



# The Sizewell C Project

## 6.9 Volume 8 Freight Management Facility Chapter 8 Amenity and Recreation

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## 8 Amenity and Recreation

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter of **Volume 8** of the **Environmental Statement (ES)** presents an assessment of the potential effects on amenity and recreation arising from the construction, operation and removal and reinstatement of the freight management facility at Seven Hills (referred to throughout this volume as 'the proposed development'). This includes an assessment of potential impacts, the significance of effects, the requirements for mitigation and the residual effects.

8.1.2 Detailed descriptions of the freight management facility site at Seven Hills (referred to throughout as the 'site'), the proposed development and the different phases of development are provided in **Chapters 1** and **2** of this volume of the **ES**. A glossary of terms and list of abbreviations used in this chapter is provided in **Volume 1, Appendix 1A** of the **ES**.

8.1.3 This chapter assesses potential effects that may result from disturbance of users of nearby Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (comprising public footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic), cycle routes, outside recreational facilities, Access Land and public open space (i.e. recreational resources) from changes to views, noise, dust and other emissions, and traffic. This assessment has been informed by data from other assessments within the **ES** as follows:

- **Chapter 4** of this volume: Noise and vibration;
- **Chapter 5** of this volume: Air quality;
- **Chapter 6** of this volume: Landscape and visual; and
- **Volume 2, Chapter 10**: Transport.

### 8.2 Legislation, policy and guidance

8.2.1 **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**, identifies and describes legislation, policy and guidance of relevance to the assessment of the potential amenity and recreation impacts associated with the Sizewell C Project across all **ES** volumes.

8.2.2 This section provides an overview of the legislation, policy and guidance of specific relevance to the assessment of the proposed development.

## a) International

8.2.3 There is no international legislation or policy relevant to the amenity and recreation assessment.

## b) National

8.2.4 This assessment has been prepared with due regard to the requirements of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Ref. 8.1).

8.2.5 The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref. 8.2) and the National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) (Ref. 8.3) set out requirements for amenity and recreation associated with the development of major energy infrastructures. Other relevant national policy documents, including the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (Ref. 8.4), and Planning Practice Guidance (Ref. 8.5-8.8), set out legislation and guidance in relation to Open Access Land, PRow, protecting tranquil areas, the benefits of recreation to health and wellbeing, and light pollution. The requirements set by these documents, as relevant to the amenity and recreation assessment of the proposed development, are discussed in detail in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**.

## c) Regional

8.2.6 No regional policies deemed relevant to the assessment of amenity and recreation effects.

## d) Local

8.2.7 **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES** summarises the requirements of Suffolk Coastal District Council (SCDC) Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2013 (Ref. 8.9), and SCDC Final Draft Local Plan 2019 (Ref. 8.10), as relevant to the amenity and recreation assessment. No local policy over and above that described in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES** is deemed relevant to the assessment for this site.

## e) Guidance

8.2.8 Relevant guidance relating to the amenity and recreation assessment includes:

- Suffolk Green Access Strategy DRAFT – Rights of Way Improvement Plan (Ref. 8.11).

8.2.9 Details of this, as relevant to the amenity and recreation assessment, are set out in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**.

## 8.3 Methodology

### a) Scope of the assessment

8.3.1 The generic Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) methodology is detailed in **Volume 1, Chapter 6** of the **ES**.

8.3.2 The full method of assessment for amenity and recreation that has been applied for the Sizewell C Project is included in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**.

8.3.3 This section provides specific details of the amenity and recreation methodology applied to the assessment of the proposed development and a summary of the general approach to provide appropriate context for the assessment that follows. The scope of assessment considers the impacts of the construction, operation and removal and reinstatement of the proposed development.

8.3.4 The scope of this assessment has been established through a formal EIA scoping process undertaken with the planning inspectorate. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was initially issued to the planning inspectorate in 2014, with an updated request issued in 2019, **Volume 1, Appendix 6A** of the **ES**.

8.3.5 Comments raised in the EIA Scoping Opinion received in 2014 and 2019 have been taken into account in the development of the assessment methodology. These are detailed in **Volume 1, Appendix 6C** of the **ES**.

8.3.6 An amenity and recreation impact assessment considers the effects of the proposed development on users of PRoW, permissive footpaths, long distance recreational routes, cycle routes and accessible open spaces such as (*inter alia*) common land, nature reserves, sports facilities and water bodies.

8.3.7 This assessment considers the effects on the experience of users of amenity and recreation resources as a result of:

- physical changes to resources (e.g. changes to PRoW through diversions or creation of new road crossings);
- changes to the experience people have when using recreational resources due to perceptual or actual changes to views, noise, air quality or traffic movements; and
- changes to the experience people have when using recreational resources due to increases in the numbers of people using them.

8.3.8 This assessment also considers the effects on tranquillity experienced by recreational receptors as part of the overall assessment on amenity and recreation.

8.3.9 There is no specific or general guidance on amenity and recreation impact assessment. The agreed methodology and study areas used in this chapter are informed by professional experience, review of other projects and through discussion and agreement with relevant consultees.

#### b) Consultation

8.3.10 The scope of the assessment has also been informed through consultation and engagement with statutory consultees throughout the design and assessment process.

8.3.11 The amenity and recreation impact assessment methodology and the study areas for the Sizewell C Project were consulted on between 2015 and 2019 as described in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**. The final methodology, which included the approach to the assessment of tranquillity, and study areas were discussed at a meeting with Suffolk County Council (SCC), Natural England, Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership and the Suffolk Local Access Forum on 7 February 2019 (SCDC was invited but could not attend, but were included in all correspondence and agreement). The final agreed methodology report (including study areas) was issued to SCC, East Suffolk Council, Natural England, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnership and Suffolk Local Access Forum on 24 June 2019. No further comments on the methodology or study area were received from consultees, and they were agreed. No other responses that only specifically relate to the proposed development were raised.

#### c) Study area

8.3.12 The study area includes the proposed development within the red line boundary and land immediately beyond to a distance of 1 kilometre (km) shown on **Figure 8.1**.

8.3.13 The determination of the study area was informed by a review of the proposals, supported by site visits, and an understanding of potential effects due to changes in views, noise, air quality, as well as potential changes to numbers of people using resources and physical changes to resources.

8.3.14 As noted above, the 1km study area was agreed with statutory consultees and included in the EIA Scoping Report provided in **Volume 1, Appendix 6A** of the **ES**.

d) Assessment scenarios

- 8.3.15 The assessment of effects on amenity and recreation includes the assessment of the construction, operation and removal and reinstatement phases of the proposed development, rather than specific assessment years.
- 8.3.16 For the operational phase the ‘worst-case’ visual effects are assessed (i.e. before planting matures), which would reduce over time as proposed planting matures and provides visual screening, and helps to integrate the proposed development into the landscape.

e) Assessment criteria

- 8.3.17 As described in **Volume 1, Chapter 6**, of the **ES** the EIA methodology considers whether impacts of the proposed development would have an effect on any resources (e.g. P<sub>RoW</sub>) or receptors (e.g. people using a P<sub>RoW</sub>). Assessments broadly consider the magnitude of impacts and the sensitivity of resources/receptors that could be affected in order to classify effects.
- 8.3.18 A detailed description of the assessment methodology used to assess the potential effects on amenity and recreation arising from the proposed development is provided in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**. A summary of the assessment criteria used in this assessment is presented in the following sub-sections.

i. Sensitivity

- 8.3.19 The assessment of sensitivity is based on the criteria summarised in **Table 8.1**. Sensitivity combines considerations of value and susceptibility and is assessed within the range of high, medium, low and very low.

**Table 8.1: Sensitivity assessment summary.**

Sensitivity	Description
<b>High</b>	<p><b>Value:</b> Receptors using a resource that is recognised at the national level for recreation or resources within landscapes (e.g. designated landscapes) that draw people nationally to experience their special qualities.</p> <p><b>Susceptibility:</b> Receptor has a very low capacity to accommodate the proposed form of change.</p>
<b>Medium</b>	<p><b>Value:</b> Receptors using a resource that is recognised at the regional or district level for recreation, or resources which lie within a landscape regionally or locally designated for reasons including its recreational value.</p> <p><b>Susceptibility:</b> Receptor has a low capacity to accommodate the proposed form of change.</p>
<b>Low</b>	<p><b>Value:</b> Receptors using a resource that is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value for recreation.</p>

Sensitivity	Description
	<b>Susceptibility:</b> Receptor has some tolerance to accommodate the proposed form of change.
<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Value:</b> Receptors using a resource that is degraded and with little or no evidence of being valued by the community for recreation. <b>Susceptibility:</b> Receptor is generally tolerant and can accommodate the proposed form of change.

8.3.20 Assessments of susceptibility and value may be different and professional judgement is used to conclude on the judgement of sensitivity. For example, value may be high and susceptibility may be low, and a professional judgement will be made to determine whether sensitivity is high, low or in between, supported by narrative explanation.

ii. Magnitude

8.3.21 Magnitude of impact is based on the impact that the proposed development would have upon the amenity and recreation receptor. It is assessed within the range of high, medium, low, very low with consideration given to scale, duration and extent of impact with reference to the following criteria.

8.3.22 Scale of impact identifies the degree of change which would arise from the development. It is rated on the scale summarised below:

- Large – total or major alteration to the ability to perform the amenity and recreation activity, or to the amenity and recreation experience.
- Medium – partial alteration to the ability to perform the amenity and recreation activity, or to the amenity and recreation experience.
- Small – minor alteration to the ability to perform the amenity and recreation activity, or to the amenity and recreation experience.
- Negligible – very minor alteration to the ability to perform the amenity and recreation activity, or to the amenity and recreation experience.

8.3.23 Duration of impact indicates the timescale over which it will be experienced. As the proposed development is not permanent and would be removed and the site reinstated after approximately 9-12 years there would be no permanent effects and only the following durations are relevant to this assessment:

- Long-term – 10 to 25 years.

- Medium-term – 2 to 10 years.
- Short-term – 0 to 2 years.

8.3.24 Extent of impact indicates the geographic area of the resource used by the receptors over which the impacts will be felt. This is rated as follows:

- Limited – small part of a receptor area<sup>1</sup> (< approx. 10%).
- Localised – part of receptor area (up to approx. 25%).
- Intermediate – around half of receptor area.
- Wide – more than half of receptor area.

8.3.25 The degree to which each of the three criteria of scale, duration and extent influence the assessment of magnitude will be weighed by professional judgement and clearly described.

iii. **Effect definitions**

8.3.26 Following the assessment of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impacts, effects are assessed by professional judgement with reference to the matrix shown in **Table 8.2**.

**Table 8.2: Classification of effects.**

Magnitude	Sensitivity of Receptor			
	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
Very Low	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Minor
Low	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Moderate
Medium	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Major
High	Minor	Moderate	Major	Major

8.3.27 The definition of these effects is provided in **Table 8.3**.

<sup>1</sup> Defined as the area or length of the resource used by receptors. For example, the length of a PRoW.

**Table 8.3: Definition of effects.**

Effect	Description
<b>Major</b>	Effects, both adverse and beneficial, which are likely to be important considerations at a national to regional level because they contribute to achieving national/regional objectives, or, which are likely to result in exceedance of statutory objectives and/or breaches of legislation.
<b>Moderate</b>	Effects which are likely to be important considerations at a regional and local level.
<b>Minor</b>	Effects that could be important considerations at a local level.
<b>Negligible</b>	Effects that are likely to have negligible or neutral influence, irrespective of other effects.

8.3.28 Intermediate ratings may also be given, e.g. ‘major-moderate’ and ‘moderate-minor’. Moderate-minor, for example, indicates an effect that is both less than moderate and more than minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating will always be given first; this does not mean that the impact is closer to that higher rating. Intermediate ratings may also be used for judgements of scale and magnitude.

8.3.29 Following the classification of an effect, a clear statement is made as to whether the effect is ‘significant’ or ‘not significant’. As a general rule, major, major-moderate and moderate effects are considered to be significant, and moderate-minor, minor, minor-negligible and negligible effects are considered to be not significant. However, professional judgement is also applied, where appropriate.

8.3.30 Effects are defined as adverse, neutral or beneficial. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither adverse nor beneficial but may incorporate a combination of both. The decision regarding the definition of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is adverse, neutral or beneficial are entirely separate.

f) [Assessment methodology](#)

8.3.31 The methodology has the following key stages, which are described in more detail in **Volume 1, Appendix 6K** of the **ES**:

- Baseline – includes the gathering of documented information; development of the scope of the assessment in consultation with statutory consultees; site visits and early input into the initial stages of design. Baseline site visits were undertaken during June and December 2018 and February to March 2019.
- Design – input into further stages of design including mitigation options to avoid or minimise amenity and recreation impacts where possible.

- Assessment – includes an assessment of the amenity and recreation effects of the design of the proposed development, requiring site work, liaison with the noise, air quality, landscape and visual and transport consultants. Assessment site visits were undertaken during June and July 2019.
- Cumulative Assessment – assesses the effects of the proposed development in combination with other developments, where required – refer to **Volume 10** of the **ES** for more detail.

g) **Assumptions and limitations**

8.3.32 The following assumptions have been made in this assessment:

- The assessment is based on the parameters for the structures and lighting indicated in the description of development at **Chapter 2** of this volume. It is assumed that the estimated growth rates indicated in the landscape and visual assessment, discussed in **Chapter 6** of this volume, for proposed planting would be achieved.
- It is assumed that no PRow diversions are required in relation to the proposed development.
- Assumptions have been made on the likely existing use of recreational resources based on site observations when undertaking baseline and assessment site visits.
- Tranquillity is not absolute and is relative to people's expectations in a particular location, and there are no standard nationally accepted ways of measuring effects on tranquillity in relation to amenity and recreation. The amenity and recreation assessment in this chapter is based on factors relating to tranquillity described earlier in this section.

8.3.33 The following limitations have been identified:

- No surveys of rights of way users have been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. As agreed with SCC, additional PRow surveys were not considered necessary to support this assessment.

## 8.4 **Baseline environment**

### a) **Current baseline**

8.4.1 This section provides a description of the existing amenity and recreation resources and receptors that are relevant to the impact assessment of the

proposed development. Recreational resources are illustrated on **Figure 8.1**.

8.4.2 No recreational resources are located within the site boundary.

8.4.3 However, 22 PRowS have been identified within the 1km study area that may be affected by the proposed development. Ten of these – Bridleways E-365/004/0, E-365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0, E-365/009/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0 and E-365/026/0, as well as Footpaths E-365/011/0 and E-365/024/0 – are located east of the site, in an area of Registered Common Land/Open Access Land that is bisected by the A14.

8.4.4 The PRowS within the Registered Common Land east of the site are short (approximately 500m or less), although E-365/008/0 joins a longer PRow extending to the east across the A14 and E-365/010/0 and E-365/011/0 join the wider PRow network to the south of the A1156 Felixstowe Road.

8.4.5 The other PRow that would potentially be affected include:

- Bridleway E-169/016/0 – extending from the Common Land east of the site to the north of the A14, and linking with Tenth Road;
- Footpath E-169/017/0 – located to the north of the A14 and broadly aligning with it;
- Bridleway E-169/020/0 – located to the east of the Common Land east of the site and extending outside the study area;
- Footpath E-169/022/0 located adjacent to the slip road from the A1156 on to the A14; and
- Footpaths E-365/001/0, E-365/002/0, E-365/012/0, E-405/003/0, E-405/005/0 and E-504/001/0, – all of which extend across countryside to the south of Felixstowe Road and the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway.

8.4.6 There are no other amenity and recreation resources potentially impacted by the proposed development.

#### b) Future baseline

8.4.7 There are no committed developments or forecasted changes that would materially alter the baseline conditions during the construction, operation and removal and reinstatement phases of the proposed development. Committed developments are not likely to materially alter the use of amenity and recreation resources considered within this chapter.

## 8.5 Environmental design and mitigation

8.5.1 As detailed in **Volume 1, Chapter 6** of the **ES**, a number of primary and tertiary mitigation measures have been identified through the iterative EIA process and have been incorporated into the design and construction planning of the proposed development. Tertiary mitigation measures are legal requirements or are standard practices that will be implemented as part of the proposed development.

8.5.2 The assessment of likely significant effects of the proposed development assumes that primary and tertiary mitigation measures are in place. For amenity and recreation, these measures are identified below, with a summary provided on how the measures contribute to the mitigation and management of potentially significant environmental effects.

### a) Primary mitigation

8.5.3 Primary mitigation is often referred to as embedded mitigation and includes modifications to the location or design of the proposed development to mitigate impacts, these measures become an inherent part of the proposed development.

8.5.4 Some primary mitigation measures that are described in **Chapter 2** of this volume, and the following chapters also apply to this assessment. These measures are summarised below:

- **Chapter 4** of this volume, Noise and Vibration – No specific primary mitigation measures relevant to the amenity and recreation impact assessment are required to mitigate effects of noise.
- **Chapter 5** of this volume, Air Quality – Landscape bunds on-site would be formed by reusing material from the site, reducing the need to transport material for off-site storage. Surface coverings would also minimise the extent of exposed soils.
- **Chapter 6** of this volume, Landscape and Visual Amenity – The use of landscape bunds, perimeter planting, shorter lamp columns and a best practice approach to lighting to minimise light spill. Structures and buildings would be designed to create an unimposing appearance that harmonises with the surroundings and with the buildings screened as far as possible in line with the **Associated Development Design Principles** document (Doc Ref. 8.3).

- **Volume 2, Chapter 10** of the **ES**, Transport – No specific primary mitigation measures relevant to the amenity and recreation impact assessment are required to mitigate transport effects.

b) Tertiary mitigation

8.5.5 Tertiary mitigation will be required regardless of any EIA assessment, as it is imposed, for example, as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard sectoral practices.

8.5.6 Some tertiary mitigation measures that are described in the chapters listed above also apply to this chapter, including measures within the **Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)** (Doc Ref. 8.11) to minimise effects during the construction and removal and reinstatement phases. These include measures to minimise noise and dust generation during construction and removal and reinstatement; and minimise the use of and impacts arising from lighting during all phases.

8.5.7 During construction, a **Construction Traffic Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 8.7), a **Construction Worker Travel Plan** (Doc Ref. 8.8) and a **Worker Code of Conduct** (Doc Ref. 8.16) would be implemented to help govern worker behaviour and reduce and manage the effects of traffic generated by the Sizewell C Project, as discussed in **Volume 2, Chapter 10** of the **ES**.

8.5.8 Measures set out in **Chapter 4** of this volume to control noise during the construction and reinstatement and removal phases include:

- selection of quiet plant and techniques in accordance with good practice in BS 5228 (Ref. 8.12) for all construction, demolition and earthwork activities;
- switching off equipment when not required;
- use of reversing alarms that ensure proper warning whilst minimising noise impacts off-site; and
- provision of training and instruction to construction site staff on methods and techniques of working to minimise off-site noise and vibration impacts.

8.5.9 Measures set out in **Chapter 5** of this volume to control dust during the construction and reinstatement and removal phases include:

- avoid direct site run-off of water or mud;

- cover, seed or fence stockpiles to prevent wind whipping;
- ensure an adequate water supply on the site for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate;
- display the name and contact details of person(s) accountable for air quality and dust issues on the site boundary; and
- develop and implement a Dust Management Plan, which may include measures to control other emissions as part of the **CoCP**.

8.5.10 Measures set out in **Chapter 6** of this volume to minimise visual impacts during the construction and reinstatement and removal phases include:

- minimum light levels for safe working and the minimum number of lighting elements to illuminate the work area safely will be used;
- lighting will be directed away from site boundaries. If lights cannot be positioned in such way because of physical constraints or for safety reasons, then local screening of the lights, including shielding of luminaires, where appropriate, will be used to reduce disturbance;
- task-specific lighting will be turned off on completion of the task, or at the end of the working day by the contractor; and
- contractors will consider the use of sensors or timing devices to automatically switch off lighting, where appropriate.

## 8.6 Assessment

### a) Introduction

8.6.1 This section presents the findings of the amenity and recreation impact assessment for the construction, operation and removal and reinstatement of the proposed development.

8.6.2 This section identifies the amenity and recreation receptors that would be affected by the proposed development, the degree to which they would be affected, and any likely significant effects that are predicted to occur. **Section 8.7** highlights the secondary mitigation and monitoring measures that are proposed to minimise any adverse significant effects (if required).

8.6.3 Given the nature of the proposed development, the environmental design mitigation primary and tertiary mitigation measures proposed and the assessments set out in **Chapters 4, 5 and 6** of this volume and **Volume 2, Chapter 10** of the **ES**, it is judged that the following indirect impacts that could affect amenity and recreation receptors:

- no recreational resources would be physically affected by the proposed development;
- changes to the noise environment would be noticeable during the construction and removal and reinstatement phases due to the nature of construction activity. The noise and vibration assessment provided in **Chapter 4** of this volume does not report any significant effects;
- negligible changes to air quality would occur during construction and removal and reinstatement phases for users of recreational resources, as discussed in **Chapter 5** of this volume;
- despite the extensive network of PRoW adjacent to the site it is important to note that the Registered Common Land/Open Access Land located to the east of the site was planted with crops in 2019 and the boundaries fenced off, with few of the PRoW to the south of the A14 clearly marked. Furthermore, although PRoW links across the A14 are signed it is unlikely that many users actually cross the road given the speed of traffic on the A14;
- due to distance, topography and existing woodland/hedgerow screening, the proposed development would not be visible from PRoW to the south of Felixstowe Road (Footpaths E-365/001/0, E-365/002/0, E-365/012/0, E/405/003/0, E/405/005/0 and E/504/001/0), as confirmed in the landscape and visual assessment provided in **Chapter 6** of this volume; and
- in addition, the landscape and visual assessment confirms that there would be no visibility of the proposed development from Footpath E-169/022/0 to the north west of the site, Bridleway E-169/016/0 to the north east of the site and Bridleway E-169/020/0 to the east of the site.

8.6.4 On this basis, the following amenity and recreation resources are taken forward for further assessment owing to their location within or adjacent to the site, and the potential for significant effects to arise:

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

- Bridleways E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0, Footpath E/365/024/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land; and
- Bridleways E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0, E-365/009/0 and E-365/026/0, Footpaths E-169/017/0, E-365/011/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.

8.6.5 The users of the other amenity and recreation resources identified within the study area would likely experience negligible effects, and are therefore not considered in further detail.

i. **Sensitivity of receptors**

8.6.6 The functionality of the PRoW over the Registered Common Land/Open Access Land located to the east of the site is already compromised as they are not clearly signed, are severed by the A14, and the routes are not always marked by the farmer following cultivation or ploughing, making them difficult to follow. Site observations identified that the PRoW assessed in this section were little used. The value of the PRoW is judged to be very low, and susceptibility is judged to be high, indicating medium sensitivity.

b) **Construction**

i. **Introduction**

8.6.7 The impacts during construction would arise for a period of 12 to 18 months in the early years of the Sizewell C Project main development site. Due to the nature of construction works, which involve different plant/machinery and types of activity, effects would vary throughout this time period. Where appropriate, consideration is given to the variable scale of impacts over the duration on construction.

8.6.8 The principal components of the construction phase likely to lead to impacts on the amenity and recreation receptors are considered to be:

- noise and movement from the operation of machinery and vehicles including heavy goods vehicles;
- earthworks and excavation, including the clearance of vegetation, removal of soil and the formation of landscape bunds up to 3m in height; and

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

- construction and installation of the proposed new access onto Felixstowe Road, parking areas, amenity buildings and structures, lighting, CCTV towers, barriers, fencing and signage within the site.

8.6.9 Construction work would take place during Monday to Saturday between 07:00 and 19:00, with no working on Sundays or bank holidays, which would limit impacts at night. However, some activities may require working outside of these hours. Where this is the case, East Suffolk Council would be notified in advance.

ii. [Effects on recreational receptors](#)

[Bridleways E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0, Footpath E/365/024/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land](#)

8.6.10 Users of these resources currently have open views across flat farmland and clear views of traffic on the A14 and Felixstowe Road. Noise from road traffic and trains is audible from all locations.

8.6.11 Receptors using the Registered Common Land/Open Access Land and PRoW east of the site (E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0 and E/365/024/0) would experience the greatest changes during the construction phase. Although the routes would not be closed at any point and no diversions would be necessary, receptors would experience open views of the construction works, given the intermittent nature of the existing hedgerow along the eastern boundary of the site. The construction works would add to the existing baseline noise levels resulting from traffic along the A14 and Felixstowe Road, and from trains on the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line.

8.6.12 Changes to the noise environment would be noticeable during the construction phase due to the nature of construction activity. Works including earthworks and construction of surfaces and buildings would be audible, as discussed in **Chapter 4** of this volume.

8.6.13 Some effects on air quality could potentially arise from dust generated while the perimeter bunds are constructed along the eastern boundary of the site, although these effects would be mitigated through the application of tertiary mitigation detailed in **Chapter 5** of this volume and would be negligible.

8.6.14 Lighting during the construction phase would be visible. There is currently no lighting within the site or along nearby stretches of the A14, Felixstowe Road and the Ipswich to Felixstowe railway line. However, these recreational resources are likely to have very little use after dark.

8.6.15 The changes to the environment for users of these recreational resources during construction, as described above, would impact upon recreational amenity. There would be a small effect on tranquillity although this would be limited in the context of existing road traffic and train movement and noise. Overall impacts would be of small-negligible scale; short-term duration and would affect a wide extent of these recreational resources. These impacts on users would be of very low magnitude and taking into account the medium sensitivity of route users, would result in a minor adverse effect (**not significant**).

Bridleways E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0, E-365/009/0 and E-365/026/0, Footpaths E-169/017/0 and E-365/011/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land

8.6.16 Users of these resources currently have open views across flat farmland and clear views of traffic on the A14 and Felixstowe Road. Noise from road traffic and trains is audible from all locations. Receptors using Bridleways E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0, E-365/009/0 and E-365/026/0, Footpaths E-365/011/0 and E-169/017/0, and the Registered Common Land/Open Access Land would experience distant or glimpsed views of the proposed development but are unlikely to experience a significant change in noise or air quality over the baseline conditions.

8.6.17 Overall impacts would be of negligible scale. Effects on the amenity of users of these resources would be negligible neutral (**not significant**).

iii. Inter-relationship effects

8.6.18 The amenity and recreation assessment of construction effects of the proposed development has inherently considered the impacts due to changes in views, noise, lighting, air and traffic on receptors, and further no inter-relationship effects have been identified.

c) Operation

i. Introduction

8.6.19 The principal components of the operational phase likely to result in impacts on the amenity and recreation receptors are considered to be:

- noise from vehicles using the freight management facility and additional traffic on adjacent roads due to the Sizewell C Project;
- views of the freight management facility and moving vehicles; and
- lighting within the freight management facility and lights from vehicles.

## ii. Effects on recreational receptors

Bridleways E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0 and E-365/021/0, Footpath E/365/024/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land

8.6.20 **Chapter 6** of this volume concludes that receptors using the PRow and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land to the east of the site (E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0 and E/365/024/0) would experience **significant** visual impacts during the first few years of operation before mitigation planting on the east side of the site matures. Visual effects would reduce and become **not significant** after planting has matured. The proposed development would be partially screened by a bund.

8.6.21 The potential activities associated with the operation of the proposed development that could give rise to noise impact at the closest receptors are limited to heavy goods vehicle movements. These would be heard in the context of existing traffic and train noise.

8.6.22 **Chapter 5** of this volume confirms that the effects on air quality resulting from traffic associated with the operation of the proposed development are **not significant** at all sensitive receptors near the proposed development.

8.6.23 Overall impacts would be of small-negligible scale; medium-term duration and would affect a wide extent of the routes. These impacts would be of low magnitude and taking into consideration the medium sensitivity of route users, would result in a minor adverse effect (**not significant**).

Bridleways E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0, E-365/009/0 and E-365/026/0, Footpaths E-169/017/0 and E-365/011/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land

8.6.24 Receptors using the PRow and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land to the east of the wooded area around Keepers Cottages and to the north of the A14 would experience relatively minor visual effects from the operation phase of the development, as the proposed development would be partially screened by bunds and planting, with screening increasing as mitigation planting matures over time.

8.6.25 Changes to the noise environment would be limited due to distance from the site and the existing traffic noise.

8.6.26 There would be no effects due to changes in air quality.

8.6.27 The overall impacts would be of negligible scale. Effects on the amenity of users of these resources would be negligible neutral (**not significant**).

#### d) Removal and Reinstatement

- 8.6.28 Once the need for the facility has ceased, the buildings and associated infrastructure would be removed in accordance with a removal and reinstatement plan. The site would be returned to its existing use with the exception of the widened Felixstowe Road which would remain in place (with the road markings and signage to the site removed). Where agreed with the landowner, the screen planting which would be provided around all boundaries of the site during construction and operation would be left in situ; however, this is not yet confirmed so effects are assessed on the basis that it would be removed to present the ‘worst case’.
- 8.6.29 It is anticipated that dismantling, removal and site reinstatement would follow a programme broadly the reverse of construction over a period of six months, and effects on recreation and amenity receptors are likely to be the same as for construction. The bunds would be removed late in the removal and reinstatement phase to reduce visual impacts during removal and reinstatement works. No significant effects on amenity and recreation receptors are anticipated during the removal and reinstatement phase.
- 8.6.30 For users of Bridleways E/365/004/0, E/365/005/0, E-365/006/0, E-365/010/0, E-365/021/0, Footpath E/365/024/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land there would be changes to views and to noise due to the removal and reinstatement works. Impacts would be of small-negligible scale; short-term duration and would affect a wide extent of the recreational resources. These impact on users would be of very low magnitude and taking into account the medium sensitivity of route users, would result in a minor adverse effect (**not significant**).
- 8.6.31 Users of Bridleways E-365/007/0, E-365/008/0 and E-365/009/0, Footpaths E-169/017/0, E-365/011/0, and E-365/026/0, and Registered Common Land/Open Access Land, would experience distant or glimpsed views of the proposed removal and reinstatement works but are unlikely to experience a significant change in noise or air quality over the baseline conditions. Effects would be negligible neutral (**not significant**).
- 8.6.32 On completion of the removal and reinstatement phase there would be no permanent effects as the baseline conditions would have been restored. If perimeter planting is retained there would be permanent beneficial effects.

#### i. Inter-relationship effects

- 8.6.33 The amenity and recreation assessment of effects arising from the removal and reinstatement phase has considered the impacts due to changes in views, noise, lighting, air and traffic on receptors, and no inter-relationship effects have been identified.

## 8.7 Mitigation and monitoring

8.7.1 Where possible, mitigation measures have been proposed where a significant effect is predicted to occur. Primary and tertiary mitigation measures which have been accounted for as part of the assessment are summarised in **section 8.5** of this chapter. Where other mitigation is required to reduce or avoid a significant effect, this is referred to as secondary mitigation.

8.7.2 As the assessment has not identified any significant adverse effects, no further mitigation or monitoring measures for the amenity and recreation assessment are required to reduce or avoid a significant effect.

## 8.8 Residual effects

8.8.1 **Tables 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6** present a summary of the amenity and recreation impact assessment. They identify the receptor/s likely to be impacted, the level of effect and, where the effect is deemed to be significant, the tables include the mitigation proposed and the resulting residual effect.

**Table 8.4: Summary of effects for the construction phase.**

Receptor	Impact	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation	Assessment of effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects
Bridleways: E-365/004/0 E-365/005/0 E-365/006/0 E-365/010/0 E-365/021/0 Footpath: E-365/024/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.	Short-term impacts from construction noise and changes to views.	Bunds built early to reduce visual impacts, best practice construction approach.	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .
Bridleways: E-365/007/0 E-365/008/0 E-365/009/0 E-365/026/0 Footpaths: E-169/017/0 E-365/011/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.	Short-term impacts from changes to views.	Bunds built early to reduce visual impacts, best practice construction approach.	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .

**Table 8.5: Summary of effects for the operational phase.**

Receptor	Impact	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation	Assessment of effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects
Bridleways: E-365/004/0 E-365/005/0 E-365/006/0 E-365/010/0 E-365/021/0 Footpath: E-365/024/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.	Medium-term visual impacts.	Perimeter screen planting. Grassed landscaped bunds inside the site boundary vegetation.	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .
Bridleways: E-365/007/0 E-365/008/0 E-365/009/0 E-365/026/0 Footpaths: E-169/017/0 E-365/011/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.	Medium-term visual impacts along parts of the PRow.	Perimeter screen planting. Grassed landscaped bunds inside the site boundary vegetation.	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .

**Table 8.6: Summary of effects for the removal and reinstatement phase.**

Receptor	Impact	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation	Assessment of effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects
Bridleways: E-365/004/0 E-365/005/0 E-365/006/0 E-365/010/0 E-365/021/0 Footpath: E-365/024/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land.	Short-term impacts from noise and changes to views.	Bunds removed late to reduce visual impacts, Best practice construction approaches would be adopted.	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Minor adverse <b>(not significant)</b> .
Bridleways: E-365/007/0 E-365/008/0 E-365/009/0 E-365/026/0 Footpaths:	Short-term impacts from changes to views.	Bunds removed late to reduce visual impacts, Best practice construction	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .	None	Negligible neutral <b>(not significant)</b> .

Receptor	Impact	Primary Tertiary Mitigation	or	Assessment of effects	Additional Mitigation	Residual Effects
E-169/017/0 E-365/011/0 Registered Common Land/Open Access Land		approach would be adopted.				

## References

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- 8.12 British Standard BS 5228-1 Noise: 2009/2014 – Code of Practice for noise and vibration control at open construction sites – Noise