2015 *passim*; Brennand 2006).

#### 3.1.1 Prehistoric

Evidence for Prehistoric *occupation* in the immediate area is relatively sparse, with very little – both in terms of settlements or monuments – relating to the later Prehistoric period. In contrast, for the earlier Prehistoric the pollen record indicates the widespread clearance of woodland in the Neolithic, and the fen-edge landscapes are marked by Mesolithic and later flint scatters. The Holocene history of the area is a complex one, with interleaved deposits of alluvium, peat and wind-blown sand. Mesolithic flints have been recovered from slightly-raised sand banks or roddons, where peat wastage has led them to be exposed. The proposed development would be located on the lower slopes of a very shallow valley (Sudwell Brook), and while peat deposits – if present – are likely to be restricted in extent and relatively shallow, this kind of fen-edge environment does appear to have been favoured.

#### 3.1.2 Romano-British

Evidence for late Prehistoric and Romano-British occupation is highly restricted. However, PAS finds recorded as ‘Aughton’ include three small lead or Cu alloy figurines [LANCUM-65AF77; LVPL-E54C5A; LVPL-719FB3], which could perhaps point to the presence of a shrine or temple in the local area.

#### 3.1.3 Early Medieval

The early medieval history of the area is poorly understood. British kingdoms were established in the centuries following the end of Roman rule, but most of the early place-names in the district at Old English (e.g. Aughton) or else betray the influence of later Viking settlement (e.g. Formby). The archaeological evidence for early medieval settlement is almost entirely lacking, but the early estate centres listed in the Domesday Book (e.g. Aughton, Lydiate, Downholland etc.) had presumably been in existence for some time prior to 1066 and indicates wetland reclamation had already been initiated.

#### 3.1.4 Medieval

By 1086 the basic structure of the medieval landscape had already come into being, with settlement centres located in elevated locations around the fens and mosses, or else on slightly elevated ‘islands’ within or between the mosses themselves. There is no evidence that settlement was particularly dense or widespread, and much of the landscape subject to regular flooding would always have been used extensively rather than intensively.

### 3.1.5 Post-Medieval

Widespread ‘improvement’ and settlement appears to have been initiated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with the drainage of former wetlands leading to the creation of relatively fertile arable landscapes. The late 16<sup>th</sup> century map of Downholland Moss indicates that windmills played a role in maintaining water levels (National Archives MR1/2). This area is noted for its large 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century brick barns and farmsteads, testament to its arable productivity, as it is for its large fields and prairie-like appearance today.

The historic landscape, with its winding parish roads, dispersed and straggling settlement pattern would suggest a history of piecemeal reclamation punctuated by larger and later schemes for the larger mosses. The area specific to this development is characterised on the Lancashire HLC as ‘ancient enclosure’ i.e. before 1600, with extensive areas of ‘modern enclosure’ to the north-west and north-east. In reality, while this is a relatively accurate summary of the modern landscape, in effect these are both areas of ‘anciently-enclosed’ land but subject to differential boundary loss and rationalisation in the 19<sup>th</sup> and particularly the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The larger fields to the north-west, along the base of the Sudell Brook, are likely to be post-medieval in date, given the history of land drainage in the area. A notable feature of this landscape is the scattered pools; the field names recorded in the tithe apportionment include multiple references to ‘gravel pits’, but it is probable they were actually marl pits.

No	PRN	Name	Record	Details
1	PRN2135 MLA2135	Kiln Hey, Aughton	Monument	The construction of a dual carriageway (A59) in 1933 destroyed most, if not all of this field. The site lies to the west of a small unnamed hamlet which probably does not pre-date the Liverpool-Preston turnpike road.
2	PRN19073 MLA19035	Aughton Pumping Station	Monument	Constructed 1871. Boreholes, pumps and control equipment in brick building. Recently modified internally.
3	PRN2816 MLA2816	North of Sudell Lane, Aughton	Monument	Soilmark of circular ditched enclosure. Earthwork of small ring-shaped bank. Soilmark of small ring-shaped feature cut by a field boundary.
4	PRN3408 MLA3408	Sudell Brook, Lydiate, Merseyside	Monument	No details held.
5	PRN37044 MLA33639	Former Eggergate Mill House, Downholland	Monument	Eggergate Mill House, shown on OS 1849 map; extant but not named on current OS mapping (2012).
6	PRN38807 MLA36276	Lavender Barn, Eager Lane, Downholland	Industrial building	Historically formed part of a large isolated farmstead named Eggergate Mill House, located at Downholland on the fringe of the borough of West Lancashire. The barn is an undesignated heritage asset of mid-late 18th century date, extended in the early 19th century, and the majority of the building has been converted to several dwellings. The site is a physical remnant of a medieval manor named Eggergarth, first recorded in 1212. The watermill is documented in 1296. The mill wheel still remained in use in the 1870s.
7	37041	Bridge, Lydiate, Sefton.	Monument	Medieval. No details held.
8	PRN2203 MLA2203	Hollin House Green (Hollenhurst Green), Aughton	Monument	The site is now occupied by one farm and is a junction of five ways. There is no early reference to a green, but Hollyn Hurst is mentioned in 1596. There is a datestone of 1686 on the farmhouse. An estate map of c.1770 shows an irregular gated green with a farm house occupying the central position, as it does today.
9	PRN4300 MLA4300	Welsh Hall, Back Lane, Aughton	Monument	General photograph facing ESE, includes cropmarks of possible former area of woodland, it is marked on the OS 1:10,000 map as area of woodland. The photograph looks towards, and partially includes Aughton.
10	PRN2148 MLA2148	Kiln Croft, Walsh Hall, Aughton	Monument	The site was identified from the tithe award, lying adjacent to the former moated site of Walsh Hall. A reference to a kiln at this site is made in an inquisition of 1614 when it was included with the barn, shippens and swine houses.
11	PRN31589 MLA28	LANCASHIRE AUGHTON	Find Spot	Charles 'The Bold' VII, Duke of Burgundy, double Patard coin [low countries] Date: from 1422-1461 AD
12	PRN793 MLA793	Welch (Walsh) Hall, Aughton	Monument	Only the northwest arm of the moat remains; the line of the southwest arm is visible as a cropmark under favourable

				conditions. The former enclosure is crossed diagonally by a cart track and public footpath. An inquisition dated 1595 contains a partial description of Thorn Walsh's mansion house: <i>The upper end contains a hall, parlour, three rooms and a buttery</i> . The second Walsh Hall has no building date available, but during demolition in 1891 a datestone (1675) was uncovered. Only the porch remains, but cropmarks were visible in 1973 to the northwest of the path. The materials were re-used for the building of a Victorian farmhouse and farm buildings. The garden wall of Walsh Hall appears to be contemporary with the 1675 Hall. The porch stands 25m south of the southern corner of the outbuildings, in a pasture field. It is 30m square, approximately 5.0m high, but is capped by a dense growth of ivy. In the northwest side is a round-arched doorway, with a stone moulding around the upper half. Opposite is the original inner door. In the north wall of an outbuilding to the west of the new house, is a tablet of stone bearing the initials and date, 'HOM CH 1675'.
13	9535	Jackson's Bridge, Lydiate, Sefton.	Bridge	Modern. No details held.
14	800	Remains of hall on site of moated homestead, Aughton, West Lancashire.	Extant feature	Medieval and post-medieval. No details held.

Table 2: Table of nearby undesigned heritage assets (source: Lancashire HER).

### 3.2 Walkover Survey

The field subject to the proposed development was subject to a rapid walkover assessment as part of this programme of works. This survey took place in early June 2015; the weather was fine, dry and sunny. The field was under a flowering oilseed rape crop at the time, and thus the following general and rather limited observations can be made.

The proposed site is a large and slightly irregular field north of Walsh Hall. The field has a long and curving northern boundary enclosed by post-and-wire fencing; the western boundary also curves slightly and respects a large drainage ditch. The southern boundary is straight and fenced and the eastern edge of the field follows the private lane that leads to Walsh Hall Farm, known as Birch's Brow. The field is quite open, on a very slight south-facing slope, with extensive views to the surrounding landscape. Public footpaths run along the north and western boundaries of the field.

The selection of photographs from the site can be found in Appendix 3.

### 3.3 Aerial Photographs

A review of the online and readily-available aerial photographs was undertaken, but this demonstrated that recent APs were not particularly helpful. In general, the only clear crop- and soilmarks are large, irregular and diffuse and presumably relate to either palaeo-channels, areas of differential waterlogging, or possibly periglacial features. Some of these dark features will relate to infilled pools ('gravel holes') shown on the early OS maps and the tithe map. What is *not* shown is almost as important as what *is*: we might expect the historic field boundaries lost since 1848 to be visible. That said, looking at the soilmarks together with differential vegetation growth in the field to the south, the eye of faith might discern a large sub-rectangular enclosure (as indicated on Figure 9).



Figure 8: Nearby heritage assets (source: Lancashire HER).





Figure 9: A recent (2005) aerial photograph, showing soilmarks and cropmarks (© Infoterra Ltd. & Bluesky) (the site is indicated).

## 4.0 Historic Visual Impact Assessment

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### 4.1 National Policy

General policy and guidance for the conservation of the historic environment are now contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The relevant guidance is reproduced below:

#### **Paragraph 128**

*In determining applications, local planning authorities should require the applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, **including the contribution made by their setting**. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should be consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which a development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

#### **Paragraph 129**

*Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (**including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset**) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.*

It is also relevant to consider the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, Section 66(1):

*In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.*

This test applies only where the effect of planning permission materially affects either the Listed building or its setting. Where such an effect has occurred the Local Authority (or the Secretary of State) then considers whether the desirability of preservation of the historical asset or its setting is such that the planning balance falls in favour of refusing the application.

#### 4.1.1 Case Law

The duty under Section 66(1) was extensively discussed by the Court of Appeal in the case of *East Northamptonshire District Council and others v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and another* [2014] EWCACiv 137, more commonly known as 'The Barnwell Judgement'. In that case the Court of Appeal held that under section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the duty required the decision maker to give the desirability of preserving the building or its setting '*not merely careful consideration for the purpose of deciding whether there would be some harm, but considerable importance and weight when balancing the advantages of the proposed development against any such harm*'.

However, it is a common misinterpretation that this decision means that *any* harm to a historic asset or its setting would be sufficient to refuse an application when in actual fact the level of harm and the desirability of preservation must be weighed as against the proposed benefits of the application. Indeed, the Court continued that if the harm to the setting of the Grade I Listed building would be less than substantial, then the strength of the presumption against the grant of planning permission would be lessened, albeit not entirely removed.

It is important, therefore, to bear in mind that one must first establish whether any harm is caused by the proposed development and then whether the historical asset or its setting is sufficiently desirable of such protection and then and only then can the harm be weighed as against the proposed benefit. This reflects the position in National Policy guidance.

## 4.2 Setting and Views

The principle guidance on this topic is contained within two EH publications: *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011) and *Seeing History in the View* (2011). While interlinked and complementary, it is useful to consider the following sites in terms of their *setting* i.e. their immediate landscape context and the environment within which they are seen and experienced, and their *views* i.e. designed or fortuitous vistas experienced by the visitor when at the heritage asset itself, or that include the heritage asset.

Setting is the primary consideration of any HVIA. It is a somewhat nebulous and subjective assessment of what does, should, could or did constitute the lived experience of a monument or structure. The following extracts are from the English Heritage publication *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2011a, 4 & 7):

*Setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset.*

*Setting is not a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation. Its importance lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset. This depends on a wide range of physical elements within, as well as perceptual and associational attributes, pertaining to the heritage asset's surroundings... In some instances the contribution made by setting to the asset's significance is negligible; in others it may be the greatest contribution to significance.*

The HVIA below sets out to determine the magnitude of the effect and the sensitivity of the heritage asset to that effect. The fundamental issue is that proximity and visual and/or aural relationships may affect the experience of a heritage asset, but if setting is tangential to the significance of that monument or structure, then the impact assessment will reflect this.

Historic and significant views are the associated and complementary element to setting, but can be considered separately as solar parks may appear in a designed view without necessarily falling within the setting of a heritage asset *per se*. As such, significant views fall within the aesthetic value of a heritage asset, and may be *designed* (i.e. deliberately conceived and arranged, such as within parkland or an urban environment) or *fortuitous* (i.e. the graduated development of a landscape 'naturally' brings forth something considered aesthetically pleasing, or at least impressive, as with particular rural landscapes or seascapes), or a combination of both (i.e. the *patina of age*, see below). The following extract is from the English Heritage publication *Seeing History in the View* (2011b, 3):

*Views play an important part in shaping our appreciation and understanding of England's historic environment, whether in towns or cities or in the countryside. Some of those views were*

*deliberately designed to be seen as a unity. Much more commonly, a significant view is a historical composite, the cumulative result of a long process of development.*

On a landscape scale, views, taken in the broadest sense, are possible from anywhere to anything, and each may be accorded an aesthetic value according to subjective taste. Given that terrain, the biological and built environment, and public access restrict our theoretical ability to see anything from anywhere, in this assessment the term *principal view* is employed to denote both the deliberate views created within designed landscapes, and those fortuitous views that may be considered of aesthetic value and worth preserving. It should be noted, however, that there are distance thresholds beyond which perception and recognition fail, and this is directly related to the scale, height, massing and nature of the heritage asset in question. For instance, beyond 2km the Grade II cottage comprises a single indistinct component within the wider historic landscape, whereas at 5km or even 10km a large stately home or castle may still be recognisable. By extension, where assets cannot be seen or recognised i.e. entirely concealed within woodland, or too distant to be distinguished, then visual harm to setting is moot. To reflect this emphasis on recognition, the term *landmark asset* is employed to denote those sites where the structure (e.g. church tower), remains (e.g. earthwork ramparts) or – in some instances – the physical character of the immediate landscape (e.g. a distinctive landform like a tall domed hill) make them visible on a landscape scale. In some cases, these landmark assets may exert landscape *primacy*, where they are the tallest or most obvious man-made structure within line-of-sight. However, this is not always the case, typically where there are numerous similar monuments (multiple engine houses in mining areas, for instance) or where modern developments have overtaken the heritage asset in height and/or massing.

In making an assessment, this document adopts the conservation values laid out in *Conservation Principles* (English Heritage 2008), and as recommended in the *Setting of Heritage Assets* (page 17 and appendix 5). This is in order to determine the relative importance of *setting* to the significance of a given heritage asset. These values are: *evidential, historical, aesthetic* and *communal*.

#### 4.2.1 Evidential Value

*Evidential value* is derived from the potential of a structure or site to provide physical evidence about past human activity, and may not be readily recognised or even visible. This is the primary form of data for periods without adequate written documentation. It is the least equivocal value: evidential value is absolute; all other ascribed values (see below) are subjective.

#### 4.2.2 Historical Value

*Historical value* is derived from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected via a place to the present; it can be *illustrative* or *associative*.

*Illustrative value* is the visible expression of evidential value; it has the power to aid interpretation of the past through making connections with, and providing insights into, past communities and their activities through a shared experience of place. Illustrative value tends to be greater if a place features the first or only surviving example of a particular innovation of design or technology.

*Associative value* arises from a connection to a notable person, family, event or historical movement. It can intensify understanding by linking the historical past to the physical present, always assuming the place bears any resemblance to its appearance at the time. Associational

value can also be derived from known or suspected links with other monuments (e.g. barrow cemeteries, church towers) or cultural affiliations (e.g. Methodism).

Buildings and landscapes can also be associated with literature, art, music or film, and this association can inform and guide responses to those places.

Historical value depends on sound identification and the direct experience of physical remains or landscapes. Authenticity can be strengthened by change, being a living building or landscape, and historical values are harmed only where adaptation obliterates or conceals them. The appropriate use of a place – e.g. a working mill, or a church for worship – illustrates the relationship between design and function and may make a major contribution to historical value. Conversely, cessation of that activity – e.g. conversion of farm buildings to holiday homes – may essentially destroy it.

PV Solar arrays tend to have a limited impact on historical value, save where the illustrative connection is with literature or art (e.g. Constable Country).

#### 4.2.3 Aesthetic Value

*Aesthetic value* is derived from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place or landscape. Value can be the result of *conscious design*, or the *fortuitous outcome* of landscape evolution; many places combine both aspects, often enhanced by the passage of time.

*Design value* relates primarily to the aesthetic qualities generated by the conscious design of a building, structure or landscape; it incorporates composition, materials, philosophy and the role of patronage. It may have associational value, if undertaken by a known architect or landscape gardener, and its importance is enhanced if it is seen as innovative, influential or a good surviving example. Landscape parks, country houses and model farms all have design value. The landscape is not static, and a designed feature can develop and mature, resulting in the ‘patina of age’.

Some aesthetic value developed *fortuitously* over time as the result of a succession of responses within a particular cultural framework e.g. the seemingly organic form of an urban or rural landscape or the relationship of vernacular buildings and their materials to the landscape.

Aesthetic values are where a proposed PV solar array would have its principle or most pronounced impact. The indirect effects of solar arrays are predominantly visual, and their reflective nature ensures they draw attention within vistas, where local blocking does not prevail. In most instances the impact is incongruous; however, that is itself an aesthetic response, conditioned by prevailing cultural attitudes to what the historic landscape should look like.

#### 4.2.4 Communal Value

*Communal value* is derived from the meaning a place holds for people, and may be closely bound up with historical/associative and aesthetic values; it can be *commemorative/symbolic*, *social* or *spiritual*.

*Commemorative and symbolic value* reflects the meanings of a place to those who draw part of their identity from it, or who have emotional links to it e.g. war memorials. Some buildings or places (e.g. the Palace of Westminster) can symbolise wider values. Other places (e.g. Porton Down Chemical Testing Facility) have negative or uncomfortable associations that nonetheless have meaning and significance to some and should not be forgotten.

*Social value* need not have any relationship to surviving fabric, as it is the continuity of function that is important.

*Spiritual value* is attached to places and can arise from the beliefs of a particular religion or past or contemporary perceptions of the spirit of place. Spiritual value can be ascribed to places sanctified by hundreds of years of veneration or worship, or wild places with few signs of modern life. Value is dependent on the perceived survival of historic fabric or character, and can be very sensitive to change.

PV Solar arrays tend to have a limited impact on present-day communal value. However, where the symbolic or spiritual value is perceived to be connected to the wild, elemental or unspoilt character of a place, the construction and operation of PV Solar arrays could have a pronounced impact. In the modern world, communal value most clearly relates to high-value ecclesiastical buildings and sites (e.g. holy wells) that have been adopted by pagan groups. In the past, structures, natural sites or whole landscapes (e.g. stone circles, barrows, rocky outcrops, the environs of Stonehenge) would have had a spiritual significance that we cannot recover and can only assume relate in part to locational and relational factors.

#### 4.2.5 Summary

As indicated, individual solar array developments have a minimal or tangential effect on most of the heritage values outlined above, largely because almost all effects are indirect. The principle values in contention are aesthetic/designed and, to a lesser degree aesthetic/fortuitous, as solar panels are, despite the visual drawbacks, part of the evolution of the historic landscape. There are also clear implications for other value elements (particularly historical/associational and communal/spiritual), where views or sensory experience is important.

### 4.3 Likely Impacts of the Proposed Development

#### 4.3.1 Types and Scale of Impact

Four types of archaeological impact associated with solar PV developments have been identified, as follows:

- Construction phase – The proposed construction will have direct, physical impacts on the buried archaeology of the site through the excavation of the foundations, the undergrounding of cables, and the provision of any permanent or temporary vehicle access ways into and within the site. Such impacts would be permanent and irreversible.
- Operational phase – The proposed might be expected to have a visual impact on the settings of some key heritage assets within its viewshed during the operational phase. Such factors also make it likely that any large development would have an impact on Historic Landscape Character. The operational phase impacts are temporary and reversible.
- Cumulative Impact – a single solar PV site will have a visual impact, but a second and a third site in the same area will have a synergistic and cumulative impact above and beyond that of a single solar PV site. The cumulative impact of a proposed development is particularly difficult to estimate, given the assessment must take into consideration operational, consented and proposals in planning.
- Aggregate Impact – a single solar park will usually affect multiple individual heritage assets. In this assessment, the term aggregate impact is used to distinguish this from cumulative impact. In essence, this is the impact on the designated parts of the historic environment as a whole.

#### 4.3.2 Scale and Duration of Impact

The impacts of the proposed and its associated infrastructure on the historic environment may include positive as well as adverse effects. However, solar PV sites are generally large and inescapably modern intrusive visual actors in the historic landscape. Therefore the impact of a Solar PV site will almost always be **neutral** (i.e. no impact) or **negative** i.e. it will have a **detrimental impact** on the setting of ancient monuments and protected historic buildings.

For the purposes of this assessment, these impacts are evaluated on a six-point scale:

##### **Impact Assessment**

<i>Neutral</i>	No impact on the heritage asset.
<i>Negligible</i>	Where the developments may be visible but will not impact upon the setting of the heritage asset, due to the nature of the asset, distance, topography, or local blocking.
<i>Negative/unknown</i>	Where an adverse impact is anticipated, but where access cannot be gained or the degree of impact is otherwise impossible to assess.
<i>Negative/minor</i>	Where the developments impact upon the setting of a heritage asset, but the impact is restricted due to the nature of the asset, distance, or local blocking.
<i>Negative/moderate</i>	Where the development would have a pronounced impact on the setting of a heritage asset, due to the sensitivity of the asset and proximity; it may be ameliorated by local blocking or mitigation.
<i>Negative/substantial</i>	Where the development would have a severe impact on the setting of a heritage asset, due to the particular sensitivity of the asset and/or close physical proximity; it is unlikely local blocking or mitigation could ameliorate the impact of the development in these instances.
<i>Group Value</i>	Where a series of similar or complementary monuments or structures occur in close proximity their overall significance is greater than the sum of the individual parts (e.g. Conservation Areas). This can influence the overall assessment.
<i>Permanent/irreversible</i>	Where the impact of the development is direct and irreversible e.g. on potential buried archaeology.
<i>Temporary/reversible</i>	Where the impact is indirect, and for the working life of the solar PV site.

In addition, the significance of a monument or structure is often predicated on the condition of its upstanding remains, so a rapid subjective appraisal was also undertaken.

##### **Condition Assessment**

<i>Excellent</i>	The monument or structure survives intact with minimal modern damage or interference.
<i>Good</i>	The monument or structure survives substantially intact, or with restricted damage/interference; a ruinous but stable structure.
<i>Fair</i>	The monument or structure survives in a reasonable state, or a structure that has seen unsympathetic restoration/improvement.
<i>Poor</i>	The monument survives in a poor condition, ploughed down or otherwise slighted, or a structure that has lost most of its historic features.

<i>Trace</i>	The monument survives only where it has influenced other surviving elements within the landscape e.g. curving hedgebanks around a cropmark enclosure.
<i>Not applicable</i>	There is no visible surface trace of the monument.

Note: this assessment covers the survival of upstanding remains; it is not a risk assessment and does not factor in potential threats posed by vegetation – e.g. bracken or scrub – or current farming practices.

#### 4.3.3 Statements of Significance of Heritage Assets

The majority of the heritage assets considered as part of the Visual Impact Assessment have already had their significance assessed by their statutory designations; which are outlined below:

##### *Scheduled Monuments*

In the United Kingdom, a Scheduled Monument is considered an historic building, structure (ruin) or archaeological site of '**national importance**'. Various pieces of legislation, under planning, conservation, etc., are used for legally protecting heritage assets given this title from damage and destruction; such legislation is grouped together under the term 'designation', that is, having statutory protection under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. A heritage asset is a part of the historic environment that is valued because of its historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest; those of national importance have extra legal protection through designation.

Important sites have been recognised as requiring protection since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the first 'schedule' or list of monuments was compiled in 1882. The conservation and preservation of these monuments was given statutory priority over other land uses under this first schedule. County Lists of the monuments are kept and updated by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century sites are identified by English Heritage (one of the Government's advisory bodies) of being of national importance and included in the schedule. Under the current statutory protection any works required on or to a designated monument can only be undertaken with a successful application for Scheduled Monument Consent. There are 19,000-20,000 Scheduled Monuments in England.

##### *Listed Buildings*

A Listed building is an occupied dwelling or standing structure which is of special architectural or historical interest. These structures are found on the *Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*. The status of Listed buildings is applied to 300,000-400,000 buildings across the United Kingdom. Recognition of the need to protect historic buildings began after the Second World War, where significant numbers of buildings had been damaged in the county towns and capitals of the United Kingdom. Buildings that were considered to be of 'architectural merit' were included. The Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments supervised the collation of the list, drawn up by members of two societies: The Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Initially the lists were only used to assess which buildings should receive government grants to be repaired and conserved if damaged by bombing. The *Town and Country Planning Act 1947* formalised the process within England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland following different procedures. Under the 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* a structure cannot be considered a Scheduled Monument if it is occupied as a dwelling, making a clear distinction in the treatment of the two forms of heritage asset. Any alterations or works intended to a Listed Building must first acquire Listed Building Consent, as well as planning permission. Further phases of 'listing' were rolled out



in the 1960s, 1980s and 2000s; English Heritage advise on the listing process and administer the procedure, in England, as with the Scheduled Monuments.

Some exemption is given to buildings used for worship where institutions or religious organisations have their own permissions and regulatory procedures (such as the Church of England). Some structures, such as bridges, monuments, military structures and some ancient structures may have Scheduled Monument status as well as Listed Building status. War memorials, milestones and other structures are included in the list and buildings from the first and middle half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century are also now included as the 21<sup>st</sup> century progresses and the need to protect these buildings or structures becomes clear. Buildings are split into various levels of significance; Grade I, being most important; Grade II\* the next; with Grade II status being the most widespread. English Heritage Classifies the Grades as:

- Grade I* buildings of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be **internationally important** (forming only 2.5% of Listed buildings).
- Grade II\** buildings of particular importance, **nationally important**, possibly with some particular architectural element or features of increased historical importance; more than mere special interest (forming only 5.5% of Listed buildings).
- Grade II* buildings that are also **nationally important**, of special interest (92% of all Listed buildings).

Other buildings can be Listed as part of a group, if the group is said to have 'group value' or if they provide a historic context to a Listed building, such as a farmyard of barns, complexes of historic industrial buildings, service buildings to stately homes etc. Larger areas and groups of buildings which may contain individually Listed buildings and other historic homes which are not Listed may be protected under the designation of 'conservation area', which imposes further regulations and restrictions to development and alterations, focusing on the general character and appearance of the group.

#### *Parks and Gardens*

Culturally and historically important 'man-made' or 'designed' landscapes, such as parks and gardens are currently "listed" on a non-statutory basis, included on the 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England' which was established in 1983 and is, like Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments, administered by English Heritage. Sites included on this register are of **national importance** and there are currently 1,600 sites on the list, many associated with stately homes of Grade II\* or Grade I status. Emphasis is laid on 'designed' landscapes, not the value of botanical planting; sites can include town squares and private gardens, city parks, cemeteries and gardens around institutions such as hospitals and government buildings. Planned elements and changing fashions in landscaping and forms are a main focus of the assessment.

## 4.4 Methodology

The methodology adopted in this document is based on that outlined in *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (English Heritage 2011 and 2015 Guidance Note), with reference to other guidance. The assessment of visual impact at this stage of the development is an essentially subjective one, and is based on the experience and professional judgement of the authors.

Visibility alone is not a clear guide to visual impact. People perceive size, shape and distance using many cues, so context is critically important. For instance, research on electricity pylons (Hull & Bishop 1988) has indicated scenic impact is influenced by landscape complexity: the visual impact of pylons is less pronounced within complex scenes, especially at longer distances, presumably

because they are less of a focal point and the attention of the observer is diverted. There are many qualifiers that serve to increase or decrease the visual impact of a proposed development (see Table 3), some of which are seasonal or weather-related.

The principal consideration of this assessment is not visual impact *per se*. It is an assessment of the likely magnitude of effect, the importance of setting to the significance of heritage assets, and the sensitivity of that setting to the visual intrusion of the proposed development. The schema used to guide assessments is shown in Table 3 (below). A key consideration in these assessments is the concept of *landscape context* (see below).

#### 4.4.1 Assessment and Landscape Context

The determination of *landscape context* is an important part of the assessment process. This is the physical space within which any given heritage asset is perceived and experienced. The experience of this physical space is related to the scale of the landform, and modified by cultural and biological factors like field boundaries, settlements, trees and woodland.

Landscape context is based on topography, and can vary in scale from the very small – e.g. a narrow valley where views and vistas are restricted – to the very large – e.g. wide valleys or extensive upland moors with 360° views. Where very large landforms are concerned, a distinction can be drawn between the immediate context of an asset (this can be limited to a few hundred metres or less, where cultural and biological factors impede visibility and/or experience), and the wider context (i.e. the wider landscape within which the asset sits).

When new developments are introduced into a landscape, proximity alone is not a guide to magnitude of effect. Dependant on the nature and sensitivity of the heritage asset, the magnitude of effect is potentially much greater where the proposed development is to be located within the landscape context of a given heritage asset. Likewise, where the proposed development would be located outside the landscape context of a given heritage asset, the magnitude of effect would usually be lower. Each case is judged on its individual merits, and in some instances the significance of an asset is actually greater outside of its immediate landscape context, for example, where church towers function as landmarks in the wider landscape.

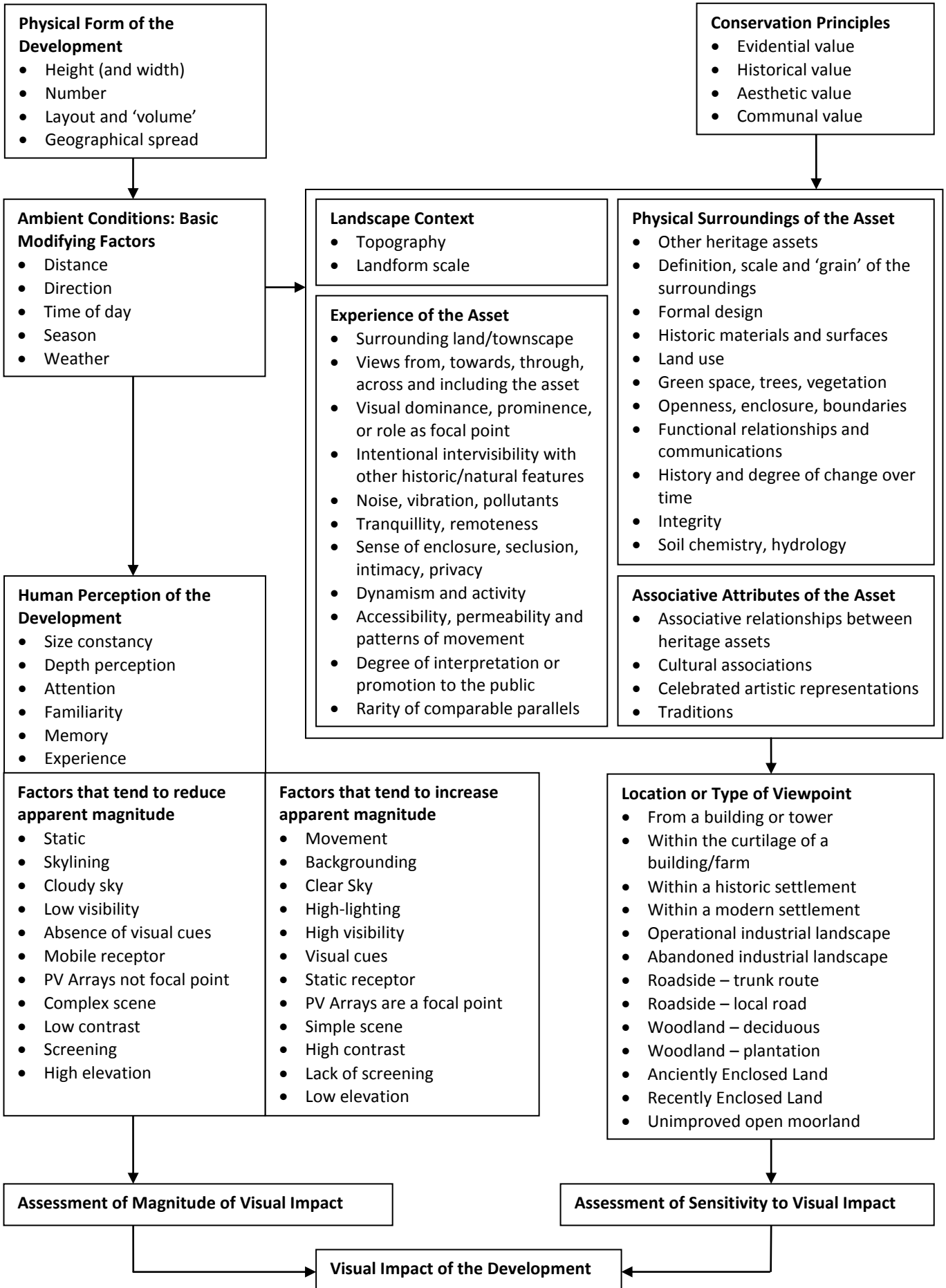


Table 3: The conceptual model for visual impact assessment proposed by the University of Newcastle (2002, 63), modified to include elements of *Assessment Step 2* from the Setting of Heritage Assets (English Heritage 2011, 19).

## 4.5 Results of the Viewshed Analysis

The viewshed analysis indicates that the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) in this landscape will be relatively constrained within 5km, with theoretical visibility possible along the valley to Downholland out to the north-west, between Haskyne and Halsall to the north-north-west and between Aughton village and Maghull to the south-east. It must be noted that this is a bare-earth ZTV and takes no account of local blocking by hedgerows, trees and buildings; for a PV development the Zone of Visible Influence (ZVI) is much less extensive than the ZTV would suggest. The ZVI submitted with the original application can be found in Appendix 3. One of the key elements of landscape aesthetic on the broader scale is perspective: in such a low-lying area, with a general lack of elevated viewpoints, the role of local blocking in concealing structures from view is much enhanced. As such, views across heritage assets in their setting where the PV panels may also be visible are more difficult to achieve.

The ZTV was mapped to a total distance of 5km from the proposal site by SWARCH (Figure 10). The visibility of the proposed development will diminish with distance, and would be locally blocked by intervening buildings within settlements and by hedgebanks, woodlands and natural topography. Theoretical visibility has been assessed as the visibility to the panels and represents a worse-case scenario (panel height 3.0m, observer height 1.8m). Up to 3km Listed Buildings (of all grades), Scheduled Monuments (SAMs) and Conservation Areas (CAs) were considered, whether they fell within the ZTV or not; at 3-5km, only designated assets that fell within the ZTV were assessed.

There is one Grade I Listed building (Church of St Michael, Aughton), two Grade II\* Listed buildings (St Katherine's Chapel, also a SAM; The Scotch Piper PH) and 27 Grade II Listed structures or groups of structures within 3km of the proposed site. Conservation Areas cover parts of Aughton and southern Ormskirk. 11 other designated assets, one Grade II\* and 10 Grade II Listed structures, fall within the ZTV at 3-5km. It should be noted that the assets in central Maghull (St Andrews Church etc.) and the mounting block at Hesketh Farm have been excluded from the assessment due to distance and size (mounting block) and distance, borderline ZTV and comprehensive local blocking (Maghull).

## 4.6 Field Verification of ZTV

On the whole, the ZTV mapping was found to be a fairly accurate representation of the likely inter-visibility between the proposed photovoltaic unit sites and the surrounding landscape out to 5km, with all the heritage assets that landscape encompasses. The ZTV shows the visibility is complete and widespread in the immediately around the site, with it stretching away to the north-west narrowly, up towards Great Altcar and Formby. Visibility also stretches south-east past Maghull down towards Melling and Kirkby. However within the confines of the historic settlements many historic assets were locally blocked by the other buildings and across the wider countryside the network of embanked drains/ditches, part of the character of the reclaimed wetlands landscape, break up the visibility and would be expected to screen the proposed photovoltaic units.

## 4.7 The Structure of Assessment

Given the large numbers of heritage assets that are usually considered by HVIAs, and with an emphasis on practicality and proportionality (see *Setting of Heritage Assets* page 15 and 18), this HVIA groups and initially discusses heritage assets by category (e.g. churches, historic settlements,

funerary remains etc.) to avoid repetitious narrative; each site is then discussed individually, and the particulars of each site teased out. The initial discussion establishes the baseline sensitivity of a given category of monument or building to the projected visual intrusion, the individual entry elaborates on local circumstance and site-specific factors.

It is essential the individual assessments are read in conjunction with the overall discussion, as the impact assessment is a reflection of both.

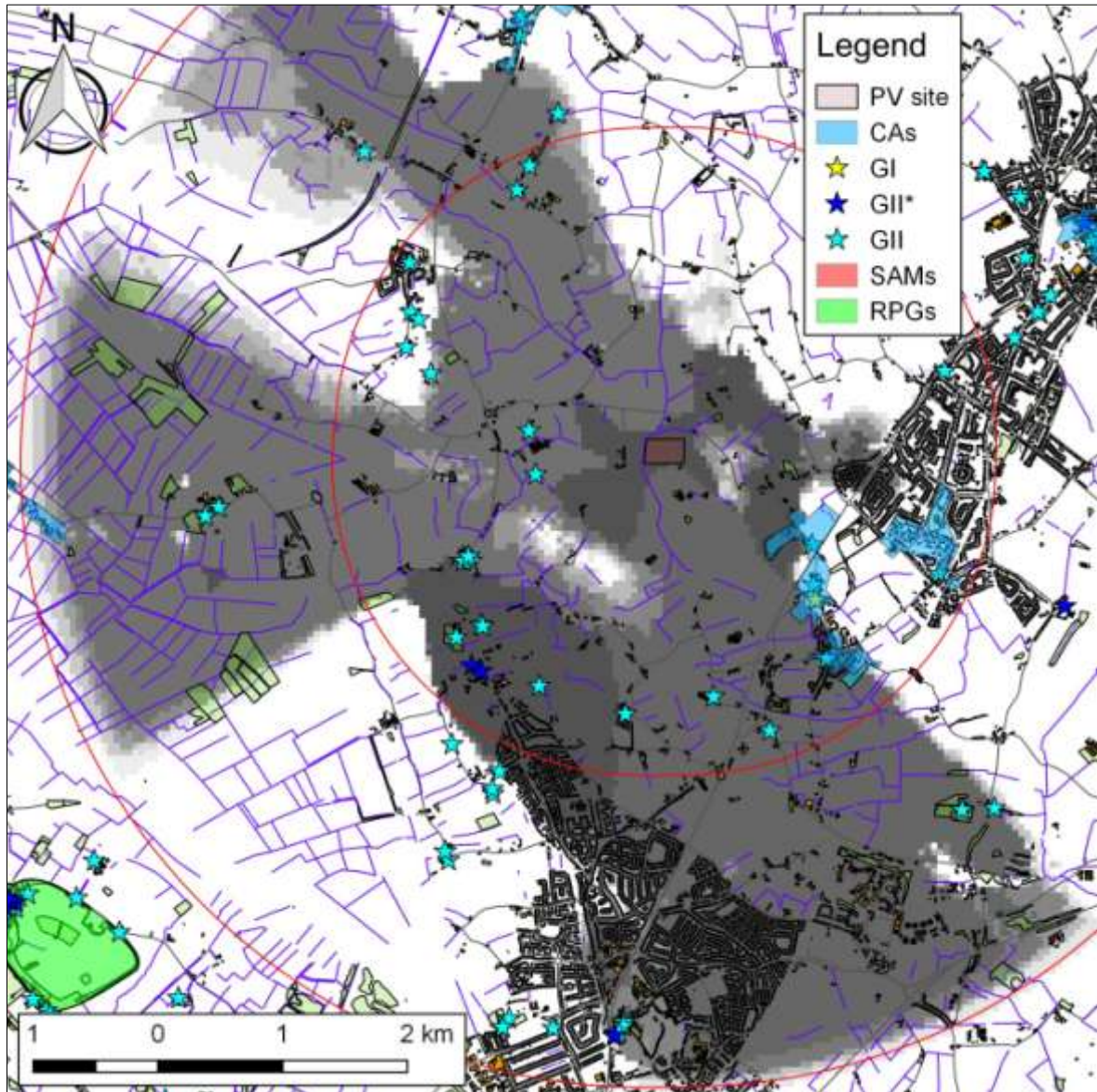


Figure 10: Distribution of designated heritage assets within the ZTV of the proposed solar PV: within 5km, based on an observer height of 1.8m. The ZTV is shown in shades of grey; the darker the colour, the greater the proportion of the PV site visible from any one location (ZTV was produced by SWARCH using QGIS version 2.8.1 with plugin Viewshed Analysis version 0.4.2, with Ordnance Survey Panorama digital terrain data). (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015. Reproduced from OS digital map data © Crown copyright 2015 licence number 100019980 Ordnance Survey; © English Heritage, the English Heritage GIS Data contained in this material was obtained on 16.12.14).

## 4.8 Impact by Class of Monument or Structure

### 4.8.1 Farmhouse and Farm Buildings

*Listed farmhouses with Listed agricultural buildings and/or curtilage; some may have elements of formal planning/model farm layout*

These have been designated for the completeness of the wider group of buildings or the age or survival of historical or architectural features. The significance of all of these buildings lies within the farmyard itself, the former historic function of the buildings and how they relate to each other. For example, the spatial and functional relationships between the stables that housed the cart horses, the sheds in which the carts were stored, the lofts used for hay, the threshing barn to which the horses brought the harvest, or to the roundhouse that would have enclosed a horse engine and powered the threshing machine. Many of these buildings were also used for other mechanical agricultural processes, the structural elements of which are now lost or rare, such as apple pressing for cider or hand threshing, and may hold separate significance for this reason. The farmhouse is often listed for its architectural features, usually displaying a historic vernacular style of value; they may also retain associated buildings linked to the farmyard, such as a dairy or bakehouse, and their value is taken as being part of the wider group as well as the separate structures.

The setting of the farmhouse is in relation to its buildings or its internal or structural features; farmhouses were rarely built for their views, but were practical places of work, developed when the farm was profitable and neglected when times were hard. In some instances, model farms were designed to be viewed and experienced, and the assessment would reflect this. Historic farm buildings are usually surrounded by modern industrial farm buildings, and if not, have been converted to residential use, affecting the original setting. Solar PV sites will usually have a restricted impact on the meaning or historical relevance of these sites.

#### **What is important and why**

Farmhouses and buildings are expressions of the local vernacular (evidential) and working farms retain functional interrelationships (historical/associational). Farms are an important part of the rural landscape, and may exhibit levels of formal planning with some designed elements (aesthetic/designed but more often aesthetic/fortuitous). However, working farms are rarely aesthetically attractive places, and often resemble little more than small industrial estates. The trend towards the conversion of historic farm buildings and the creation of larger farm units severely impacts on historical/associational value.

<b>Asset Name: Owens Farmhouse</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Downholland		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES [borderline]
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 0.9km
<i>Description:</i> House, farmhouse c.1677, with later alterations. Sandstone rubble on ground floor, with brick above. Slate roof. Lobby-entry plan. Three bays length, two bays to left of the two-storey gabled porch and one to right. Windows are 20 <sup>th</sup> century casements with plain reveals. On the ground floor there is evidence for earlier blocked window openings. The outer porch doorway has a round head and a keystone inscribed: '1677 RMH'. Chimney in line with porch. The inner porch door is 17 <sup>th</sup> century, with studs and strap hinges. Some chamfered beams to the interior and bressumer over the fireplace in the larger room to the left of the porch.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a level plot, with a very slight slope to the south, the road to the north, Broad Lane following a very slight north-west south-east ridge of higher ground.		
<i>Setting:</i> Set down a long drive within flat agricultural fields, on a large farmholding with extensive modern buildings and farmyard south-south-east of the house.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are across the surrounding flat fields, some key views to the canal which has cut through the landscape just to the west and south-west.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The farmhouse is visible as part of the large farmstead group amongst the otherwise		

flat landscape, but it holds no individual landscape presence.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is of agricultural character, relating specifically to its landholding not the wider landscape.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would lie to the south-east, but is likely to be screened by hedges and trees, as well as the large farmyard of buildings in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse.
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible</b>

<b>Asset Name: Barn, at Home Farm</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.9km
<i>Description:</i> Barn. 1704. Brick in English garden wall bond on sandstone plinth. South wall has central wide entrance with plain reveals, and three rows of breathers. North wall has breathers and is partly covered by a 20 <sup>th</sup> century lean-to (not included in the Listing). East gable wall has pitching door. Above it is a sandstone plaque inscribed: 'RWE 1704'. Roof said to be of three bays with queen-post trusses.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a level plot, within the landscape of flat reclaimed wetlands		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on a large farmstead, comprising a mixture of historic and modern buildings and a bungalow. The barn stands by Back Lane, in an open position, to the east of the other buildings.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Expansive 360° views across the almost flat landscape of fields, with some screening from hedges, trees and buildings. The A59 runs just to the east; the associated landscaping limits views to the east. Key views along Back Lane to the barn from the south-east.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The farmstead as a whole has significant visual presence, being set within an open exposed position out within the flat fields. The barn is a key element of this and has noticeable individual visual identity within the group.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The building is of specific agricultural function; it was not built with views in mind and relates only to the farms landholding.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The PV site could be visible from the farm, but is subject comprehensive screening from intervening trees and hedgerows.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Gerard Hall Farmhouse</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair to good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 3.6km
<i>Description:</i> House. Probably mid C19 with some earlier remains. Pebbledashed brick with dressings of sandstone and artificial stone. Slate roof. 2 storeys. Main part of house of 3 bays, with plinth, chamfered quoins, and 1st floor sill band. Windows have lugged architraves and decorated keystones. The left-hand bay has a sashed ground-floor window. The 1st floor window is a C20 casement with glazing bars; the ground-floor window at the right is similar. The 2 remaining 1st floor windows are sashed with glazing bars. Door has plain surround and a cornice supported on decorated brackets. Gable chimneys. To the right is a lower one-bay wing which has chamfered quoins at the right and horizontal sashes with glazing bars.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the south-west facing slopes of a slightly elevated low hill. The ground drops down to the valley of the Sudell Brook to the north-west.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the southern edge of a former farmyard, and now surrounded by recently planted mixed deciduous/coniferous trees. A new drive bypasses the building to the north, and a short avenue has been laid out to the east. The location feels relatively exposed, but the tree planting would suggest a clear desire for privacy. A large golf course lies to the east and south-east.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views to the east and west from the house, and from the B5197 to the east.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The farmstead is relatively prominent, set within large and mainly treeless arable fields. The house has limited individual presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset was formerly of agricultural character, but is now clearly being modified with pretension.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site could be visible from this location, but tree planting around the house, and trees, hedgerows and buildings in the intervening landscape, are likely to screen most or all views. There would be no impact on setting.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

#### 4.8.2 Lesser Gentry Seats

*Older houses with an element of formal planning; may survive as farmhouses*

These structures have much in common with the greater Houses, but are more usually Grade II Listed structures. There were many more minor landed gentry and thus a great number of minor Houses. Not all landed families prospered; for those that did, they built Houses with architectural pretensions with elements of formal planning. The sensitivity of those structures to the visual impact of a solar PV park would be commensurable to those of the great Houses, albeit on a more restricted scale. For those families that did not prosper, or those who owned multiple gentry residences, their former gentry seat may survive as farmhouse within a curtilage of later farm buildings. In these instances, traces of former grandeur may be in evidence, as may be elements of landscape planning; however, subsequent developments will often have concealed or removed most of the evidence. Therefore the sensitivity of these sites to the visual impact of a PV site is less pronounced.

#### **What is important and why**

The lesser houses are examples of regional or national architectural trends, as realised through the local vernacular (evidential value); this value can vary with the state of preservation. They were typically built by gentry or prosperous merchants, could stage historically important events, and could be depicted in art and painting; they are typically associated with a range of other ancillary structures and gardens/parks (historical/associational). However, the lesser status of these dwellings means the likelihood of important historical links is much reduced. They are examples of designed structures, often within a designed landscape (aesthetic/design); however, the financial limitation of gentry or merchant families means that design and extent is usually less ambitious than for the great houses. Survival may also be patchy, and smaller dwellings are more vulnerable to piecemeal development or subdivision. The 'patina of age' can improve such a dwelling, but usually degrades it, sometimes to the point of destruction. There is limited communal value, unless the modern use extends to a nursing home etc.

<b>Asset Name: Aughton Old Hall</b>		
Parish: Aughton		Within the ZTV: YES
Designation: GII	Condition: excellent	Distance to PV site: 1.4km
<p><i>Description:</i> 15<sup>th</sup> century house, altered probably late 18<sup>th</sup> century and restored mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Brick and sandstone rubble with remains of timber frame. Two storeys. East wall has one-bay cross-wing to left, of stone on the ground floor and brick above. Main range has exposed framing near junction with cross-wing. A doorhead with depressed pointed arch connects two wall posts, which are tenoned into a wall plate below the present eaves level. Chimneys in line with original doorway and on gable of cross-wing. Stair to left of front door, divided from it by short timber-framed wall. Cross-wing has some exposed ceiling beams on ground floor, and a 17<sup>th</sup> century segmental-arched stone fireplace built within the cross- passage. On the first floor part of a spere truss is visible, with a tie-beam interrupted by the posts, which are arch-braced to the central raised tie-beam. The timber wall visible on the ground floor is a part of the spere. An arched brace from the front post to the tie-beam has been removed, but part of a moulding remains on the post. Part of the rear post and arched brace is also visible. On the first floor part of the framing of the cross-wing is exposed where is abuts the hall range. The wall is separately framed in square panels with straight braces. Lack of weathering on the tie-beam of the hall truss, which has raking struts, suggests that there has always been a storeyed end to the hall.</p>		
<p><i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a shallow south-west facing slope, the ground rising to the north and east.</p>		
<p><i>Setting:</i> In an enclosed setting, within its own private grounds, in the churchtown of Aughton. The house is framed by walls and hedges to the roadside to the east, and hedges and buildings to the north, south and west.</p>		
<p><i>Principal Views:</i> Views are restricted to the gardens immediately around the house, with some limited views from St Michael's Road to the house.</p>		
<p><i>Landscape Presence:</i> The house would once have stood apart in a larger enclosure but several large 20<sup>th</sup> century detached houses have been developed within its former grounds and its barns have been</p>		



converted to dwellings so the house now appears merely part of a wider group within the churchtown.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The house was a high status building and would have been built with some consideration of setting and views. However, views to the hall would have been across from the levels below – now largely blocked by the A59 – or from a more elevated position to the north-east. The house is now rendered less sensitive due to development within its immediate vicinity.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The PV site would not be visible from the location due to screening from adjacent buildings and trees. Views across the settlement would not identify it as a distinct entity.
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>

<b>Asset Name: Lydiate Hall (ruined)</b>		
Parish: Lydiate		Within the ZTV: YES
Designation: GII	Condition: ruined – fair/poor	Distance to PV site: 2.0km
<i>Description:</i> Large house, of the 15 <sup>th</sup> century, with 16 <sup>th</sup> century alterations and 19 <sup>th</sup> century additions. Built of brick and stone; ruinous, with roof wholly lost; timber-framed hall now demolished completely, but the L-shaped foundations remain. North end has standing walls, with two free-standing stacks with adjoining walling, one in stone, the other in brick. 19 <sup>th</sup> century brick-mullioned windows. To south side, a Tudor-headed fireplace with shield, cornice and 19 <sup>th</sup> century range. One lateral stack with clustered flues. Some remains to north of this part, and part of wall to south, with 19 <sup>th</sup> century transom window.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the western side of a slight ridge of ground which runs roughly north-south; the house lies on the break of the west-facing slope down to the flat reclaimed wetlands.		
<i>Setting:</i> The house stands within a large open grassed enclosure, but the ruins themselves are shrouded by trees; the setting is of noticeable 'parkland' character, with oaks and horse chestnuts.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views to the ruins from along Southport Road; the site is surrounded by trees to the north, west and south.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The ruins are enclosed in trees and have no landscape presence, not being visible outside of their immediate surroundings.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The building is now ruined but as an important gentry building it would have had far reaching views over the area. Its setting is now limited to the adjacent woodland and is only now sensitive to changes in these immediate surroundings.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would lie to the east; current views to the ruins are exclusively from the east, in which the PV site would play no part. Views from the site itself would be screened by the woodland trees.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Rose Hill</b>		
Parish: Lydiate		Within the ZTV: YES
Designation: GII	Condition: excellent	Distance to PV site: 2.0km
<i>Description:</i> 18 <sup>th</sup> century house, with mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century facade. Brick with stucco and pebble-dash, slate roof. Two-storey, seven bays, the first two bays recessed, the last five bays form a symmetrical composition. Ground floor with channelled rustication, first floor sill band and quoins. Ground floor has canted bay windows with hipped slate roofs. First floor windows have shouldered and eared architraves, friezes and cornices; the central window has consoled segmental pediment. Central porch has round-arched entrance with flanking flat pilasters, frieze, cornice and hipped roof. Four gable-end stacks and one in roof pitch. The house is important for its associations with the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, who visited the house to say Mass in the private chapel. He wrote the poem "Spring and Fall" here and corresponded with fellow poet Robert Bridges.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a slightly raised area of land, on a slight east-facing slope; the ground rises to the west.		
<i>Setting:</i> Set within mature landscaped gardens, enclosed by trees and hedges, and framed to the north by a large service complex including barns, stables and coach house.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views across the lawns and turning circle/carriage drive and views to the south, enclosed to the north by trees. Key views to the house and gardens from along Pygons Hill Lane.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The house and its landscaped wooded gardens are a key visible feature, seen from both Lydiate and along the lane itself. However, the adjacent nursery complex, with its substantial glasshouses, visually dominates the immediate setting.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The house was a gentry residence for which views would have been important. The		

house has a distinct focus to the south-south-east and north-west, to its specific areas of lawns or formal gardens. The northern boundary being enclosed by mature trees.

*Magnitude of Impact:* The PV site lies to the north, and if not visible from the house itself, would be visible from the general location of Rose Hill. No direct impact on views or setting, but there would be a slight effect on the immediate landscape surroundings and visual approach towards the house.

*Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible*

**Asset Name: New Hill House**

*Parish:* Great Altcar *Within the ZTV:* YES

*Designation:* GII *Condition:* good *Distance to PV site:* 3.4km

*Description:* Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century house, brick with painted stone dressings and slate roof. 2 storeys with attic. Windows are recessed and chamfered, with mullions and hoods, mostly of 3 lights, with transoms on the ground floor and with sashed lights on the 1st floor. South front has one-bay gabled projection which has a 2-light attic window. To its right is an open loggia formed by 3 Tudor arches on the ground floor, and one window on the 1st floor. To the left are 2 bays. The right-hand bay has a one-light window on the 1st floor, above a gabled porch in the angle with the projecting wing. Its outer doorway is chamfered in 2 orders with Tudor arch. Above is the shield of arms of the Molyneux family. The house is an imposing and solid-looking structure built in a grandiose style; the barn to the west, of squared coursed sandstone blocks, is equally fine. This structure presumably replaced the earlier Hill House as the gentry residence for the manor.

*Topographical Location & Landscape Context:* Located within Downholland Moss on a small, slightly elevated 'island' surrounded by flat, low-lying ground.

*Setting:* The house is located north of the B5195, on the south-eastern corner of a rectangular farmyard (former walled garden?) framed by historic farm buildings. A complex of modern farm buildings lies to the north-east. The northern side of the yard and adjoining open garden/lawn to the east is bounded by a line of trees, with a tall Leylandii hedge to the east.

*Principal Views:* The house enjoys sweeping views to the south, across the road the trimmed hedgerows, from the south-facing presentation elevation. Views back to the house from the south, and from the approaches along the road to the east and west, are also important.

*Landscape Presence:* The house is a visible, and would be a visible feature of the wider landscape when viewed from the south.

*Sensitivity of Asset:* The building is clearly of some status, and meant to be viewed and appreciated by contemporaries. The presentation elevation faces south, and views in this direction, from the house, were clearly important.

*Magnitude of Impact:* The proposed PV site would be located to the south-east; views are screened by a band of woodland which conceals a sewage works. The proposed PV site would have no effect on the setting of this asset.

*Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral*

**Asset Name: Hill House Farmhouse**

*Parish:* Great Altcar *Within the ZTV:* YES

*Designation:* GII *Condition:* fair *Distance to PV site:* 3.5km

*Description:* House. 1673 with mid and late C19 additions. A large and complex structure, the early part of sandstone rubble; remainder of brick. Slate roof. Early part has window with plain reveals and flat brick arch on ground floor. On the 1st floor is a 5- light rebated and chamfered mullioned window. Above it is a plaque inscribed: 'EFM 1673'. To the right of the ground-floor window is a doorway with plain reveals blocked with brickwork. To its right is the present doorway, under a slated canopy. Gable coped. To the left is a brick lean-to addition. To the right are additions with 3 gables, the right-hand one later and set back. Their windows are sashed with glazing bars. The house faces onto a yard framed by a series of large brick with stone buildings of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. This is the original manorial centre of Great Altcar parish.

*Topographical Location & Landscape Context:* Located within Downholland Moss on a small, slightly elevated 'island' surrounded by flat, low-lying ground.

*Setting:* The house is located on the south-west side of a large farmyard framed by historic farm buildings, with more to the south-east. The rear of the house looks out over a small garden, with an area of woodland beyond. The whole is set within wide, open and low-lying agricultural fields.

*Principal Views:* Views to the house from along the road to the east, and through the threshing door of the range of farmbuildings to the north. Views are otherwise restricted.

<p><i>Landscape Presence:</i> The farmstead is visually prominent within its immediate landscape, but the adjacent woodland largely conceals the buildings from view from the west. The house has limited individual landscape presence.</p>
<p><i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is now of agricultural character, but as a former gentry residence, image and perception would once have been important. Before the woodland was established to the west it would presumably have been highly visible from that quarter, and the curve of the road to the north would suggest the road has been moved and formerly ran past the front of the house.</p>
<p><i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located to the south-east; views are screened by a band of woodland which conceals a sewage works. The proposed PV site would have no effect on the setting of this asset.</p>
<p><i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b></p>

#### 4.8.3 Listed cottages and structures within Historic Settlements

##### *Clusters of Listed Buildings within villages or hamlets; occasionally Conservation Areas*

The context of the (usually) Grade II Listed buildings within settlement is defined by their setting within the village settlement. Their significance is determined by their architectural features, historical interiors or role/function in relation to the other buildings. The significance of their setting to the experience of these heritage assets is of key importance and for this reason the curtilage of a property and any small associated buildings or features are often included in the Listing and any changes must be scrutinised under relevant planning law.

Most village settlements have expanded significantly during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with rows of cottages and modern houses and bungalows being built around and between the older 'core' Listed structures. The character of the settlement and setting of the heritage assets within it are continually changing and developing, as houses have been built or farm buildings have been converted to residential properties. The setting of these heritage assets within the village are rarely influenced the erection of Solar PV parks, unless they are located in close proximity to the settlement. The relationships between the houses, church and other Listed structures will not be altered, and it is these relationships that define their context and setting in which they are primarily to be experienced.

The larger settlements and urban centres usually contain a large number of domestic and commercial buildings, only a very small proportion of which may be Listed or protected in any way. The setting of these buildings lies within the townscape, and the significance of these buildings, and the contribution of their setting to that significance, can be linked to the growth and development of the individual town and any associated industries. The original context of any churches may have changed significantly since construction, but it usually remains at the heart of its settlement. Given the clustering of numerous individual buildings, and the local blocking this inevitably provides, a distant solar park is unlikely to prove particularly intrusive.

#### **What is important and why**

Historic settlements constitute an integral and important part of the historic landscape, whether they are hamlets, villages, towns or cities. The physical remains of previous occupation may survive beneath the ground, and the built environment contains a range of vernacular and national styles (evidential value). Settlements may be archetypal, but development over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has homogenised most, with streets of terraced and semi-detached houses and bungalow growths arranged around the medieval core (limited historical/illustrative value). As dynamic communities, there will be multiple historical/associational values relating to individuals, families, occupations, industry, retail etc. in proportion to the size and age of the settlement (historical/associational). Settlements that grew in an organic fashion developed fortuitously into a pleasing urban environment, indistinguishable suburbia, or degenerate urban/industrial wasteland (aesthetic/fortuitous). Some settlements were laid out quickly or

subject to the attention of a limited number of patrons or architects, and thus strong elements of design and planning may be evident which contribute in a meaningful way to the experience of the place (aesthetic/design). Component buildings may have strong social value, with multiple public houses, clubs, libraries (communal/social), chapels and churches (communal/spiritual). Individual structures may be commemorative, and whole settlements may become symbolic, although not always in a positive fashion (e.g. the Valleys of South Wales for post-industrial decline) (communal/symbolic). Settlements are complex and heterogeneous built environments filled with meaning and value; however, beyond a certain size threshold distant sight-lines become difficult and local blocking more important.

<b>Asset Name: The Scotch Piper Inn</b>		
Parish: Lydiate		Within the ZTV: YES
Designation: GII*	Condition: good	Distance to PV site: 2.1km
<i>Description:</i> Public House, reputedly dated to 1320, but in fact probably 16 <sup>th</sup> century, based on its cruck-framed construction. Built of brick, lime-washed, with a thatched roof. Two storeys and three irregular bays. Four battered buttresses to southern end. Second bay has gabled dormer; end bay has higher eaves over attic window. Two brick stacks. Later additions to left return and rear. Interior has at least two cruck trusses. Ground floor has some chamfered beams, one is elaborately moulded. Wattle chimney hood at first floor.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a level plot on a slight ridge of higher ground, running roughly north-south.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the west side of Southport Road on the approach to Lydiate village, and just south of the remains of Lydiate Hall and St Katherine's Chapel. The pub stands within a small enclosure, now tarmaced to form a car park, framed by trees to the north and west and modern houses to the south.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> The main views are roadscape views, on the approach and exit from the village. Some views east across the road and over the hedges to the fields beyond.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The pub is a key roadscape feature on the edge of the settlement but holds no wider landscape presence, being a low retiring building within an increasingly complex landscape		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is of simple rural character, being a low building subject to screening, not built with views in mind but to serve a purpose, either as a farmhouse or a public house.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> Screening from hedges, trees and the Catholic Church of Our Lady would be expected to block all views between the asset and proposed PV site.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible to neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Church House</b>		
Parish: Lydiate		Within the ZTV: YES
Designation: GII	Condition: good	Distance to PV site: 1.6km
<i>Description:</i> 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, with later alterations. Brick on a stone base with a slate roof. Two storey with two bays, with rear wing parallel to road. Ground floor three-light mullioned window with coggled frieze and brick label mould. First floor stair window and two-light horizontal 'Yorkshire' sliding sash window. Entrance has six-panel door, the lower four panels fielded, upper two glazed. Projecting lateral stack to left and smaller lateral stack to right. Left return to road has band over ground floor interrupted by extensive early rebuilding. Rear has painted blind window. Wing forms stable, three-light casements to road, and part rebuilt. Rear partly of stone, with stable door and pitching eye.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located at the northern end of a slightly raised area of ground that runs south to Lydiate village. Church House lies on a slight north-facing slope north-west of the church, on the edge of the raised knoll occupied by the church.		
<i>Setting:</i> The house is located west of Southport Road in a small churchtown. Church House lies immediately on the edge of the churchyard to the north-west, with modern buildings to the west (rear).		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views to the north along Southport Road and across the fields, views to the adjacent church and across the Church View Cottage.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> Church House is a key visible feature from Southport Road, framed by the walls of the churchyard behind and the church itself on the approach to the churchtown from the north.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The farmhouse is a key component of the churchtown and its immediate landholding, and is set within its wider agricultural landscape.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located to the south-east and potentially visible		

from around the settlement. However, hedges, trees and scattered farmsteads – including Church View Cottage – across the landscape are expected to provide screening.

**Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible**

**Asset Name: 153, School Lane**

<i>Parish:</i> Downholland		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO [borderline]
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.1km
<i>Description:</i> House, c.1800, possibly incorporating earlier 17 <sup>th</sup> century remains. Altered in various phases in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Painted stone rubble and rendered with remains of cruck frame. Half-hipped thatched roof. One storey. The right-hand part of the house contains a central cruck truss of light scantling with raking struts between tie-beam and blades, and a collar. Between the 2 parts of the house the upper part of a second cruck truss remains above tie-beam level. It has a collar and an exposed outrider.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> On the western side of a very slight ridge which is traversed by the L&L Canal. The ground slopes down to the north-west.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the east side of School Lane on a pronounced bend just south of the small village of Haskayne. Set in a small corner plot, bounded by hedges and framed by other cottages and houses.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views across the landscape of fields to the north and west. There are key roadscape views to the house from School Lane. The views are constrained to the south and east by the tall embankments of the L&L Canal.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> Part of a group along the lane and visible as part of the roadscape but with no wider landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The cottage is of simple vernacular style and agricultural character, not designed with expansive views in mind. Its setting is close and intimate.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The flat landscape affords distant views but the raised banks of the canal would block all views to the proposed PV site.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

**Asset Name: Holt Green House**

<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.1km
<i>Description:</i> Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century house. Brick in Flemish bond with slate roof. Two storeys, three bays. Windows have painted stone lintels and sills and are sashed with glazing bars except for the middle one on the first floor which is sashed. The door in the middle bay has a painted stone or stucco Tuscan pilaster doorcase with a broken fluted frieze and with a fanlight partly within an open pediment. Stone gutter cornice. Gable chimneys.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Set at the base of a very shallow south-west facing slope, on an almost level plot.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located at a road junction between Smithy Lane and Brookfield Lane, just south-west of the village green. The house is adjoined by a barn to the north, enclosed by its walled garden to the west, with rows of modern houses to the south and along the road to the east.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views along the roadscape of both lanes, to and from the house. There is a key view to the house, framed by its front garden and barn, from the village green.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The house is a key visual feature within the village but has no wider landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The structure is entirely enclosed within the settlement of Holt Green and has no visual connection to the wider countryside.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The PV site would not be visible and there would be no impact on its setting, due to screening from other houses in the village.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

**Asset Name: Aughton House**

<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.2km
<i>Description:</i> House c.1805. Roughcast brick with slate roof. Double-depth plan. Two storeys, two bays. Windows are sashed with glazing bars and have painted stone lintels and sills. The doorway, between bays, has a stone surround with round head, impost blocks, and keystone. Above the door, which has two vertical panels, is a fanlight with gothic glazing. Above is a plaque inscribed 'PAE[?] 1805'. Gable chimneys		

in front of ridge, and to rear at right.
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a slightly-raised knoll, with the ground dropping slightly to the east.
<i>Setting:</i> Located along Butchers Lane, south of the main part of Aughton, off Springfield Road. The house is now enclosed on its south, west and north-west sides by a large commercial nursery. It is open to the fields to the east. The house itself is enclosed within tall hedges, with a mature garden. The former stables and barns to the south-east have been converted to residential use.
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are enclosed to the west, but open to the east across the flat fields. There are key views to the house from along Butchers Lane.
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The house is visually prominent from Butchers Lane, but at a landscape level is wholly dominated by the adjacent nursery buildings and greenhouses.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The house aspires to status and thus views to and from the structure may have been important. However, the A59 lies between the house and the proposed site, and the commercial nursery dominates the immediate locality.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The PV site would not be visible, with views screened by the landscaping of the A59 and the buildings and greenhouses of the nursery.
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>

<b>Asset Name: 107 School Lane</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Downholland		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.2km
<i>Description:</i> 17 <sup>th</sup> century house. Cruck-framed construction with walls of painted stone rubble and brick. Thatched roof. Single storey. Front wall has five irregularly-spaced windows with plain reveals. Door to right of second window. Chimney in line with door. Interior: parts of four cruck trusses are exposed. An iron ring attached to the southern truss suggests that this end of the building may have been a shippon. The northern bay of the building is divided into the former buttery and parlour. Some straight windbraces are exposed in the 2nd bay from the north.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> On the western side of a very slight ridge which is traversed by the L&L Canal. The ground slopes down to the north-west.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the east side of School Lane just south of the small village of Haskayne. The cottage stands alongside the road within a small garden, largely surrounded by other later houses and their gardens.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views along the roadscape to and from the cottage and views across the open flat fields to the west. The building is screened by hedges and other buildings to the north and east.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The cottage is visible behind its hedges along the road but has no wider landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The cottage is of simple vernacular style and agricultural character, not designed with expansive views in mind. Its setting is close and intimate.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> Views are likely to be restricted or blocked by the canal banks to the east.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral to negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Stock Cottage</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Downholland		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.3km
<i>Description:</i> Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century house. Built of brick and stone rubble, under a thatched roof, of one storey with attic and dormer windows. The main part of the house is of two bays separated by a stone buttress. Adjoining to the left is a former farm building, now part of the house. It is of painted stone on the ground floor and rendered above. To its right external stone steps lead up to a first floor doorway. Chimney to left of main doorway.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The village stands on slightly higher ground, on a very slight north-west facing slope, the ground rising to the south-east along Delf Lane.		
<i>Setting:</i> The cottage is enclosed within the village and surrounded by bungalows to the south and west and a modern 21 <sup>st</sup> century development of large detached houses to the north. It stands at the intersection of a cul-de-sac and the parish road. The cottage is surrounded by a small garden bounded by hedges.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are constrained by the surrounding buildings, focused along the roadscape to the east, and across the surrounding garden. Views to the cottage are from along School Lane.		

<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The cottage is part of the village with no wider landscape presence.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The cottage is of simple vernacular style, not designed with expansive views in mind.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> Any views would be screened by the surrounding buildings, and there would be no effect on the intimate setting of the building.
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>

<b>Asset Name: Church View Cottage</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Lydiate	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES	
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.6km
<i>Description:</i> Two houses, probably originally one, of 17 <sup>th</sup> century date, now re-combined to form one. Cruck-framed. Brick with stone base and quoins, with slate roof. One storey with attic, three bays length. One cross-axial and one gable-end stack to south. Rear has outshut to south end. Interior has two cruck trusses and wattle and daub infill. Ground floor rooms have chamfered beams, those to southern room are crude.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located at the northern end of a slightly higher raised area of ground that runs south to Lydiate village. The cottage stands on the break of an east-facing slope above the flat reclaimed wetlands fields to the east.		
<i>Setting:</i> The cottage is located on the east side of Southport Road, opposite the church. The house is set in gardens bounded by brick walls and tall hedges, with only the roof is visible over the hedge line. There is a small industrial estate to the south.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> To the east there would be expected to be wide views across the fields. To the west, some limited views to the church across the main A5147. Otherwise, key views to the cottage from the churchyard and along the roadscape.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The cottage is viewed only as part of Lydiate churchtown, and has no wider landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The cottage of simple rural character with no recourse to wider views.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located to the south-east, and potentially visible from the eastern side of the cottage and garden. However, hedges, trees and scattered farmsteads across the intervening landscape are expected to provide screening, and the proposed site would not affect the setting of the cottage.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: West Tower</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES	
<i>Designation:</i> CA	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 0.9-1.3km
<i>Description:</i> A straggle of undesignated 19 <sup>th</sup> century buildings of some architectural merit (West Tower being Gothic Revival etc.) along a lane, amid agricultural fields set with stands of trees.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Set on a relatively steep south-west facing slope.		
<i>Setting:</i> The CA is characterised by mature deciduous trees, set within large open arable fields.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views in and out of the CA along the roads are restricted by mature trees; views out from the Tower to the north and west across the open arable fields. West Tower was seemingly built by Lord Alfred Holt, to allow Lord Holt to view his ships sailing past Formby Point.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The CA is located on a relatively prominent low ridge, but the low-density of housing, and the many trees, restricts its wider landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The CA would be sensitive to changes within its immediate locality, but not those further afield. Developments within the field of view from West Tower, given its associational value, would impact on the significance of the site.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be visible from around the CA, but would not feature in the important views to the west. It would not affect the setting of the CA and its constituent structures, or their relationships with one another.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible to Negative/minor</b>		

<b>Asset Name: St Michael's Church</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES	
<i>Designation:</i> CA	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.3-1.7km
<i>Description:</i> Three roads converge on the church; the CA contains a number of historic Listed buildings and the church, infilled with buildings of 20 <sup>th</sup> century date. The area, particularly to the north and between it		

and the A59, contains a large number of mature deciduous trees.
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The CA is located towards the base of a shallow west-facing slope, where the slope flattens out.
<i>Setting:</i> The settlement is flanked by the three roads that converge to the north of the church, with open fields beyond. These are framed by the A59 to the west, and that side of the CA generally features a large number of mature deciduous trees.
<i>Principal Views:</i> Initial views of St Michael's Church upon entering the area, along Church Lane and St Michael Road; views along Church View; views to and from the church across the fields to the south-west; views across open fields to the west and north-west.
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The settlement is visible on a landscape scale, partly concealed but partly defined by its trees. It has some wider landscape presence due to the spire of the church, which is a landmark asset.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The CA would be sensitive to changes within its immediate locality, but not those further afield. Views within the CA are quite restricted, with only the approach from the west affording wider views.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located beyond the A59 to the north-west; views from the rear of the properties on that side may be possible, but would be subject to screening from the trees and hedgerows flanking the A59. It would not affect the setting of the CA. The impact on the church is considered separately.
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible</b>

<b>Asset Name: Holt Green</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> CA	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.8-2.2km
<i>Description:</i> A small triangular 'green' with a war memorial, and the roads lined with houses that converge on the green. The houses are of 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century date, and while only one is Listed, they illustrate local architectural development in microcosm. Mature deciduous trees are a notable feature.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The CA is located towards the base of a shallow west-facing slope, where the slope flattens out.		
<i>Setting:</i> The CA is embedded within later 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing estates, the whole set within agricultural fields bounded to the west by the A59.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are limited due to the development of housing around a central green and the gently winding roads. Views in/out along the principal access roads are proportionately more important.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The settlement is visible on a landscape scale, partly concealed but partly defined by its trees, but the CA has not wider landscape presence in and of itself.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The CA would be sensitive to changes within its immediate locality, but not those further afield.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> None of the principal roads in or out of the CA are orientated towards the PV site, and the PV site is located on the other side of the A59.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Granville Park</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO
<i>Designation:</i> CA	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.7-2.4km
<i>Description:</i> A railway suburb of Liverpool, with mid and late 19 <sup>th</sup> century housing supplemented by high-end 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The CA is located on a west- and south-west facing slope.		
<i>Setting:</i> The CA is embedded within later 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing estates, open to agricultural fields only to the south-west. The CA, and particularly 'the Quarry', contains numerous mature deciduous trees.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Dense vegetation and surrounding vegetation restricts views, in and out, with the exception of the south-west side.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The settlement is visible on a landscape scale, partly concealed but partly defined by its trees, but the CA has not wider landscape presence in and of itself.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The CA would be sensitive to changes within its immediate locality, but not those further afield.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> Most of the CA falls outside the ZTV, and any views between the CA and the proposed PV site would be screened by intervening buildings, hedgerows and trees. The proposed PV site would be located on the far side of Aughton and the A59, and thus could not affect the setting of the CA.		



**Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral**

#### 4.8.4 Churches and pre-Reformation Chapels

##### *Church of England parish churches and chapels; current and former places of worship*

Most parish churches tend to be associated with a settlement (village or hamlet), and therefore their immediate context lies within the setting of the village (see elsewhere). Church buildings are usually Grade II\* or Grade I Listed structures, on the basis they are often the only surviving medieval buildings in a parish, and their nature places of religious worship.

In more recent centuries the church building and associated structures functioned as *the* focus for religious devotion in a parish. At the same time, they were also theatres of social interaction, where parishioners of differing social backgrounds came together and renegotiated their social contract.

In terms of setting, many churches are still surrounded by their churchtowns. Viewed within the context of the settlement itself, churches are unlikely to be affected by the construction of a solar PV park unless it is to be located in close proximity. The location of the church within its settlement, and its relationship with these buildings, would remain unchanged: the church often being the visual focus on the main village street.

This is not the case for the church tower. While these structures are rarely open to the public, in rural communities they are frequently the most prominent visual feature in the landscape, especially where the church is itself located in a topographically prominent location. The towers of these structures were clearly *meant* to be highly visible, ostentatious reminders of the presence of the established church with its message of religious dominance/assurance. However, churches were often built and largely maintained by their laity, and as such were a focus for the *local* expression of religious devotion. It was this local devotion that led to the adornment of their interiors and the elaboration of their exteriors, including the tower.

Where parishes are relatively small, the tower would be visible to the residents of multiple parishes. This would have been a clear expression of the religious devotion – or rather, the competitive piety – of a particular social group. This competitive piety that led to the building of these towers had a very local focus, and very much reflected the aspirations of the local gentry. If the proposed development is located within the landscape in such a way to interrupt line-of-sight between church towers, or compete with the tower from certain vantages, then it would very definitely impact on the setting of these monuments.

As the guidance on setting makes clear, views from or to the tower are less important than the contribution of the setting to the significance of the heritage asset itself. The higher assessment for the tower addresses the concern it will be affected by a new and intrusive element in this landscape.

Churchyards often contained Listed gravestones or box tombs, and associated yard walls and lychgates are usually also Listed. The setting of all of these assets is usually extremely local in character, and local blocking, whether from the body of the church, church walls, shrubs and trees, and/or other buildings, always plays an important role. As such, the construction of a PV solar park is unlikely to have a negative impact.

#### **What is important and why**

Churches are often the only substantial medieval buildings in a parish, and reflect local aspirations, prosperity, local and regional architectural trends; they usually stand within

graveyards, and these may have pre-Christian origins (evidential value). They are highly visible structures, identified with particular geographical areas and settlements, and can be viewed as a quintessential part of the English landscape (historical/illustrative). They can be associated with notable local families, usually survive as places of worship, and are sometimes the subject of paintings. Comprehensive restoration in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century means many local medieval churches are associated with notable ecclesiastical architects (historical/associational). The 19<sup>th</sup> century also saw the proliferation of churches and parishes in areas like Manchester, where industrialisation and urbanisation went hand-in-hand. Churches are often attractive buildings that straddle the distinction between holistic design and piecemeal/incremental development, all overlain and blurred with the 'patina of age' (aesthetic/design and aesthetic/fortuitous). They have great communal value, perhaps more in the past than in the present day, with strong commemorative, symbolic, spiritual and social value.

<b>Asset Name: Church of St Michael; Cross Base</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton, West Lancashire	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO [borderline]	
<i>Designation:</i> GI church/GII cross base	<i>Condition:</i> excellent	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.5km
<i>Description:</i> 14 <sup>th</sup> century church, with some earlier 12-13 <sup>th</sup> century remains within the structure. The chancel was rebuilt in the 15 <sup>th</sup> century, the north arcade was also built, and a north aisle added in the mid 16 <sup>th</sup> century. The whole church was restored in 1876. Built of squared sandstone blocks with a stone slate roof. North tower with tall spire, the tower is broached to an octagonal bell stage which has openings of two trefoil-headed lights with a quatrefoil under a pointed head. Complex range of additions to north side. The nave roof is 16 <sup>th</sup> century, of eight bays length, with arch-braces down to short wall posts and up to collars with central pendant bosses. The wind braces are straight and the principals are joined by a yoke below the ridge. The six bay north aisle roof is similar but has cusped wind braces and no bosses. In the north aisle of the chancel is a 19 <sup>th</sup> century tomb chest in a gothic style, in a recess with cusped arch and crocketed gable. The chancel roof is 19 <sup>th</sup> century, of six bays length, with arch-braced collar trusses rising from corbels alternately carved with angels. The 18 <sup>th</sup> century communion rails are turned and fluted. The 19 <sup>th</sup> century timber pulpit is elaborately carved with tracery and figures. The medieval cross base is square, of sandstone, with square socket, located in the churchyard.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the base of a south-west facing slope, a ridge orientated north-west to south-east and occupied by the southern suburbs of Ormskirk.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located just south of a T-junction, between St Michael Road and Church Lane within the core of Aughton village, which now forms a historic churchtown nucleus within a wider but diffuse settlement. The church stands within an irregular sub-square churchyard in the north-eastern corner of a much larger open sweeping grassland field, with a distinct 'parkland' character. The churchyard is ringed with mature trees.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views along both roadscapes of St Michael Road and Church Lane to the church and key views to and from the sweeping open field to the south and west of the church.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The church itself is dominant within the historic settlement of Aughton but is screened by trees further afield; however the church spire is a <i>landmark feature</i> and is visible for miles around.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The Grade I Listed building would be very sensitive to changes in its immediate setting or to any additions to the landscape which would challenge the skyline profile and landscape primacy of the spire.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be screened from the church and churchyard by intervening hedges and trees. There would be no effect on the setting of the church, or views from the churchyard. Views to the church from the surrounding area are limited to the spire, and the landscape primacy of that spire would not be challenged.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Church of St Thomas</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Lydiate	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES	
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good overall	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.5km
<i>Description:</i> Church of c.1839-41 with chancel of 1913. Stone with slate roof, east part of dressed stone with ashlar bands and dressings. Four-bay nave has sill course in form of drip mould and coped gables. Lancet windows with chamfered reveals and hood moulds. Leaded glazing with some stained glass		

<p>windows. West tower has pointed entrances to west and south with hoodmoulds; north lancet. Blind crosses above. Top stage has sill course, cornice and weathered parapet and pinnacles. Chancel has gabled angle buttresses and three-light east window with early Perpendicular tracery. Deep west gallery on two octagonal iron columns to the interior; open-well stair in tower. Flat nave ceiling with tie beams, chancel has waggon roof. Chancel arch dies into octagonal piers; flanking segmental arches. Springers for projected nave arcades and rubble with projecting stones above. Two-bay segmental-headed arcade to chapel, arches dying into pier and responds, similar pointed arch to organ loft. Chancel has recess for sedilia and high reredos with alabaster relief panels.</p>
<p><i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located at the northern end of a slightly higher raised area of ground that runs south to Lydiate village. The church stands in a slightly elevated position relative to the hamlet around.</p>
<p><i>Setting:</i> The church is located west of Southport Road in a large walled churchyard, enclosed to the west, open to the east and framed by trees to the west, north and south. A small settlement containing other historic structures surrounds the structure.</p>
<p><i>Principal Views:</i> Key views within the churchtown, between the various Listed buildings and across its churchyard. It is a key part of the Southport Road roadscape on the approach to Lydiate village. The tower is a highly visible feature in this landscape.</p>
<p><i>Landscape Presence:</i> The church tower is a <i>landmark feature</i>, visible for miles around and framed by the trees to the west and north-west.</p>
<p><i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The church would be sensitive to change in its immediate locality and key views within its churchtown. On a wider landscape scale, the tower would be sensitive to a challenge to its landscape primacy.</p>
<p><i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located to the east. Hedges, trees and scattered farmsteads across the landscape are expected to provide screening. Direct views from the tower may be possible, but the body of the church and the churchyard would be screened by Church View Cottage, and by intervening trees and farmsteads in the landscape.</p>
<p><i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible</b></p>

<b>Asset Name: Church of Our Lady; Cross in Churchyard</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Lydiate		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.8km
<p><i>Description:</i> Catholic Church of c.1854-5. Built by J.J. Scoles. Rock-faced stone with ashlar dressing, slate roof. Nave with aisles under lean-to roofs, north west tower, south porch and vestry, and chancel. South porch is gabled, entrance with continuous mouldings and niche above. West end on moulded plinth. Three stage tower, north door; second stage has cusped lancets, top stage recessed, with two-light louvred bell openings, cornice, embattled parapet and crocketed pinnacles. Chancel has moulded plinth, three-light reticulated east window between diagonal buttresses; quatrefoil above. To south, vestry with gable-end stacks and canted projection in western angle. Roof has scissor-brace trusses. Chancel arch with statues to either side. Alabaster chancel rail; pulpit at north end incorporates 15<sup>th</sup> century figure of a bishop. Elaborate reredos with relief scenes and canopied figures, altar moved forward. Piscina with double ogee arch. West gallery and baptistry to south with 15<sup>th</sup> century fittings from nearby ruined St Katherine's Chapel.</p> <p>Cross 10m north of the church. The upper part a medieval chamfered cross-head, the shaft and base 19<sup>th</sup> century. Found in a nearby field in the 1870s. Hexagonal steps to the base.</p>		
<p><i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the east side of a slight ridge between Lydiate village and Lydiate churchtown. The ground drops away very slightly to the east and rises slightly to the west-south-west occupied by the ruins of Lydiate Hall.</p>		
<p><i>Setting:</i> Large rectangular churchyard bounded by stone walls, with trees to the south and west, but open to north-east, with a mature hedge to the east.</p>		
<p><i>Principal Views:</i> Key roadscape views along Southport Road on the approach from the north. Expansive views across the flat fields to the north and east. Views to the village and to the ruins of St Katherine's chapel and Lydiate Hall to the west. 360° views likely from the tower. No views to or from the cross other than those within the churchyard.</p>		
<p><i>Landscape Presence:</i> The church is a key visual feature in the landscape, and the church tower is a <i>landmark feature</i>. It often appears in the skyline profile in competition and/or contrast with the tower of St Thomas just to the north-west. The cross is a churchyard feature with no wider landscape presence.</p>		
<p><i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The church is sensitive to changes in its immediate environment and views to the village, Lydiate Hall and the chapel. Changes to views between the church and the Church of St Thomas</p>		

would be sensitive to interruption and change.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site lies to the north-east and direct views across to the proposed solar farm are likely to be possible, despite screening from intervening hedgerows. There would be no effect on roadscape views to the church, no interruption of the important outward views, and no effect setting of the churchyard, despite direct views.
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible to Negative/minor</b>

<b>Asset Name: Christ Church</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> excellent	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.1km
<i>Description:</i> Church, c.1867-70 by W & J Hay. Rock-faced sandstone with slate roof. Comprises a west tower, nave, north and south aisles, south porch, lower chancel, north transeptal organ chamber, and north vestry. Windows contain flowing tracery of various descriptions. West tower has angle buttresses, crocketed corner pinnacles, and pierced parapet. The south-east stair turret projects above the parapet under a conical roof. A gabled porch serves the south aisle, which has a moulded doorway with angle shafts. Five bay north aisle. The internal arcades to the nave are of five bays and have moulded pointed arches springing from piers of quatrefoil plan with foliated capitals. The nave has arch-braced collar trusses rising from corbelled wall posts. Alternating with these are scissor-braced trusses with timber angel corbels. Within the tall pointed tower arch is a small west gallery with carved stone front. The chancel arch is moulded and pointed and springs from engaged columns with foliated caps. At the feet of the chancel roof principals are painted and there are gilded angels.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located in a slightly elevated location above a slight south-facing slope.		
<i>Setting:</i> The church stands within a rectangular churchyard bounded by the busy A59 to the west and 20 <sup>th</sup> century residential housing on the three other sides, with a church hall immediately to the north and a school to the east. Beyond the A59 there are open fields. The churchyard is bounded by short walls topped by hedges, and there are mature trees on the south and west sides. The immediate area has a leafy suburban feel.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views along Liverpool Road towards the church tower. The church, set within the churchyard, dominates the visuals of Long Lane. Views out from the church to the surrounding buildings include the local school. Wide views of the tall church tower from across the landscape, and it is a local landmark.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The tower is a key <i>landmark feature</i> for many miles around. The church and churchyard are a local feature of the area and the focus of the community.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The church would be sensitive to any challenges to the skyline presence of its tower and any changes to its immediate setting and churchyard.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would not be visible from the churchyard, although it might just be possible from the tower. The PV sites would not compete for landscape primacy with the tower.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: St Katherine's Chapel, chapel yard, burial ground (SAM)</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Lydiat		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII*/SAM (chapel yard)	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.1km
<i>Description:</i> Ruined chapel, of late 15 <sup>th</sup> or early 16 <sup>th</sup> century. Plan of five-bay nave, south porch and west tower. Diagonal buttresses and remains of cornice to nave. Perpendicular-style south windows with transoms, tracery remaining to central windows between weathered buttresses. Porch at western end now has only lower parts of walls remaining and Tudor arched headed inner entrance. Blank north wall with buttresses. East end has walls flanking window up to springers. Tower of three stages with drip moulds and diagonal buttresses, with four-centred internal tower arch on half-octagonal responds. One of two surviving private chapels in southern Lancashire.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the western side of a slight ridge that runs roughly north-south; the chapel stands at the top of a very slight west-facing slope.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located within a small wooded enclosure, framed by scrub and native trees within an overgrown plot. The area immediately around chapel and the graves is clear. The A5147 runs to the east, with fields and farmland to the west, a pub and modern housing to the south and the wooded and parkland grounds around the remains of Lydiat Hall (ruins) to the north. The chapel is directly associated with this former gentry residence.		

<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are enclosed by the trees and scrub but the tower is visible within the enclosure.
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The chapel is largely concealed within its wooded enclosure, though it might be more visible in winter. Being a private chapel and serving the adjacent gentry residence, it may have formed part of a designed landscape associated with the hall.
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is sensitive to changes to its immediate views or surroundings, its ruined nature and wooded setting mean it is not affected by wider landscape change. As one of only two surviving private chapels in south Lancashire it is of enhanced importance.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would be located to the east and views would be screened by the trees of the enclosure and intervening hedges. There would be no appreciable effect on setting.
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible</b>

<b>Asset Name: Church of St Mary and attached Presbytery</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES [borderline]	
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> good	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 3.8km
<i>Description:</i> Roman Catholic church and presbytery c.1823. Church stuccoed. Presbytery of exposed brick. Slate roofs. West gable wall blind except for a lozenge window under the apex. The gabled porch has a round-headed doorway. Cross finials on porch and main gables. North wall blind except for round window to chancel. South wall has 3 tall round-headed windows with glazing bars. Presbytery of 3 bays which have sashed windows with glazing bars and stone lintels and sills. Doorway, in central bay, has plain reveals and round brick head. Chimneys to each side and between 1st and 2nd bays. West gallery with panelled front carried on 4 iron columns. Chancel separated by wall pierced by large central round-arched opening flanked by smaller similar openings. Against the east wall are paired engaged Corinthian columns supporting an enriched entablature. Above is an oval saucer dome. Above the main body of the church is a flat ceiling with central circular design.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on the top of a broad slight eminence. The ground drops away to the east, west and south.		
<i>Setting:</i> The building is located within a long narrow rectangular plot defined by hedge with some trees. The south is the golf course, and the buildings are open to the large arable fields to the north. The roadside features a car parking area, with housing across the B5197 to the north-east.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Set back from the road and not particularly interesting; it is a feature of the approach from the north, as a large and essentially faceless structure amid the trees.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The church is visible on the approach from the north, but is otherwise fairly well concealed. Its wider landscape presence is limited.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> A number of the exterior walls are blind, and the building betrays few obvious signs of being a place of worship; it might be sensitive to change within its immediate environment, but not those operating at any distance.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site lies to the north-north-west. The church is located at such a distance as its setting could not be compromised by the development, and its views from the church to the PV would be restricted by tree planting and the buildings to the east.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

#### 4.8.5 Memorials

Memorials are typically located in order to be seen, often at road junctions, high points or central locations within the communities that they were designed to evoke remembrance within. Many examples are located within churchyards or cemeteries, but those which are typically afforded statutory protection are those located outside of these bounds. Context and setting is often confined to the settlement with which they are associated and therefore solar developments, when visible at a distance, do not affect their relationships with their surroundings or public understanding of their meaning and significance. Some large (primarily 19<sup>th</sup> century) memorials are afforded a much wider setting by their prominent positioning on hilltops above settlements, and in these instances they are more sensitive to solar developments.

### What is important and why

All have strong communal value, in terms of commemorative power and symbolic associations (communal).

<b>Asset Name: War Memorial, Granville Park</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO	
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> excellent	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.2km
<i>Description:</i> War memorial, 1922, in white granite. 6.5m tall. Two-stepped base surmounted by plinth and obelisk. An inscription on the bronze plaque on the south face of plinth. Bronze plaques with laurel leaves commemorate the names of the WWI dead on four sides of the plinth. There are decorative carvings around the top of the plinth and a thin band of decorative carving on the plinth.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on an almost level plot with a very slight south-facing slope, the ground rises artificially to the east to the embanked railway cutting at Town Green. The landscape context is the suburb community of Granville Park		
<i>Setting:</i> Situated in the Garden of Remembrance, Granville Park, Aughton, and enclosed by railings. It was unveiled on the 11th February 1922 by the 17th Earl of Derby. The memorial is set on a bend in the road, with a pub to the west, the open park to the north, and houses/shops and the railway to the south and east.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views to the monument from along Granville Park road, from the junction with Winifred Lane.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The monument was designed to be a key visual memorial at the edge of the park; it has been somewhat subsumed into the trees as the landscaping/planting associated with the parkland has grown.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is of specific memorial function, serving the urban community which surrounds it with limited connection to the wider landscape.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would not be visible as the memorial is entirely enclosed within the suburbs of Ormskirk. Its setting is limited to its immediate urban environment.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Cross base c.50m west of junction with Northway, on Mill Lane</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Aughton	<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO [borderline]	
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 1.2km
<i>Description:</i> Medieval Cross base. A large sandstone block with an empty socket.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a steep east-facing slope, on Mill Lane.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located in the modern walled entrance to a 20 <sup>th</sup> century bungalow, south of Mill Lane and enclosed by deep banks with trees.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are limited to the immediate roadscape.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The stone base has no landscape presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The enclosed nature of the asset means it has no views or connection with the wider landscape so cannot be affected by changes beyond its own immediate setting.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The proposed PV site would not be visible and would have no impact on its setting.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>		

#### 4.8.6 Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure

*A range of industrial and extractive structures, often exhibiting elements of formal planning, rarely with a view to aesthetics*

A whole range of structures relating to a whole range of industries falls under this broad category, and include ruined, standing and functioning buildings. This might include: bridges, canals, capstans, clay-drying facilities, engine houses, fish cellars, gunpowder mills, railways, warehouses and so forth. However, in most instances industrial buildings were not built with aesthetics in mind, despite the elements of formal planning that would often be present. The sensitivity of these structures to the visual intrusion of a solar development depends on type, age and location.

It is usually the abandoned and ruined structures, now overgrown and ‘wild’, that are most sensitive to intrusive new visual elements; solar pv panels in the immediate vicinity could compete for attention.

### What is important and why

This is a very heterogeneous group, though all buildings and associated structures retain some evidential value, which ranges with the degree of preservation. Some structures are iconic (e.g. Luxulyan viaduct) and quite often others are, due to the rapid intensification of industry in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, innovative in both design and application (historical/illustrative). Some may survive as working examples – in which case the associational value is maintained – but many are ruinous or converted (historical/associational). All were designed, and many conform to a particular template (e.g. engine houses) although incremental development through use-life and subsequent decrepitude may conceal this. Fortuitous development may then lead to ruinous or deserted structures or building complexes taking on the air of a romantic ruin (e.g. Kennall Vale gunpowder works), imagery quite at odds with the bustle and industry of their former function. Some of the more spectacular or well-preserved structures may become symbolic (e.g. South Crofty Mine), but communal value tends to be low, especially where public access is not possible.

<b>Asset Name: Leeds and Liverpool Canal</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> multiple		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> ND	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> within 0.6km
<i>Description:</i> A canal linking, as the name suggests, the cities of Leeds and Liverpool, a distance of 127 miles. The canal was built in stages between c.1770 and c.1822, and used to carry goods but principally coal. The canal was used commercially into the second half of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century, and was a stop line fortified with bunkers and pillboxes during WWII.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The canal snakes across the landscape, maintaining a level.		
<i>Setting:</i> For the most part, the canal has its own setting (i.e. within cuttings, embanked, flanked by trees etc.) and cuts through a series of county and urban settings. As a strong linear boundary it has come to define the ‘edge’ of areas (e.g. residential areas in Lydiate).		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are along the canal, to and from features (e.g. bridges, locks) along the canal, and out to the countryside or townscape adjacent.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The canal is a very visible linear feature, though in such a flat landscape may be difficult to distinguish from e.g. shelterbelts etc.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The canal had a specific function; it was not necessarily designed for outward views. However, the development of leisure activities, and the range of landscapes it passes through, means aesthetics are clearly an issue.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The PV site would be visible from the canal, but would constitute another discrete development within the complex landscapes the canal bisects. The linear ‘canalscape’ would not be affected, only views from certain angles and places.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Negligible</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Lydiate Hill Bridge</b>		
<i>Parish:</i> Lydiate		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO [borderline]
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.0km
<i>Description:</i> Accommodation bridge over L&L Canal c.1770. Stone, elliptical arch with flat band over, and parapet. Retaining walls swept forward and returned.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> The ground rises slightly to the east and south-east, dropping to the north-west; the bridge rises from the artificially raised banks of the canal.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located to the north-east of the main part of the village, screened from view by developments of houses to the west side. The bridge is set low over the canal, framed by a number of small sinuous wind-break copses and tall hedges; the area is very overgrown. It carries a small track across the canal linking two parts of a large farm. It is open to the fields to the east.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views are along the canal and up the track, limited by the raised banks to the canal and the trees.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The bridge is clearly visible in its immediate setting, but has no wider visual presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The bridge is of specific function, associated with the canal; it was not necessarily		

designed for outward views.
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The size of the structure and the surrounding vegetation means screening will block the proposed development from view. The immediate setting of the bridge would not be affected.
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>

<b>Asset Name: Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Harkers Bridge</b>		
Parish: Halsall	Within the ZTV: NO	
Designation: GII	Condition: good	Distance to PV site: 2.2km
<i>Description:</i> 18 <sup>th</sup> century road bridge over the L&L Canal which opened 1774. Squared sandstone blocks. Single elliptical arch. Band below solid parapet with coping.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Located on a slight south-west facing slope, on a level area of reclaimed wetlands. The ground rises to the east and north-east.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located over the canal, to the south-east is a large farm called Harkers Farm and another lies to the north-west, Model Farm. Otherwise, set within open flat agricultural fields.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Expansive views across the fields, along the road and up and down the canal.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The bridge is clearly visible in its immediate setting, but does not have a wider visual presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The asset is of specific function associated with the canal; it was not necessarily designed for outward views.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The size of the structure and the surrounding vegetation means screening will block the proposed development from view. The immediate setting of the bridge would not be affected.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Lydiate Bridge</b>		
Parish: Lydiate	Within the ZTV: YES [borderline]	
Designation: GII	Condition: fair/good	Distance to PV site: 2.7km
<i>Description:</i> Bridge over L&L Canal. c.1770. Stone, elliptical arch, with band over and coped parapet. End pilaster strips. Plaque inscribed "NO17" on north side.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Lydiate village occupies a slightly undulating ridge of higher ground, and the bridge is located on a slight west-facing slope.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located to the west of the village, the bridge is framed by hedges and banks to the west and by modern houses and bungalows to the east, with mature hedges beyond.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views are up and down the canal and to and from the tow paths and along the roadscape of the lane, which it carries over the canal.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The bridge is clearly visible in its immediate locality, and is visually dominant within the canal viewscape, but it does not have a wider visual presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> Of specific function associated with the canal, it was not designed for outward views, but to carry Pilling Lane, a busy parish routeway, over the canal.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The enclosed nature of the village-edge setting means the proposed PV site would not be visible and there would be no impact on setting or views.		
<i>Overall Impact Assessment:</i> <b>Neutral</b>		

<b>Asset Name: Hill Bridge</b>		
Parish: Halsall	Within the ZTV: YES	
Designation: GII	Condition: fair/good	Distance to PV site: 2.7km
<i>Description:</i> Bridge over L&L Canal. c.1770. Stone, elliptical arch, with band over and coped parapet.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> Essentially flat or very slightly sloping to the north-east.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located within agricultural fields. The canal is lined with mature shrubs; otherwise, the landscape is flat and open.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views are up and down the canal and to and from the tow paths and along the footpath it carries over the canal; across the open fields to the south-west and north.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The bridge is clearly visible in its immediate locality, and is visually dominant within the canal viewscape, but it does not have a wider visual presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> Of specific function associated with the canal, it was not designed for outward views, but to carry Pilling Lane, a busy parish routeway, over the canal.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> While relatively open to the surrounding landscape, the bridge relates to the canal; the proposed PV site may be partly visible, but there would be no impact on setting.		



**Overall Impact Assessment: Negligible**

**Asset Name: Milestone on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal**

<i>Parish:</i> Downholland, West Lancashire District		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 0.9km
<i>Description:</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century canal milestone. Cast-iron. Triangular plan. Left-hand plate inscribed: 'L'POOL 16 MILES'. Right-hand plate inscribed: 'LEEDS 111 1/4 MILES'.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> On the artificially-level towpath, alongside the L&L Canal, on the raised west embankment.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the tow path, framed by hedges to the west side. A small business park has been developed along the west bank of the canal nearby.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views up and down the canal, views to Rimmers Bridge, and views to the milestone from the canal itself.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The asset is a way-marker and designed to be visible; however, it relates only to the canal and is a small ground-level feature with no wider presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> Associated specifically with the canal and does not relate to the wider landscape.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The embankments of the canal are raised above the flat level of the fields. Screening from trees and hedges would conceal the proposed development from view and there would be no effect on setting.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

**Asset Name: Leeds and Liverpool Canal milestone 350m S Haskayne Bridge**

<i>Parish:</i> Downholland, West Lancashire District		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> NO [borderline]
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> fair	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2km
<i>Description:</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century canal milestone, cast-iron, of triangular plan. Inscribed 'LEEDS 110 1/4 MILES'.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> On the western side of a very slight ridge which is traversed by the L&L Canal. The ground slopes down to the north-west.		
<i>Setting:</i> Located on the east side of School Lane just south of the small village of Haskayne. The asset stands on the edge of the L&L Canal bank.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Key views are along the canal, in both directions.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> No landscape presence, being a small ground-level feature.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> The milestone is of specific function and does not relate to the wider landscape.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The asset is enclosed within its specific setting, and falls just outside the ZTV.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

**Asset Name: Leeds and Liverpool Canal Milestone 200m N of Harkers Bridge**

<i>Parish:</i> Halsall, West Lancashire District		<i>Within the ZTV:</i> YES
<i>Designation:</i> GII	<i>Condition:</i> poor	<i>Distance to PV site:</i> 2.3km
<i>Description:</i> Canal milestone. 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Cast-iron. Triangular plan. Left-hand plate inscribed: 'L'POOL 18 MILES'. Right-hand plate inscribed: 'LEEDS 109 1/4 MILES'.		
<i>Topographical Location &amp; Landscape Context:</i> On the towpath, alongside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.		
<i>Setting:</i> On the north side of the canal, framed by low trees, set against a stone revetment bank.		
<i>Principal Views:</i> Views up and down the canal to Harkers Bridge; views to the milestone from the canal.		
<i>Landscape Presence:</i> The asset is a way-marker and is designed to be visible; however, it relates only to the canal and is a small ground-level feature with no wider presence.		
<i>Sensitivity of Asset:</i> Associated specifically with the canal, the asset has no connection to the wider landscape.		
<i>Magnitude of Impact:</i> The asset is enclosed within its specific setting.		
<b>Overall Impact Assessment: Neutral</b>		

#### 4.8.7 Historic Landscape

##### *General Landscape Character*

The landscape of the British Isles is highly variable, both in terms of topography and historical biology. Natural England has divided the British Isles into numerous 'character areas' based on topography, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. The County Councils and AONBs have undertaken similar exercises, as well as Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Some character areas are better able to withstand the visual impact of solar PVs than others. Rolling countryside with wooded valleys and restricted views can withstand a larger number of sites than an open and largely flat landscape overlooked by higher ground. The English landscape is already populated by a large and diverse number of intrusive modern elements, e.g. electricity pylons, factories, quarries and turbines, but the question of cumulative impact must be considered. The aesthetics of individual solar PV parks is open to question, but as intrusive new visual elements within the landscape, it can only be **negative**, if **temporary/reversible**.

The proposed site would be erected within the Lancashire Plain and Valleys Area (Countryside Agency) and the *Ormskirk/Lathom/Rufford Coastal Plain* Landscape Character Area (LCA):

- This LCA is characterised as a gently undulating or flat lowland farmland divided up by ditches or low clipped hedges, with large open arable fields and a relatively-dense patchwork of small settlements and farms. The Ormskirk/Lathom/Rufford LCA (15a) is noted for its large brick barns pointing to its arable past (HLC 2000, 89-92).
- The visual envelope of the proposed development is restricted to the valley of the Sudell Brook and adjoining slightly elevated area, and the overall visual impact on the historic landscape is assessed as **negative/minor**.
- The development will affect the immediate archaeology within the field **permanently/irreversibly** and during its operating time of 25 years it will have a **temporary/reversible** effect on the wider landscape and the heritage assets it contains as once it has fulfilled its role, it can technically be removed.

The landscape here can be very complex, of a mixed character of historic industrial, modern urban, historic agricultural (man-made reclaimed from wetlands). However, a lack of suitably-elevated viewpoints means wide sweeping views are less common, and the general sense of the place. The proposed development could be introduced into this already complicated and, in some senses, compromised landscape more readily than in other single phase or simple character landscapes.

#### 4.8.8 Aggregate Impact

The aggregate impact of a proposed development is an assessment of the overall effect of a single development on multiple heritage assets. This differs from cumulative impact (below), which is an assessment of multiple developments on a single heritage asset. Aggregate impact is particularly difficult to quantify, as the threshold of acceptability will vary according to the type, quality, number and location of heritage assets, and the individual impact assessments themselves.

The proportion of heritage assets in this area likely to suffer any appreciable negative effect includes a small number of designated heritage assets. The assessment suggests that only two assets (the Catholic Church of Our Lady and West Tower CA) will potentially suffer any quantifiable level of harm. On that basis the aggregate impact is taken to be to **negative/minor**.

#### 4.8.9 Cumulative Impact

*Cumulative impacts affecting the setting of a heritage asset can derive from the combination of different environmental impacts (such as visual intrusion, noise, dust and vibration) arising from a single development or from the overall effect of a series of discrete developments. In the latter case, the cumulative visual impact may be the result of different developments within a single view, the effect of developments seen when looking in different directions from a single viewpoint, of the sequential viewing of several developments when moving through the setting of one or more heritage assets.*

The Setting of Heritage Assets 2011a, 25

*The key for all cumulative impact assessments is to focus on the **likely significant** effects and in particular those likely to influence decision-making.*

GLVIA 2013, 123

The visual impact of a single PV Solar Park can be significant, but the cumulative impact could undoubtedly eclipse this in some areas. An assessment of cumulative impact is, however, very difficult to gauge, as it must take into account operational developments, those with planning consent, and those still in the planning process. The threshold of acceptability has not, however, been established, and landscape capacity would inevitably vary according to landscape character.

In terms of cumulative impact in this landscape, a second proposed solar farm is to be located south of Walsh Hall, c.800m to the south-west. On that basis the cumulative impact is taken to be **negative/minor**.

#### 4.9 Summary of the Evidence

ID	UID	Name	NGR	Assessment
GI	357771	Church of St Michael		
GII	357772	Cross Base 20m S of church	SD3914705417	Negligible
GII*	216497	Scotch Piper PH	SD3647004845	Neutral to Negligible
GII*	216496	GII* and SAM. St Katherine's Chapel	SD3639104889	Negligible
SAM	27602			
GII	357809	Owens Farmhouse	SD3685206774	Negligible
GII	406424	Barn at Home farm	SD3833104641	Negligible
GII	357780	Gerard Hall Farmhouse	SD4032403731	Neutral
GII	357782	Aughton Old Hall	SD3913305536	Neutral
GII	216495	Remains of Lydiate Hall	SD3627005116	Neutral
GII	216489	Rose Hill	SD3762504502	Negligible
GII	357821	New Hill House	SD3436506159	Neutral
GII	357822	Hill House Farmhouse	SD3425806088	Neutral
GII	216494	Church House	SD3636605764	Negligible
GII		153 School Lane		Neutral
GII	357769	Holt Green House	SD3923404942	Neutral
GII	357770	Aughton House	SD3878204368	Neutral
GII		107 School Lane		Neutral to Negligible
GII		Stock Cottage		Neutral
GII	216490	Church View Cottage	SD3638605731	Negligible
GII	216484	Church of St Thomas	SD3632605728	Negligible
GII	216491	Church of Our Lady	SD3648005204	Negligible to
GII	216492	Cross 10m N of church	SD3646405220	Negative/minor
GII		Christ Church		Negligible

GII	357781	Church of St Mary and attached Presbytery	SD4058303746	Neutral
GII	495299	War Memorial, Granville Park	SD4013605627	Neutral
GII	357778	Cross base 50m W of road junction	SD3912005858	Neutral
ND	-	Leeds and Liverpool Canal	-	Negligible
GII	216493	Lydiate Hill Bridge	SD3693304727	Neutral
GII		Harkers Bridge		Neutral
GII	216485	Lydiate Bridge	SD3661504043	Neutral
		Hill Bridge		Negligible
GII		Milestone on L&L Canal, N Harkers Bridge		Neutral
GII		Milestone on L&L Canal, S Haskayne Bridge		Neutral
GII	357811	Milestone on the L&L Canal	SD3690406422	Neutral
CA	-	West Tower	-	Negligible to Negative/minor
CA	-	St Michael's Church	-	Negligible
CA	-	Holt Green	-	Neutral
CA	-	Granville Park	-	Neutral
-	-	Aggregate impact	-	Negligible
-	-	Cumulative impact	-	Negative/minor
-	-	Historic Landscape Character	-	Negative/minor

Table 4: Summary of impacts; the assets in grey fall outside of the ZTV.

## 5.0 Conclusion

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The proposed solar farm would be located within a single large modern fields north of Walsh Hall. The Manor of Walsh Hall is first documented in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and was held by the Walsh family into the later 17<sup>th</sup> century.

This field was created in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century when a series of smaller and more irregular fields were amalgamated and rationalised. The morphology of these fields points to the presence of a large medieval or early medieval sub-oval enclosure or ring-fence boundary. These fields are characterised as 'modern enclosures' i.e. after c.1800, but clearly belong to a (albeit heavily-modified) landscape of ancient enclosure.

The walkover failed to identify any features of archaeological interest, the land under a mature oilseed rape crop at the time of survey. Nearly all undesignated heritage assets identified in the desk-based assessment relate to the post-medieval farming landscape, and the area seems to have been under-utilised in the later Prehistoric and Romano-British periods. In the earlier Prehistoric period, however, flint scatters in the wider locality indicate occupation or activity in (former) fen-edge areas.

There is one Grade I and two Grade II\* Listed buildings within 3km of the site that fall within the ZTV, together with 13 Grade II Listed buildings or groups. There is only one Scheduled Monument (St Katherine's Chapel, also GII\*). There are further designated assets, primarily Grade II Listed farmhouse, buildings or cottages that fall outside of the ZTV.

Most of the designated heritage assets in the wider area are located at such a distance to minimise the impact of the proposed development, or else the contribution of setting to overall significance is less important than other factors. The landscape context of most of these buildings and monuments is such that they would be partly or wholly insulated from the effects of the proposed solar park by a combination of local blocking, and the topography, or that other modern intrusions have already impinged upon their settings. The assessment suggests that only two assets (the Church of Our Lady and West Tower CA, negligible-to-negative/minor) a quantifiable level of harm.

With this in mind, the overall impact of the proposed solar can be assessed as **negative/minor**. The impact of the development on the buried archaeological resource would be **permanent** and **irreversible**.

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## Appendix 1

### PROJECT DESIGN FOR DESK-BASED APPRAISAL AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON LAND OFF FORMBY LANE, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE

<b>Location:</b>	Land off Formby Lane
<b>Parish:</b>	Aughton
<b>County:</b>	West Lancashire
<b>NGR:</b>	SD379065
<b>Planning Application ref:</b>	Pre-Planning
<b>Proposal:</b>	Solar Farm
<b>Date:</b>	06.06.15

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) on behalf of Kirsty Gibson of Aardvark EM Ltd. (the Agent). It sets out the methodology for desk-based research, historic visual impact assessment and for related off-site analysis and reporting at land off Formby Lane, Aughton, West Lancashire.

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed site is located on low-lying ground adjacent to a tributary of the Sudell Brook, and extensive surveys undertaken in the region have identified Prehistoric occupation/activity in similar fen-edge locations.

#### 3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

- 3.1.1 Undertake a desk-based appraisal of the site;
- 3.1.2 Undertake a walkover survey of the site;
- 3.1.4 Identify and assess the significance of the likely landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development through the use of view-shed-analysis;
- 3.1.5 Assess the direct visual effects of the proposed development upon specific landscape elements and historic assets through the use of photographs, including views from key features looking toward the development site;
- 3.1.6 Produce a report containing the results of the desk-based research, walkover survey and the visual impact assessment;
- 3.1.7 Provide a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource with recommendations for those areas where further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies may be required.

#### 4.0 METHOD

4.1 Desk-based Appraisal:

The programme of work shall include desk-based research to place the development site into its historic and archaeological context. This will include examination of material currently held in the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Record and examination of available cartographic sources.

4.2 Visual Impact Assessment (VIA):

- 4.2.1 A viewshed analysis resulting in a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been created and this will be used during the archaeological VIA.
- 4.2.2 Historic assets that fall within the VIA will be assessed on the basis of their intrinsic importance and the potential impact of the development following English Heritage 2011 guidelines on the Setting of Heritage Assets (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/>). This will include: all relevant undesignated heritage assets, Grade I & II\* Buildings and Scheduled Monuments & Grade II Listed buildings within 3km of the site; all Grade I & II\* Buildings and Scheduled Monuments within the ZTV within 5km of the site. An abbreviated list of these heritage assets will be included as an appendix within the report.
- 4.3.3 Significant historic assets and monument groups will be identified and visited to assess the impact on their setting. This will be used to produce a statement of significance for those heritage assets potentially impacted upon by the development.
- 4.3.4 The likely impact will be assessed using the methods based on English Heritage 2011 and 2015 Guidelines on the Setting of Heritage Assets.

#### 5.0 REPORT

5.1 A report will be produced and will include the following elements:

- 5.1.1 A report number and the OASIS ID number;
- 5.1.2 A location map, copies of the view shed analysis mapping, a map or maps showing assets referred to in the text and copies of historic maps and plans consulted shall be included, with the boundary of the development site clearly marked on each. All plans will be tied to the national grid;
- 5.1.3 A concise non-technical summary of the project results;
- 5.1.4 The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation;

- 5.1.5 Illustrations of the site in relation to known archaeological deposits/sites around it, in order to place the site in its archaeological context;
- 5.1.6 A statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, and shall indicate any areas where further evaluation (e.g. intrusive trenching) and/or recording is recommended;
- 5.1.7 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix.
- 5.2 The full report will be submitted within three months of completion of fieldwork. The report will be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. A copy will be provided to the HES in digital 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.
- 5.3 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations*) database under record number southwes1-214985.

## 6.0 FURTHER WORK

Should the results of this Assessment indicate a need for further archaeological works to be undertaken this may need to be completed before validation of the Planning Application in order to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable decision on the application, in accordance with the guidelines contained within paragraph 141 of paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). This work would be subject to a separate Project Design.

## 7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006 upon completion of the project. If artefactual material is recovered the requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Lancashire Museum under an accession number to be obtained.
- 7.2 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.

## 8.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Dr. Brynmor Morris; the desk-based research and the visual impact assessment will be carried out by SWARCH personnel with suitable expertise and experience. Relevant staff of LHES will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists, below).

Bryn Morris

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Telephone: 01769 573555 email: [mail@swarch.net](mailto:mail@swarch.net)

### List of specialists

#### **Building recording**

*Richard Parker*

11 Toronto Road, St James, Exeter. EX4 6LE, Tel: 07763 248241

#### **Conservation**

*Alison Hopper Bishop*

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation service, [a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:a.hopperbishop@exeter.gov.uk)

*Richard and Helena Jaeschke*

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#### **Curatorial**

*Thomas Cadbury*

Curator of Antiquities Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Bradninch Offices, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, EX4 3LS  
Tel: 01392 665356

*Alison Mills*

The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon, The Square, Barnstaple, North Devon, EX32 8LN, Tel: 01271 346747

#### **Bone**

Human & Animal *Wendy Howard*, Department of Archaeology, Laver Building, University of Exeter, North Park Road, Exeter EX4 4QE Tel: 01392 269330, [w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:w.j.howard@exeter.ac.uk)

#### **Lithics**

*Dr Martin Tingle*

Higher Brownston, Brownston, Modbury, Devon, PL21 OSQ [martin@mtingle.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:martin@mtingle.freeseerve.co.uk)

#### **Palaeoenvironmental/Organic**

Wood identification *Dana Challinor* Tel: 01869 810150 [dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dana.challinor@tiscali.co.uk)

Plant macro-fossils *Julie Jones* [juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk)

Pollen analysis *Ralph Fyfe* Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

#### **Pottery**

Prehistoric *Henrietta Quinnell*, 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN, Tel: 01392 433214

Roman *Alex Croom*, Keeper of Archaeology

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB

Tel: (0191) 454 4093 [alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk)

Medieval *John Allan*, Exeter Archaeology, Custom House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN, Tel: 01392 665918

Post Medieval *Graham Langman*, Exeter, EX1 2UF, Tel: 01392 215900, [su1429@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:su1429@eclipse.co.uk)



## Appendix 2 Nearby Heritage Assets

GI

### **Church of St Michael**

357771

Church. C14 with mid C12 and C13 remains, C15 north arcade, and mid C16 north aisle. Restored 1876 when C15 chancel rebuilt. Squared sandstone with stone slate roof. Comprises a nave, south porch, lower chancel, a north tower with stone spire between a north aisle and north chapel, and a north vestry. The west nave window is of 4 lights with reticulated tracery, restored in the C19. The west window of the north aisle is of 4 lights with transom and tracery under a 4-centred head. In the south wall of the nave are 3 early C20 windows of 2 lights with reticulated tracery under flat heads. Above and to the right of the porch is a window of 3 lights under a flat head. The porch is gabled and has a pointed chamfered outer doorway. The inner doorway is C15, moulded and pointed. To the right of the porch, partly covered by a buttress, are the remains of a mid C12 doorway, of 2 plain orders with angle shafts and scalloped capitals. The south chancel wall is of 3 bays and has 3-light windows with tracery under pointed heads. The east window is of 5 lights with transom and tracery under a Tudor-arched head. The east window of the north chapel is of 3 trefoiled lights under a flat head. Above it is a window of 3 pointed lights under a flat head. The north aisle has 4 windows of 3 lights with intersecting tracery under round heads. At the base of the tower is a pointed window of 2 lights with restored Y- tracery. The tower is broached to an octagonal bell stage which has openings of 2 trefoiled lights with a quatrefoil under a pointed head. Interior: north arcade of 4 bays with pointed arches chamfered in 2 orders springing from octagonal columns with capitals. To the east is a tower arch, chamfered in 3 orders dying into splayed reveals. The nave roof is C16 and of 8 bays, with arch-braces down to short wall posts and up to collars with central pendant bosses. The windbraces are straight and the principals are joined by a yoke below the ridge. The north aisle roof, of 6 bays, is similar but has cusped windbraces and no bosses. At the east end of the north aisle is a pointed tower arch, with the line of the roof of an earlier narrow aisle above. In the north wall of the tower is a recess with cusped and moulded arch. Between the north chapel and the chancel are 2 moulded pointed arches of C19 date. In the north aisle of the chancel is a C19 tomb chest in a gothic style, in a recess with cusped arch and crocketed gable. The C19 chancel roof is of 6 bays with arch-braced collar trusses rising from corbels alternately carved with angels. The C18 communion rails are turned and fluted. The C19 timber pulpit is elaborately carved with tracery and figures.

SD3914705417

GII\*

### **St Katherine's Chapel**

GII\* - 216496

SAM – 27602

(Lydiate Abbey) G.V. II\* Ruined chapel. Late C 15 or early C16. For John or Lawrence Ireland. Stone. 5-bay nave, south porch and west tower. Diagonal buttresses and remains of cornice to nave. 3-light Perpendicular south windows with transoms, tracery remaining to central windows, between weathered buttresses. Porch at western end now has only lower parts of walls remaining (1985) and Tudor arched headed to inner entrance. Blank north wall with buttresses. East end has walls flanking window up to springers. Tower of 3 stages with drip moulds and diagonal buttresses. West window, tracery missing. Top 2-light bell openings. Interior has 4-centred tower arch on half-octagonal responds.

SD3639104889

### **The Scotch Piper Public House**

216497

The Scotch Piper Public House G.V. II\* Public House. Said to date from 1320, probably C 16. Cruck-framed, with lime-washed brick walls and thatched roof. 2 storeys and 3 irregular bays. 4 battered buttresses to southern end. Windows have 2-and 3-light horizontally sliding sashes with glazing bars. Entrance between 1st and 2nd bays has 4-panel door. 2nd bay has gabled dormer; end bay has higher eaves over attic window. 2 brick stacks. Later additions to left return and rear. Interior has at least 2 cruck trusses. Ground floor has some chamfered beams, one is elaborately moulded. Wattle chimney hood at first floor.

SD3647004845

GII

### **Cross base approximately 20m S of Church of St Michael**

357772

Cross base. Medieval. Sandstone. Square plan with square socket.

SD3914705417

### **Cross 10m north of Church of Our Lady**

216492

Cross. Upper part medieval, lower part a C19 restoration. Retrieved from nearby field in 1870s. Stone. 3 hexagonal steps, moulded plinth and chamfered cross.

SD3646405220

### **Cross base 50m W of road junction with northway**

357778

Cross base approx.50metres west of junction with Northway 11-10-1968 (formerly listed as remains of Cross)  
Cross base. Medieval. Sandstone. A large block of stone of square plan has an empty socket intended for a shaft of rectangular plan set diagonally.

SD3912005858

**Granville Park war memorial**

495299

War memorial, 1922, in white granite. 6.5m tall. Two-stepped base surmounted by plinth and obelisk. Inscription on bronze plaque on south face of plinth reads To the memory of / those of this parish / who fell / in the Great War / 1914 - 1918/ "Sons of this place / let this of you be said / that you who live / are worthy of your dead / these gave their lives / that you who live may reap / a richer harvest / ere you fall asleep"/ Rev. T.F.Royds. Bronze plaques with laurel leaves depicted on the edges of each plaque and a laurel garland carved in relief above the plaques commemorate the names of the dead in the First World War on three sides of the plinth. South face of the plinth has a bronze plaque commemorating the names of the dead in the Second World War at its base. There are decorative carvings around the top of the plinth and a thin band of decorative carving on the plinth below the First World War commemorative plaques. HISTORY: First World War memorial with Second World War additions situated in the Garden of Remembrance, Granville Park, Aughton. It was unveiled on the 11th February 1922 by the 17th Earl of Derby, rededicated on the 16th October 1948, and restored and rededicated in 2001. Summary of Importance: This First World War memorial with Second World War additions is carved in white granite and forms an attractive memorial to the dead of two world wars.

SD4013605627

**Owen's Farmhouse**

357809

House. 1677, altered. Sandstone rubble on ground floor, with brick above. Slate roof. Lobby-entry plan. 2 bays to left of 2-storey gabled porch and one to right. Windows are C20 casements with plain reveals. On the ground floor there is evidence for earlier blocked window openings. The outer porch doorway has a round head and a keystone inscribed: '1677 RMH'. Chimney in line with porch. Interior: inner porch door is C17, with studs and strap hinges. Room to left of porch has chamfered and stopped main beam and fire hood bressumer. The present fireplace is C20.

SD3685206774

**Church View Cottages**

216490

2 houses probably originally one. C17. Cruck-framed. Brick with stone base and quoins, now roughcast, with slate roof. One storey with attic, 3 bays. 2 segmental-headed windows with small-paned horizontally sliding sashes and 2 small casement windows, now boarded. One cross-axial and one gable-end stack to south. Rear has outshut to south end. Interior has 2 cruck trusses and wattle and daub infill. Ground floor rooms have chamfered beams, those to southern room are crude.

SD3638605731

**Church House**

216494

G.V. II Farmhouse. C17 with later alterations. Brick on stone base; slate roof. 2 storey, 2 bays, with rear wing parallel to road. Ground floor 3-light mullioned window with cogged frieze and brick label mould. 1st floor stair window and 2- light horizontally sliding sash window, both with glazing bars. Entrance has 6-panel door, the lower 4 panels fielded, upper 2 glazed. Projecting lateral stack to left and smaller lateral stack to right. Left return to road has band over ground floor interrupted by extensive early C20 rebuilding and 3 contemporary windows. Rear has painted blind window. Wing forms stable, 3-light casements to road, and part rebuilt. Rear partly of stone, with stable door and pitching eye.

SD3636605764

**Church of St Thomas**

216484

St. Thomas G.V. II Church. 1839-41 with chancel of 1913. Probably S. Holmes and Sons. Stone with slate roof, east part of dressed stone with ashlar bands and dressings. Nave, west tower, chancel, north vestry and organ loft and south chapel. 4-bay nave has sill course in form of dripmould and coped gables. Lancet windows with chamfered reveals and hood moulds. Leaded glazing with some stained glass windows. West tower has pointed entrances to west and south with hoodmoulds; north lancet. Blind crosses above. Top stage has sill course, cornice and weathered parapet and pinnacles. Lancets have central stone panel with quatrefoil, leaded glazing below and louvres above; south side has clock face above stone panel. Chancel has gabled angle buttresses and 3-light east window with early Perpendicular tracery. Similar 2-light south window and two 2-light clerestory windows over chapel, which has two 2-light windows and similar east window. North vestry has north and east windows of 3 elliptical-headed lights. Organ loft has 2- light north window. Large gabled buttress with fragmentary wall to left at south east angle of nave and fragmentary wall to west of organ loft suggest rebuilding plans. Interior: Deep west gallery on 2 octagonal iron columns; open-well stair in tower. Flat nave ceiling with tie beams, chancel has waggon roof. Chancel arch dies into octagonal piers; flanking segmental arches. Springers for projected nave arcades and rubble with projecting stones above. 2-bay segmental-headed arcade to chapel, arches dying into pier and responds, similar pointed arch to organ loft. Chancel has recess for sedilia and high reredos with alabaster relief panels.

SD3632605728

**Church of Our Lady**

216491

Church of Our Lady G.V. II Catholic church. 1854-5. By J.J. Scoles. Reredos erected in 1878. Rock-faced stone with ashlar dressings; slate roof. Nave with aisles under lean-to roofs, north west tower, south porch and vestry, and chancel. 4-bay aisles have 2-light windows with early Perpendicular tracery between weathered buttresses; end diagonal buttresses. South porch is gabled, entrance with continuous mouldings and niche above. West end on moulded plinth. West window of 2 lights with quatrefoil above. Tower has 3 stages, north door; 2nd stage has cusped lancets, top stage recessed, with 2-light louvred bell openings, cornice, embattled parapet and crocketed pinnacles. Chancel has moulded plinth, 3-light reticulated east window between diagonal buttresses; quatrefoil above. To north, 2 windows of 2 lights. To south, vestry with gable-end stacks and canted projection in western angle. Interior has arcades on octagonal piers. Roof has scissor-brace trusses. Chancel arch with

statues to either side. Alabaster chancel rail; pulpit at north end incorporates C15 figure of a bishop. Elaborate reredos with relief scenes and canopied figures, altar moved forward. Flanking cusped ogee-arched recesses. Piscina with double ogee arch. North aisle altar has quatrefoil opening revealing sculptured entombment, and reredos. West gallery and baptistery to south with C15 alabaster reliefs of life of St. Katherine and visitation taken from St. Katherine's chapel  
SD3648005204

#### **Remains of Lydiate Hall**

216495

Lydiate Hall II House, now ruin. C15 and C16 with C19 alterations and additions. Brick and stone; part of roof remains, with stone slates; timber-framed hall now demolished completely. Basic L-plan, foundations remain. North end has standing walls. 2 free standing stacks with adjoining walling, one stone, one brick, to east of 2-storey one-bay part with roof (now collapsing, 1985) and C19 brick-mullioned windows of 2:3:2-lights and ovolo mullions; 2:2:2-light to 1st floor. Collar and strut roof truss with moulded tie beam. To south side a Tudor-headed fire place with shield, cornice and C19 range. One lateral stack with clustered flues. Some remains to north of this part, and part of wall to south, with C19 window of 4 lights and transom. Many timbers remain, now dismantled and many in a state of decay.  
SD3627005116

#### **Rose Hill**

216489

Rose Hill II House. C18 with mid C19 facade. Brick with stucco and pebble-dash facade, slate roof. 2 storeys, 7 bays, the 1st 2 bays recessed, the last 5 bays form symmetrical composition. Ground floor with channelled rustication, 1st floor sill band and quoins. Ground floor has canted bay windows with hipped slate roofs. 1st floor windows have shouldered and eared architraves, friezes and cornices; the central window has consoled segmental pediment. Windows have sashes, no glazing bars. Central porch has round-arched entrance with flanking flat pilasters, frieze, cornice and hipped roof. 1st 2 bays have canopied entrance, 4 gable-end stacks and one in roof pitch. Rear has some windows with glazing bars. House is important for its associations with the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, who visited the house to say Mass in the private chapel. Here he wrote the poem "Spring and Fall" and corresponded with fellow poet Robert Bridges.  
SD3762504502

#### **Barn at Home Farm**

406424

Barn. 1704. Brick in English garden wall bond on sandstone plinth. Corrugated asbestos roof. South wall has central wide entrance with plain reveals, and 3 rows of breathers. North wall has breathers and is partly covered by C20 lean-to not included in the item. East gable wall has pitching door. Above it is a sandstone plaque inscribed: 'RWE 1704'. Interior: roof said to be of 3 bays with queen-post trusses.  
SD3833104641

#### **Aughton House**

357770

House. 1805. Roughcast brick with slate roof. Double-depth plan. 2 storeys, 2 bays. Windows are sashed with glazing bars and have painted stone lintels and sills. The doorway, between bays, has a stone surround with round head, impost blocks, and keystone. Above the door, which has 2 vertical panels, is a fanlight with gothic glazing. Above is a plaque inscribed 'PAE[?] 1805'. Gable chimneys in front of ridge, and to rear at right. Interior: dog-leg stair has turned newels and stick balusters.  
SD3878204368

#### **Holt Green House**

357769

House. Early C19. Brick in Flemish bond with slate roof. 2 storeys, 3 bays. Windows have painted stone lintels and sills and are sashed with glazing bars except for the middle one on the 1st floor which is sashed. Door, in middle bay, has painted stone or stucco Tuscan pilaster doorcase with a broken fluted frieze and with a fanlight partly within an open pediment. Stone gutter cornice. Gable chimneys  
SD3923404942

#### **Aughton Old Hall**

357782

House. C15, altered probably late C18 and restored mid C20. Brick and sandstone rubble with remains of timber frame. 2 storeys. East wall has one-bay cross-wing at left, of stone on the ground floor and brick above. The windows are C20 casements with glazing bars. Main range has exposed framing near junction with cross-wing. A doorhead with depressed pointed arch connects 2 wallposts, which are tenoned into a wallplate below the present eaves level. Immediately to the right of the 2nd post is a 3rd, also tenoned into the wallplate. To the right on the ground floor is a window. On the 1st floor are 2 windows, the left-hand one above the timber doorhead. The present doorway is to the right of the original one. Chimneys in line with original doorway and on gable of cross-wing. Interior: present stair to left of front door, divided from it by short timber-framed wall. Cross-wing has some exposed ceiling beams on ground floor, and a C17 segmental-arched stone fireplace built within the cross-passage. On the 1st floor part of a spere truss is visible, with a tie-beam interrupted by the posts, which are arch-braced to the central raised tie-beam. The timber wall visible on the ground floor is a part of the spere. An arched brace from the front post to the tie-beam has been removed, but part of a moulding remains on the post. Part of the rear post and arched brace is also visible. On the 1st floor part of the framing of the cross-wing is exposed where it abuts the hall range. The wall is separately framed in square panels with straight braces. Lack of weathering on the tie-beam of the hall truss, which has raking struts, suggests that there has always been a storied end to the hall.  
SD3913305536

#### **Barn at Lydiate House**

216487

Barn to Lydiat House G.V. II Barn and former stable. Lintel inscribed "TLM/1611". Narrow-coursed stone with brick repairs, slate roof. Barn of 3 bays has large quoins and ventilation slots. Large entrance to east. Interior has king post trusses on triangular buttresses. Stable to north has upper part of walls of brick of differing dates. 3 entrances with large lintels, one with date, 2 now blocked. 2 blocked segmental-headed windows and blocked pitching hole and loading door. Gable end has C20 entrance replacing one with lintel inscribed "ELIZABETH FAZAKERLY/1702" now incorporated in house. Interior has trusses similar to barn.  
SD3656303862

#### **Carriage House at Lydiat House**

216486

Carriage house at Lydiat House G.V. II Carriage house. Probably early C18. Narrow-coursed stone with stone slate roof. Entrance in west gable end has large lintel. North side has signs of wide entrance, now blocked, with inserted window. Interior of 3 bays has king post trusses with curved principal rafters, believed to be re-used cruck trusses.  
SD3655703900

#### **Old Gore Farmhouse**

357817

House. Probably mid C17. 3-cell lobby-entry plan. Brick in English garden wall bond on stone plinth. Slate roof. 2 storeys. Continuous roof swept down over 2-storey porch and over projecting wing at left. Windows have plastered surrounds and are mostly recessed and chamfered with mullions. The wing has one of 6 lights on the ground floor and 5 lights on the 1st floor. To each side of the porch there is one bay with 5-light windows. Those on the 1st floor have timber casements in chamfered surrounds. The 1st floor window of the porch is now blocked and is of 2 lights. The doorway, offset to the right, has round arch and rendered surround. To its left is a stone plaque with shields of arms and date '1596'. This would be an unusually early date for a lobby-entry house of this type. Chimneys at left and in line with porch. Interior: the middle room on the ground floor contains a fireplace with firehood bressumer. In the front window are 3 painted glass quarries which include the Molyneux shield of arms. The dog-leg stair is probably C18. It has a closed string, turned balusters, a pine handrail and square pine newels.

SD3617903400

#### **Upper Gore farmhouse**

357894

Former farmhouse. Late C17 (probably 1676, re-used datestone) with C18 alterations, extensively renovated and altered in part, 1990. Earlier work in coursed gray rubble, the rest brick in English garden wallbond, all on a stone plinth, under Welsh slate roof. T-plan overall. The development of the house is not clear. The rear wing has 3 rooms. The 2 rooms furthest from the front range (in stone with C17 detailing) share a large central fireplace and is quoined to all corners. This is an unusual plan for a house of this status and it is likely that it abutted a timber-framed structure now replaced in brick but sharing the same stone plinth. The front range, although rebuilt, retains its 3-room, cross-passage plan, the passage now containing late C18 stairs, exceptionally wide. Front range. Irregular, 3 windows, all under segmental heads. 3-light casements to 1st, 2 and 3-light casements to ground floor. Off-centre doorway under slate pentice. Left-hand end wall rebuilt in brick; right return with 3-light casement to each floor. Rear of right-hand room with 1990 inserted windows; a rear external stack has been removed. Brick part of rear wing with porch in angle re-using C17 doorway (re-set lintel : RGK 1676). Stone section : elevation to farmyard, 1st floor with 2-3 light windows with chamfered and rebated surrounds and diamond mullions (one of them in red sandstone) the position of a small chamfered former stair light has been removed. Ground-floor with 2 replaced windows and doorway to left. End wall with similar C17 windows, of 3 lights to ground and 1st floor (under hood moulds) both deeply rebated, and a plainer 2-light mullioned window lighting attic. Rear with one 3-light mullioned window to both floors, and a single-light window with chamfered surround in addition to 1st floor. Interior: Boxed ceiling beams. Some internal partitions removed. Roof, although considerably altered, retains C17 trusses to rear and one full cruck truss (retained from the older building) to the front range. The house and the farm buildings (the latter much rebuilt although retaining C17 features and a 1694 date stone) enclose a good cobbled yard.

SD3620603329

#### **Meadow View Farmhouse**

216488

LYDIAT PILLING LANE SD 30 SE (west side) 7/89 Nos. 145 and 147 (Meadow View Farmhouse) II Farmhouse, now 2 houses. Date stone inscribed: IDI/1753. Brick with stone dressings and slate roof. 2 storeys, 3 bays. 3 quoins. Ground floor windows have 3-light casements, these to 1st floor have 3-light sliding sashes. Entrance between 1st and 2nd bays has C20 gabled porch with date stone above. One gable end and one cross-axial stack. Rear wing. Right return has entrance.

SD3623904238

#### **New Hill House**

357821

House. Mid C19. Brick with painted stone dressings and slate roof. 2 storeys with attic. Windows are recessed and chamfered, with mullions and hoods, mostly of 3 lights, with transoms on the ground floor and with sashed lights on the 1st floor. South front has one-bay gabled projection which has a 2-light attic window. To its right is an open loggia formed by 3 Tudor arches on the ground floor, and one window on the 1st floor. To the left are 2 bays. The right-hand bay has a one-light window on the 1st floor, above a gabled porch in the angle with the projecting wing. Its outer doorway is chamfered in 2 orders with Tudor arch. Above is the shield of arms of the Molyneux family.

SD3436506159

#### **Hill House Farmhouse**

357822

House. 1673 with mid and late C19 additions. Early part of sandstone rubble; remainder of brick. Slate roof. Early part has window with plain reveals and flat brick arch on ground floor. On the 1st floor is a 5-light rebated and chamfered mullioned window. Above it is a plaque inscribed: 'EFM 1673'. To the right of the ground-floor window is a doorway with plain reveals blocked with brickwork. To its right is the present

doorway, under a slated canopy. Gable coped. To the left is a brick lean-to addition. To the right are additions with 3 gables, the right-hand one later and set back. Their windows are sashed with glazing bars.

SD3425806088

**Gerard Hall Farmhouse**

357780

House. Probably mid C19 with some earlier remains. Pebbledashed brick with dressings of sandstone and artificial stone. Slate roof. 2 storeys. Main part of house of 3 bays, with plinth, chamfered quoins, and 1st floor sill band. Windows have lugged architraves and decorated keystones. The left-hand bay has a sashed ground-floor window. The 1st floor window is a C20 casement with glazing bars; the ground-floor window at the right is similar. The 2 remaining 1st floor windows are sashed with glazing bars. Door has plain surround and a cornice supported on decorated brackets. Gable chimneys. To the right is a lower one-bay wing which has chamfered quoins at the right and horizontal sashes with glazing bars. Interior: not accessible at time of survey. Said to contain boarded doors with strap hinges, hewn beams, and stair with closed string and flat balusters.

SD4032403731

**Church of St Mary and attached Presbytery**

357781

Roman Catholic church and presbytery. 1823. Church stuccoed. Presbytery of exposed brick. Slate roofs. West gable wall blind except for a lozenge window under the apex. The gabled porch has a round-headed doorway. Cross finials on porch and main gables. North wall blind except for round window to chancel. South wall has 3 tall round-headed windows with glazing bars. Presbytery of 3 bays which have sashed windows with glazing bars and stone lintels and sills. Doorway, in central bay, has plain reveals and round brick head. Chimneys to each side and between 1st and 2nd bays. Interior: west gallery with panelled front carried on 4 iron columns. Chancel separated by wall pierced by large central round-arched opening flanked by smaller similar openings. Against the east wall are paired engaged Corinthian columns supporting an enriched entablature. Above is an oval saucer dome. Above the main body of the church is a flat ceiling with central circular design.

SD4058303746

**Lydiat Hill Bridge**

216493

Lydiat Hill bridge approx. 40 m. from road G.V. II Accommodation bridge over Leeds and Liverpool Canal. c.1770. Stone. Elliptical arch with flat band over, and parapet. Retaining walls swept forward and returned.

SD3693304727

**Lydiat Bridge**

216485

Bridge over Leeds and Liverpool Canal. c.1770. Stone. Elliptical arch, with band over and coped parapet. End pilaster strips. Plaque inscribed "NO17" on north side.

SD3661504043

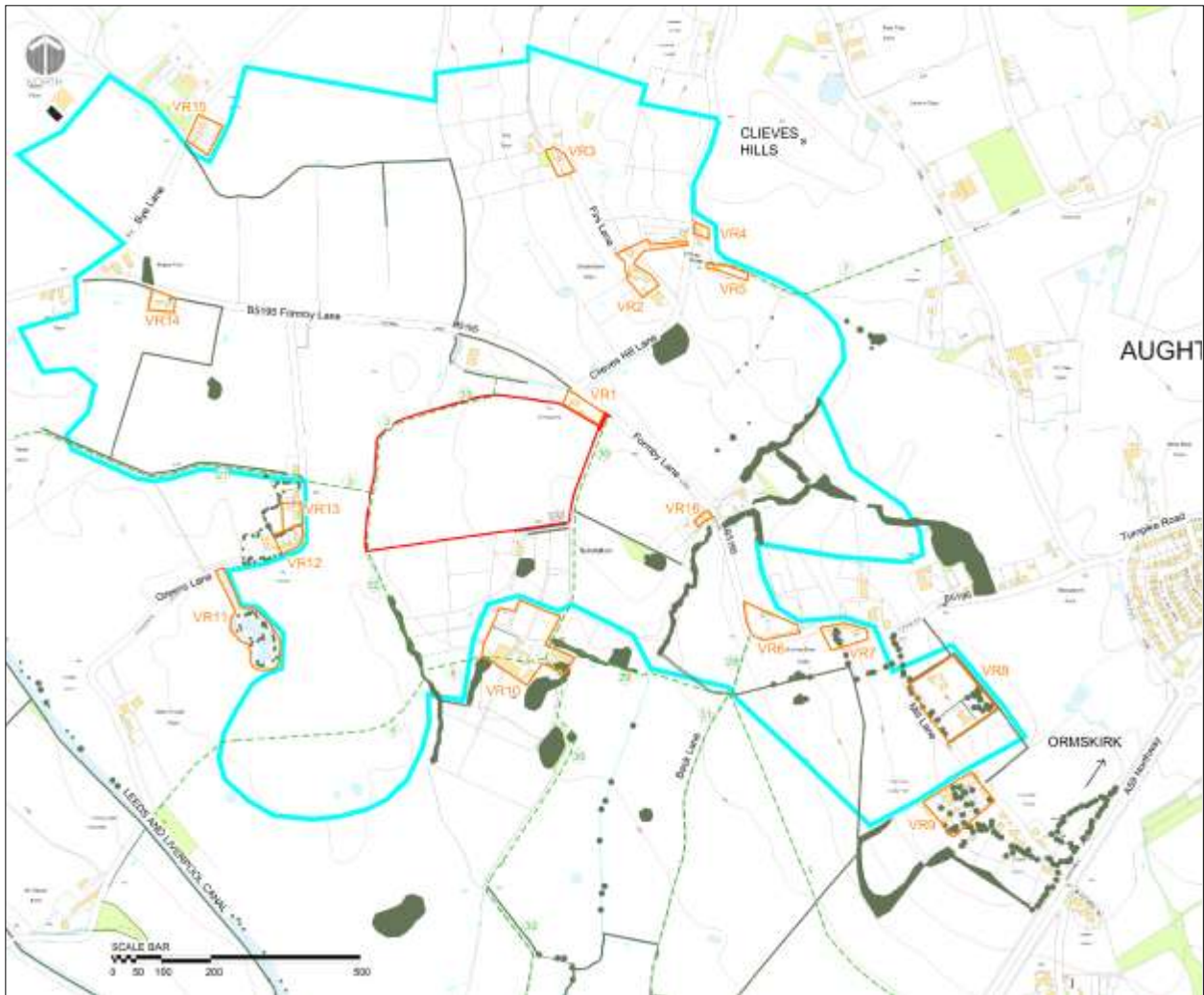
**Leeds and Liverpool canal milestone, approximately 60m N of Rimmer's bridge**

357811

Canal milestone. C19. Cast-iron. Triangular plan. Left-hand plate inscribed: 'L'POOL 16 MILES'. Right-hand plate inscribed: 'LEEDS 11 1/4 MILES'.

SD3690406422

### Appendix 3 Zone of Visual Influence



ZVI from the original application (Appendix 17 – App B – Figure 2).

## Appendix 4 Supporting Photographs

### *Walk Over*



View across to the north-eastern corner of the field, showing the northern boundary, deep drainage ditch and tall mature hedge along the eastern boundary; from the north-west.



View to the south-east corner across the field, towards Walsh Hall Farm itself; from the north-north-west.



View across the north-west corner of the field, showing clear views to the 19<sup>th</sup> century houses along Greens Lane; from the north-east.



View across the northern boundary of the field; from the west.





View along the curvilinear western boundary of the field, framed by a deep drainage ditch; from the north.



View across the south-western corner of the field to Walsh Hall; from the north-west.



View across the southern part of the field; from the west-north-west.

*HVIA*



Stock Cottage in Haskayne; from the east.



Downholland Hall, viewed from Black-a-Moor Lane across the fields showing screening from trees; from the south-south-west.



Harkers Bridge, over the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, near Halsall; from the north-north-west.



The milestone (indicated) just north of Harkers Bridge on the canal; from the south.



The milestone on the canal just south of Haskayne; from the north-east.



153 School Lane (indicated), just south of Haskayne; from the north.



107 School Lane (indicated), just south of Haskayne; from the south-south-west.



Christ Church, Liverpool Road, Ormskirk; from the south-south-west.



Holt Green House; from the north-east.



The setting of Lydiate Church: the large pasture/parkland field to the south-west; from the south-east.



Aughton Church in its large open churchyard; from the south-east.



The cross base in the churchyard at Aughton; from the east.



Aughton House, south-east of the rest of the village; from the west-north-west.





Old Hall, Aughton; from the south-east.



The barn (indicated) at Home Farm Lydiate; from the east-south-east.



The cross base with socket (indicated) on Mill Lane, Aughton; from the north.



Owens Farmhouse north of Lydiate, set amongst open fields; from the west-south-west.



View down to Lydiate Church (indicated), across the fields; from the north.



The Church of St Thomas, Lydiate; from the south-east.



Church View Cottage, set behind a large hedge and now divided from the church by the busy A road; from the south-west.



Church House in Lydiate, framed by the churchyard to the south; from the south-east.



The Church of Our Lady, the Catholic church at Lydiate; from the north-east.



The cross in the churchyard from the west-north-west.



The ruins of Lydiate Hall (indicated) set amongst the trees; from the north-east.



St Katherine's Chapel in Lydiate, set amongst its dense copse of trees; from the east-south-east.



The burial ground at the chapel, enclosed by trees and a Scheduled Monument; from the east-north-east.



The Scotch Piper public house in Lydiate; from the north-east.



Lydiate Bridge, across the Leeds and Liverpool Canal; from the south-east.



The view up one of the drives to Lydiate House, showing the barn and stables (indicated); from the north.





Lydiat Hill Bridge, over the canal; from the south-south-west.



Rose Hill House within its landscaped wooded gardens; from the north-east.



The stables and barns at Rose Hill House; from the north.



Hollin House Green Farm, an undesignated building near the edge of the proposed site in the hamlet of Hollin House Green; from the south-east.



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Hacche Lane Business Park  
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