LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

LARPORT SOLAR FARM

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDICES

FIGURES (bound in Appendix B as an attachment to this report)

DRAWINGS (bound in Appendix C as an attachment to this report)

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a Landscape and Visual Appraisal ('LVA' or 'appraisal') undertaken to accompany a planning application by Conrad Energy Ltd ('the Applicant') for the installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) array / solar farm with associated infrastructure, ('the Development') on land to the west of Clay Hill Pitch road and Dormington Substation, Herefordshire ('the Site').

The LVA has been undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect in accordance with good practice guidance. It records the baseline landscape and visual resources of the Site and surrounding area; identifies landscape and visual receptors most likely to be affected by the Development; and determines the extent to which these receptors would be altered, with mitigation in place.

2 SCOPE OF THE APPRAISAL

2.1 The Development

A full description of the Development is set out in the Planning Design and Access Statement and suite of planning drawings which accompany the planning application. In summary, the scheme consists of the following key elements which are shown on Planning Drawing 2: Site Layout Plan and Drawing 3900_DR_LAN_101 (Landscape Mitigation Plan), Appendix C:

- Solar panels mounted on metal frames driven into the ground in parallel rows orientated to the south and spaced approximately 2.5 metres (m) apart to prevent shading. The panels would also be tilted approximately 12 degrees from the horizontal with the top edge set a maximum of 2.5 m above ground level and the bottom edge at a height of just over 1 m. There is a small section in the northwest of the Site that was identified in the Flood Risk Assessment as requiring the lower end of the panels (and subsequently the top end) to be raised by up to 0.2 m to ensure they are above modelled flood depths. These areas correspond with topographically lower parts of the site so this is not considered to materially increase panel visibility;
- A DNO substation housed within a GRP enclosure/ kiosk measuring approximately 6 m x 2.5 m x 3 m high, located beside a group of existing agricultural buildings on the eastern part of the Site (beyond the area of flood risk);
- A customer substation housed within a GRP enclosure/ kiosk measuring approximately 6 m x 2.5 m x 3 m high, located adjacent to the DNO substation;
- Up to 13 inverters/ transformer located around the Site, each housed within a GRP enclosure/ kiosk measuring approximately 6 m x 2.5 m x 3 m high. Where located within the area of flood risk, as identified in the Flood Risk Assessment, the inverters would be raised up above modelled flood depths by between 0.45 m and 0.93 m, on a concrete platform supported by legs in each corner;
- Up to 4 battery storage containers located off the access road on the eastern boundary of the solar farm, close to the substation compound, each container measuring approximately 12 m x 3 m x 3 m high. Where located within the area of flood risk, as identified in the Flood Risk Assessment, the battery containers would be raised up above modelled flood depths by approximately 0.6 m;
- Buried cables linking the solar panels to the substations and linking the substations to the electricity grid via an existing substation west of Clay Hill Pitch and east of the Site;
- A 2.4 m high timber post and wire mesh security fence (deer proof) erected around the perimeter of the Site;
- A CCTV camera system mounted on 3 m high poles inside the security fence;
- An existing access track leading to the Site from Clay Hill Pitch and additional tracks within the Site providing access to the inverters. New tracks would be approximately 3.5 m wide and constructed from crushed stone on top of a geotextile membrane; and

- New tree, shrub and hedgerow planting within and to the perimeter of the Site in conjunction with wildflower meadows and other enhancements (refer to Section 7 for further details).

All GRP enclosures / containers would be painted in a suitable colour to help integrate them into the landscape and minimise their visual appearance. The final choice of colour would reflect the character of the landscape in which the Development is located and would be agreed with Herefordshire Council (HC) as the determining authority. This is discussed further in Section 4.4.4 below, and extracts provided in Appendix F of the appraisal.

The construction period of the Development would last approximately 3-4 months and the operational period would be for 30 years.

2.2 LVA Methodology & Relevant Guidelines

The methodology for the LVA is included in Appendix A and is based on current best practice guidance, namely:

- Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', 3rd Edition ('GLVIA3')[1];
- Landscape Institute (2013), GLVIA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13[2];
- Landscape Institute (2019), 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Technical Guidance Note 06/19[3];
- Natural England (2014), 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment'[4]; and
- Natural England (2019), 'An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment'[5].

The two components of LVA referred to throughout the report are based on the following definitions:

- 'Assessment of landscape effects: assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right'[6]; and
- 'Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people'[7].

Development may have a direct (physical) effect on the landscape in which it is located as well as an indirect or perceived effect from landscape character areas surrounding it. The potential landscape effects occurring during the construction and operational stages of the Development may therefore include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Changes to landscape elements: the addition of new elements or the removal of vegetation, buildings and other characteristic elements of the landscape character type;
- Changes to landscape qualities: degradation, erosion, or reinforcement of landscape elements and patterns, and perceptual characteristics, particularly those that form key characteristic elements of landscape character types;
- Changes to landscape character: landscape and character may be affected through the effect on characteristic elements (including perceptual characteristics), landscape patterns and attributes and the cumulative addition of new features, the magnitude and

[1] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.
[2] The Landscape Institute (2015) GLVIA3 – Statements of Clarification. Available online at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/glvia3-clarifications/
[3] The Landscape Institute, *Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19*, 17th September 2019.
[4] Natural England (2014), *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-character-assessments-identify-and-describe-landscape-types
[5] Natural England (2019), *An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity*. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-sensitivity-assessment
[6] Ibid. page 21.
[7] Ibid. page 21.

presence of which is sufficient to alter a notable part of the overall landscape character type of a particular area; and
- Cumulative landscape effects: where more than one development may lead to a potential landscape effect.

Visual effects are concerned wholly with the effect of development on visual receptors and general visual amenity. Visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who would experience the view such as at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. Visual effects may include the following:

- Visual effect: change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This may include changes to the quality of the view, ability of the visual receptor to appreciate the view, or changes to the characteristic elements within the view. These changes can be positive (i.e. beneficial or an improvement) or negative (i.e. adverse or a detraction); and
- Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect.

A detailed description of the methodology used in the LVA has been provided in Appendix A – LVA Assessment, ZTV, Photography and Photomontage Methodology.

2.3 Cumulative Assessment

In addition to assessing the Development as a standalone scheme, the LVA also considers the additional effects on landscape character and visual amenity of the Development in conjunction with other related developments in the vicinity. This is discussed further in Section 10 of the appraisal.

2.4 Limitations of the Assessment / Assumptions and Limitations

Glint and glare have been discussed within the Planning Design and Access Statement and the separate Glint and Glare Assessment Report which accompanies the planning application, with a conclusion that there would be no unacceptable effects on visual receptors south of the Site. This is mainly due to the absence of residential properties, recreational routes and local roads immediately south of the Site as well as screening by intervening vegetation. As such, glint and glare have not been addressed within the LVA.

The appraisal of residential properties, or groups of properties, is limited to those within approximately 1 km of the Development. A number of these properties are accessed from private farm tracks / roads and, due to the limitations of access, they have been appraised from the nearest public road or footpath with the aid of aerial photographs. In these cases, the appraisal should be regarded as an informed estimate of the likely visual effects.

2.5 Scoping Responses and Consultations

An EIA Screening Request was submitted to HC on 18th June 2020 which assumed the development would not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A formal EIA Screening Opinion from HC is awaited. Accordingly, no scoping application was required and no formal consultee responses were received. Further Pre-Application consultation with HC confirmed the need for a LVA to be prepared and HC and their landscape officer has been consulted on aspects of this, including LVA methodology, viewpoint selection and visualisations (refer Section 2.10).

2.6 Study Area

The study area for the LVA has been set as a 2 kilometre (km) radius from the planning application boundary for the Site. It encompasses the villages of Bartestree, Dormington,

Hampton Bishop, Lugwardine and Mordiford as well as the surrounding countryside, part of which falls within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Beyond 2 km, it was concluded that the Development would be highly unlikely to have any meaningful influence on landscape character or visual amenity. This is due in part to its limited height and screening by intervening vegetation, as well as the proximity of an existing substation (Dormington Substation) and related infrastructure (pylons) which has an influence on local landscape character and views.

The extent of the study area is shown on Figure 1.1 (Site Location) and Figure 1.2 (Aerial Mapping), Appendix B. A detailed study area of 1 km radius around the Site has been used to appraise the effects of the Development on occupiers of residential properties and users of public rights of way and local roads.

2.7 Desk-Based Study

Information for the LVA was gathered from the following key sources:

- Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (2015);
- Bartestree with Lugwardine Neighbourhood Plan (2016);
- Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2021-2026;
- Natural England (2013), National Character Area Profile 100: Herefordshire Lowlands;
- Natural England (2014), National Character Area Profile 104: South Herefordshire and Over Severn;
- Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2009);
- Ordnance Survey mapping at 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scales;
- Aerial Photography;
- Web GIS data bases;
- Lidar data;
- MAGIC website; and
- Google Earth, Street View and Maps.

2.8 Field Study

Following the desk-based appraisal, fieldwork was undertaken in June 2021.

Key activities undertaken during the fieldwork stage were:

- To augment and verify published descriptions of landscape character with fieldwork observations;
- To undertake an appraisal of the quality or condition of the baseline landscape and visual resource;
- To identify any significant features and elements in the landscape such as vegetation or built form that would screen the Development and thereby verify or refine the ZTV;
- To visit each viewpoint location identified during the desk study and screening report, and to microsite each viewpoint location in accordance with good practice guidance and obtain accurate coordinates;
- To undertake viewpoint photography at each viewpoint location; and
- To identify landscape features and elements that may be altered or removed as a result of the Development.

The fieldwork stage also included a provisional appraisal of effects on key landscape and visual receptors. These typically included:

- Landscape elements / features / characteristics; and
- Occupiers of residential properties, users of public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and byways), people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation and road users.

2.9 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

To assist with defining the area within which the Development would be likely to be seen, Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagrams have been prepared. These diagrams also help with identifying potential visual receptors and viewpoint locations.

ZTVs are computer generated from a digital terrain model of the 2 km radius study area (using OS Terrain 5 at 5 m resolution), with a 3D model of the Development incorporated (taken as 2.5 m above existing ground levels based on the highest parts of the solar panels). Other elements of the Development are not included in the ZTVs, which illustrate the theoretical visibility of the solar panels throughout the study area based on an average eye height of an adult person (taken as 1.6 m).

In this instance, two ZTVs have been prepared: 'bare-earth' and 'augmented / screened' (refer to Figures 1.3 and 1.4, Appendix B).

The bare-earth ZTV illustrates theoretical visibility of the Development without the benefit of screening afforded by buildings and vegetation and, as such, it represents a 'worst-case scenario'. The augmented / screened ZTV takes account of screening by buildings and woodland (identified from OS Vector Map District Data), however, it does not take into account hedgerows, individual and groups of trees and other scattered vegetation which are characteristic features of the study area. In reality, therefore, actual visibility of the Development is likely to be much less than that indicated by the augmented / screened ZTV when factoring in this additional screening.

2.10 Viewpoints

A number of viewpoints have been selected to illustrate likely views of the Development from nearby residential properties, local road network, public rights of ways and other publicly accessible locations. Some of the viewpoints also illustrate the local landscape context surrounding the Site.

The viewpoints were selected initially by reference to the ZTVs and in consultation with HC. The preferred viewpoints were then refined on Site to take account of screening by vegetation, buildings and local landform.

Following methodology established in GLVIA3, the viewpoints were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Viewpoints should be representative of the likely impacts;
- Viewpoints should show a range of different types of views;
- Viewpoints should be representative of a range of different receptor groups;
- Viewpoints should be representative of a range of distances and directions; and
- Viewpoints should be representative of the varying image of the Development within the landscape.

A summary of the final viewpoints included in the LVA is provided in Table 1.1 below. The location of the viewpoints is shown in conjunction with the ZTVs on Figures 1.3 and 1.4 (Bare Earth and Augmented / Screened ZTVs), Appendix B. All viewpoints are restricted to publicly accessible locations.

Baseline photographic panoramas obtained from each viewpoint in the direction of the Site are illustrated on Figures 1.5a-1.5h (Viewpoints 1-8), Appendix B. These were taken in Summer (June) when the seasonal filtering and screening of views by deciduous vegetation when in leaf was at its greatest. As such, other views of the Site might be obtained at other times of the year when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf.

Table 1.1: LVA Selected Viewpoints

VP Ref	Viewpoint Name	Reason for Selection	Distance to Site (m)
1	Larport Lane	Viewpoint represents close range views of the Site from the local road where it adjoins the southern boundary.	On Site boundary
2	Clay Hill Pitch West of Prior's Court	Viewpoint represents close views of the Site from the local road in the vicinity of the existing site entrance.	300 m*
3	Public Footpath MF4 South of Prior's Court	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context and is representative of views gained from the PRoW at an elevated location as well as residential receptors at Prior's Court and Prior's Frome.	700 m*
4	Dormington Road at Sufton Rise	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context and is representative of views gained from the local road as well as residential receptors at Sufton Rise.	600 m
5	PRoW HB9 at Hampton Meadow	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context and is representative of views gained from the PRoW.	700 m
6	Longworth Lane South of Bartestree	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context and is representative of views gained from the local road at an elevated location.	700 m
7	Three Choirs Way at Hampton Bishop	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context and is representative of views gained from the long distance walking route where it passes closest to the Site.	900 m
8	Swarndon Quarry East of Old Sufton	Viewpoint illustrates the local landscape context from a promoted viewpoint at an elevated location on the north western edge of the Wye Valley AONB.	1000 m

* As measured from the viewpoint to the location of the proposed substations

3 LANDSCAPE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

This section summarises current legislation, planning policy and guidance of national and local importance that are pertinent to landscape and visual matters and which are likely to have a bearing on the Site with implications for the Development.

In summary, the Site is not covered by any landscape-related planning designations but the Wye Valley AONB encroaches into south eastern parts of the study area. So policies relating to this designation are likely to be relevant as will other policies of the adopted Development Plan covering landscape and visual matters.

It is understood that no Supplementary Planning Documents are relevant to this LVA, however, the Site is covered by two Neighbourhood Areas one of which (Bartestree with Lugwardine) has an adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Local polices of a landscape and visual nature contained within the NDP are also likely to be relevant.

3.1 European Landscape Convention

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) was ratified in the UK on the 21 November 2006 and became binding on 1 March 2007.

The ELC defines landscapes as: "*An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*."

The ELC applies to natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas including land, inland water and marine areas. Its purpose is to promote landscape protection, management and

planning in relation to all landscapes, regardless of whether their quality and condition is considered outstanding, ordinary or degraded.

The UK is recognised as already putting many of the principles of the ELC into practice. The importance of landscapes in contributing to local identity and in reflecting local cultural influences and ecological diversity is demonstrated through the use of Landscape Character Assessments at a national, regional and / or local level.

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[8]

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's strategic vision for the planning system in England and how it is expected to be applied at a local level in development plans and planning decisions. The NPPF places great emphasis on plans and developments that contribute to sustainable development.

Policies and paragraphs which cover landscape and visual matters and which are most relevant to the Site and the Development include:

- Paragraph 130, which covers design although matters of layout and appearance are not particularly relevant to the type of development proposed here. However, bullet b) notes that developments should incorporate effective landscaping, whilst bullet c) requires developments to be sympathetic to local character and their landscape setting;
- Paragraph 134, which also covers design issues and notes that decision-makers should refuse permission for development that fails to take opportunities available to improve the character and quality of an area;
- Paragraphs 152 and 158 which deal with climate change, with para. 148 emphasising the importance of the planning system in supporting the transition to a low carbon future, including support for renewable and low carbon energy. Bullet b) of para. 154 also requires decision-makers, when determining applications for renewable and low carbon schemes, to grant consent if the impacts are (or can be made) acceptable;
- Paragraph 174, which deals with the natural environment with bullets a) and b) noting that policies and decisions should not only protect and enhance valued landscapes, but also recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the wider countryside. Bullet d) also notes that new development should minimise impacts on, and provide net gains for, biodiversity; and
- Paragraph 176, which also deals with the natural environment, specifically development within designated landscapes (including AONBs) where it notes that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing their landscape and scenic beauty. It says nothing about proposals that lie outside of, but adjacent to, designated areas and which may affect their setting (as is the case here).

3.3 Local Planning Policy

At a local level, the adopted Development Plan for Herefordshire Council (HC) currently comprises a number of documents of which the most pertinent to this LVA are:

- Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (2015); and
- Bartestree with Lugwardine Neighbourhood Development Plan (2016).

HC is in the process of updating the Local Plan Core Strategy, however, this is at an early stage and at the time of preparing this LVA no evidence base to support proposed policies and plans had been published on the HC website.

[8] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Revised July 2021), National Planning Policy Framework. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

3.3.1 Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (2015) [9]

Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted by HC in October 2015 and replaces all of the 2007 Unitary Development Plan policies (except those for Minerals and Waste).

It is a key document of the Local Plan that provides the strategic planning framework for the county's future development needs up to 2031. A range of policies sets out how these needs can be met while at the same time achieving social and environmental objectives. The Local Plan Core Strategy is accompanied by a Policies Map, which illustrates geographically the extent of policies and designations.

Policies covering landscape and visual matters that are most relevant to the Site and the Development are summarised below.

- Policy LD1 (Landscape and Townscape), which requires development proposals to: a) demonstrate that the character of the landscape / townscape has positively influenced the scheme in terms of its design, scale, nature and site selection and the protection and enhancement of the setting of settlements and designated areas; b) conserve and enhance the natural, historic and scenic beauty of important landscapes and features through the protection of the area's character and ensuring appropriate uses, design and management; c) incorporate new landscape schemes that enables new development to integrate appropriately with its surroundings; and d) maintain and extend tree cover where important to amenity through the retention of important trees, planting of appropriate replacement trees or new tree planting;
- Policy LD2 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity), which requires development proposals to conserve, restore and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity assets of the county through the: 1) retention and protection of conservation sites, habitats and important species in accordance with their status; 2) restoration and enhancement of existing biodiversity and geodiversity features on site; and 3) creation of new biodiversity features and wildlife habitats;
- Policy LD3 (Green Infrastructure), which requires development proposals to protect, manage and preserve existing Green Infrastructure (GI) assets and deliver new GI features. New development should: 1) identify and retain existing GI corridors and linkages (including trees, hedgerows, woodland and water courses); 2) provide on-site GI that helps to enhance the existing network; and 3) integrate with and connect to the surrounding GI network; and
- Policy SD2 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation), which confirms that proposals that seek to deliver renewable and low carbon energy will be supported provided they: 1) do not adversely impact upon international / national sites of natural or heritage value; 2) do not adversely affect residential amenity; 3) do not result in any significant detrimental impact upon the character of the landscape and /or the built or historic environment; and 4) can be connected efficiently to the existing grid infrastructure.

3.3.2 Bartestree with Lugwardine Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011-2031[10]

Bartestree with Lugwardine Neighbourhood Development Plan (BLNDP) was adopted by HC in December 2016. It provides a vision for the future of both communities until 2031 and sets out a range of local policies to realise the vision.

[9] Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted October 2015): Available online at: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/local-plan-1/local-plan-core-strategy (Accessed on 26/04/2021).

[10] Bartestree with Lugwardine Neighbourhood Development Plan (adopted December 2016). Available online at: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/3027/bartestree-with-lugwardine-group-neighbourhood-development-plan-made-1-december-2016 (Accessed on 27/04/2021).

The BLNDP covers that part of the Site which lies west of the River Frome. The remainder of the Site, east of the river, falls within Dormington and Mordiford Neighbourhood Area, however, preparation of a NDP for this area remains at an early stage.

The summary section of the BLNDP lists various issues for which a range of policies have been developed. One issue listed is that of "*encouraging renewable energy*", however, the BLNDP does not include a specific policy for renewable energy proposals.

Other issues listed that are of some relevance to this LVA include "*protecting green spaces…..*" and "…..*ensuring that landscape and far reaching views on both sides of the A438 remain unimpeded*". But the only policy included in the BLNDP of a landscape and visual nature is Policy BL8 (Local Green Spaces, Allotments and Rights of Way). This policy identifies a number of existing green spaces within both villages that are important for their beauty, historic value or other significance which it seeks to protect from development. It also notes that public rights of way will be preserved.

Policy BL7 (Conserving Historic Character) seeks to protect heritage assets and their setting. It also seeks to conserve or enhance non-designated heritage assets shown on Map C in Appendix 3, with any development proposals on or close to such assets being judged against the scale of any harm or loss caused and the significance of the asset affected. That part of the Site which lies to the west of the River Frome is shown on Map C as being included within Longworth Unregistered Park and Garden. But other than the former driveway which still exists, all other physical evidence of the park has largely been replaced by arable fields and orchards.

3.4 Landscape Planning Designations and Protected Features

As part of the baseline, any value attached to the landscape within the study area is taken into account. This usually takes the form of landscape-related designations valued for their wild or scenic beauty at a national, regional or local level such as National Parks, AONBs and Special Landscape Areas (or equivalent designations).

The baseline also takes account of any protected features, the presence of which may indicate value at a national, regional or more local level. Protected features mostly relate to cultural heritage or nature conservation assets such as World Heritage Sites, Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland, etc.

Landscape-related designations and protected features identified within the Site and wider study area from a search of the HC website and MAGIC website[11] are listed in Table 1.2 below and shown Figure 1.6 (Landscape Baseline), Appendix B.

Table 1.2: Landscape Designations and Protected Features

Landscape Designations and Protected Features	Present Within Site	Present Within Study Area (2 km radius)
National Parks	None	None
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Special Landscape Areas (or equivalent)	None	None
Green Belt	None	None
Country Parks	None	None
World Heritage Sites	None	None
Scheduled Monuments	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)

[11] MAGIC website. Available online at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/ (Accessed on 28/04/2021).

Landscape Designations and Protected Features	Present Within Site	Present Within Study Area (2 km radius)
Conservation Areas	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Listed Buildings	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens / Registered Battlefields	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
National Trails/ Cycle Routes and Long-Distance Footpaths	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Public Rights of Way	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Nature Reserves	None	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Ramsar Sites	None	None
Special Areas of Conservation	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Special Protection Areas	None	None
Registered Common Land	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)
Ancient Woodland	None	Yes (refer Section 4 for details)

4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

This section describes the baseline landscape character and visual amenity against which the Development would be appraised. This has been identified from desktop studies supplemented by field observations of the Site and wider study area.

4.1 Landscape Character Types / Areas

An appraisal of the baseline landscape character has been considered at three levels:

- National / Regional level, in relation to published National Character Area (NCA) profiles identified by Natural England;
- County / District level, in relation to published Landscape Types (LTs) identified by Herefordshire Council; and
- Local / Site level, based on field observations of the study area and the site itself.

4.2 National / Regional Landscape Character

At a national / regional level the Site lies within NCA 100: Herefordshire Lowlands[12], although the boundary with NCA 140: South Herefordshire and Over Severn[13] lies just to the east where it broadly follows the lower slopes of a line of wooded hills in the vicinity of Dormington, approximately 700 m from the Site.

The boundary between these NCAs is shown on Figure 1.7 (Landscape Character), Appendix B, however, maps prepared by Natural England note that NCA boundaries are "*not precisely mapped and should be considered as a zone of transition between NCAs*".

[12] Natural England (2013), National Character Area Profile 100: Herefordshire Lowlands. Available online at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4827527503675392?category=587130 (Accessed on 29/04/2021).
[13] Natural England (2014), National Character Area Profile 104: South Herefordshire and Over Severn. Available online at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5018311469301760?category=587130 (Accessed on 29/04/2021).

4.2.1 NCA 100: Herefordshire Lowlands

NCA 100 lies almost entirely within Herefordshire, with small areas to the north and east extending into Shropshire and Worcestershire and to the southeast in Gloucestershire. The Site itself lies to the east of Hereford and towards the southern extent of the area.

As its name indicates, the landscapes of the NCA are characteristically associated with a low-lying and gently undulating landform drained by several rivers flowing through wide, fertile valleys of which the Wye is the most significant. They are predominantly rural landscapes of a largely tranquil character in which mixed arable and livestock farming dominates as well as soft fruit production on the fertile soils. Woodland cover is a significant feature and traditional orchards are also widespread.

The key characteristics of the NCA are set out in a supporting document or 'profile', which was updated by Natural England in 2013. Many of these relate to the landscapes of the main river valleys and are present in the vicinity of the Site, which lies approximately 1 km northeast of the confluence of the Rivers Lugg and Frome and approximately 2 km northeast of the River Wye.

The key characteristics of the NCA which are represented in the local landscapes within which the Site lies comprise:

- "*Gently undulating landscape with…..wide agricultural floodplains.*
- *Much of the area is underlain by Old Red Sandstone, with localised deposits of alluvium and glacial drift…..Fertile soils support intensive mixed agriculture, especially on the better drained glacial river terraces.*
- *Wide, meandering river valleys drain the area, including the Wye, a major ecological and recreational asset, and the Lugg, and the valleys of the rivers Frome and Arrow also offer rich habitats.*
- *Pasture with occasional wet meadows and permanent grassland along the rivers. Low hedges with sparse tree cover. Arable cultivation on lower-lying land.*
- *Localised traditional and bush orchards and occasional hop fields planted with windbreaks.*
- *Timber-framed (black-and-white) buildings are characteristic with stone and red brick also used frequently as buildings materials.*
- *Dispersed rural settlement pattern throughout with scattered villages, hamlets, farmsteads and clustered settlements around commons…..*
- *Tranquil and relatively undisturbed by major infrastructure aside from a few crossing A roads between Hereford, Hay-on-Wye and Leominster".*

4.2.2 NCA 104: South Herefordshire and Over Severn

NCA 104 stretches from the border with the Forest of Dean in the south, north westwards to Ewyas Harold in South Herefordshire and north eastwards to the southern point of the Malvern Hills.

Natural England describes the NCA as a picturesque, rural, well-wooded landscape defined by an arc of hills to the north (the Woolhope Dome) from where stunning panoramic views are available. Substantial areas of ancient semi-natural woodland dominate the landscape together with a network of ancient hedgerows with hedgerow trees which contribute to a timbered feel. The meandering River Wye also flows through the centre of the area with much of is course included in the northern part of the Wye Valley AONB, which is a recognition of its natural beauty.

The key characteristics of the NCA are similarly set out in a supporting 'profile' updated by Natural England in 2014. Those that are represented in the landscapes within which the Site is located mainly relate to the steep-sided, wooded hills east of the Site, which are a locally prominent influence. They comprise:

- "*An undulating landscape with…..Silurian limestone ridges and clay vales of the Woolhope Dome…..*
- *Well-wooded character created by larger woodlands confined to the steeper slopes adjacent to the floodplain and to hillsides…..*
- *Substantial country houses set within historic landscaped parklands.*
- *Varied field pattern bounded by hedgerows, ranging from sparse and low 19th century to dense and species-rich hedgerows dating from the medieval period.*
- *Small-to-medium sized pastures typify livestock farming on the higher ground with steeper slopes.*
- *Dispersed settlement pattern throughout the area with scattered farmsteads, small hamlets, numerous isolated churches and manor houses linked by narrow winding roads.*
- *Remnant commons and patches of unimproved grassland typically found on hilltops and inaccessible steeper valley sides.*
- *Traditional building materials…..to the east of the River Wye…..include brick, 'black and white' timber-framed and grey Silurian limestone, render and whitewash".*

In summary, the landscapes of the Site and its immediate surrounds are predominantly characteristic and typical, or representative, of their 'host' NCA 100, although they display some of NCA's 104 key characteristics and are influenced by the steep, wooded hills that define its northern edge. In reality, the Site and its immediate surrounding area represents a transition between the two.

4.3 County / District Landscape Character

At a county / district level, the main source of reference has been the Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (HLCA)[14], which was originally produced in 1994 but was updated by HC in 2009.

The HLCA divided the landscapes of the county into a number of generic Landscape Types (LTs). These are distinctive types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character and, as such, they can occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar characteristics (e.g. landform, landcover, land use, settlement pattern). The LTs are all generically named to reflect their homogeneous nature (e.g. High Hills and Slopes, Wooded Hills and Farmlands and Wooded Estatelands).

Five LTs fall within the study area and are identified on Figure 1.7 (Landscape Character), Appendix B. Together with the two NCAs that also fall within the study area (as described above), these LTs reflect the complex and transitionary character of the landscapes around Dormington.

The Site itself straddles two LTs: Principal Settled Farmlands and Riverside Meadows. These LTs cover the majority of the study area where they correspond with low-lying and gently undulating landscapes and the broadly flat river valleys which cross them, in this case the Lugg and Frome. The boundary between these LTs is essentially defined by the edges of the floodplains which adjoin the rivers, which, in the case of the River Frome, is both narrow and indistinct. In contrast, the floodplain adjoining the River Lugg is wider and more clearly defined including by local roads that follow it on slightly higher ground.

To the east of these LTs, the boundary of Principal Wooded Hills LT extends to within approximately 700 m of the Site where it follows the lower slopes of a line of steep-sided hills just east of Clay Hill Pitch and abuts Principal Settled Farmlands. Two other LTs also encroach into the far east of the study area (Principal Timbered Farmlands and Forest Small

[14] Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment, Supplementary Planning Guidance (2004), Updated 2009. Available online at: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/directory-record/5944/landscape-character-assessment-2004-updated-2009- (Accessed on 27/04/2021).

Holdings and Dwellings), however, neither exerts any influence on the Site, mainly due to topography but also distance.

The key characteristics of Principal Settled Farmlands, Riverside Meadows and Principal Wooded Hills are briefly summarised below with reference to the HLCA.

4.3.1 Principal Settled Farmlands

Principal Settled Farmlands occurs across much of central Herefordshire where it is the dominant landscape type. Its general character is described in the HLCA as follows:

"*The rolling, lowland area of Central Herefordshire is dominated by this Landscape Type. These are settled agricultural landscapes of dispersed, scattered farms, relic commons and small villages and hamlets. The mixed farming land use reflects the good soils on which they are typically found. Networks of small winding lanes nestling within a matrix of hedged fields are characteristic. Tree cover is largely restricted to thinly scattered hedgerow trees, groups of trees around dwellings and trees along stream sides and other watercourses. The composition of the hedgerow tree cover differs from that of Timbered Farmlands in its lower density and lack of oak dominance. This is a landscape with a notably domestic character, defined chiefly by the scale of its field pattern, the nature and density of its settlement and its traditional land uses. Hop fields, orchards, grazed pastures and arable fields, together make up the rich patchwork which is typical of Principal Settled Farmlands".*

The landscape of the Site and surrounding area is typical of this general description. In addition, the key primary and secondary characteristics of the LT are 'hedgerows used for field boundaries' and 'mixed farming land uses' which are also well represented in the local landscape.

The overall landscape strategy for Principal Settled Farmlands is one of 'conservation' and 'enhancement'. Opportunities identified that are potentially relevant to this LVA include:

- Conserve and enhance the small to medium-scale pattern of hedged fields;
- Conserve and enhance tree cover and wetland habitat along watercourses;
- Prevent the decline of permanent pastures, which are often species-rich; and
- Maintain and increase traditional orchards.

The HLCA notes that new woodland should not be introduced as it would be out of character with the LT.

4.3.2 Riverside Meadows

Riverside Meadows are linear landscape types that are closely associated with the principal rivers that flow through Herefordshire which, within the study area, include the Lugg and Frome. Their general character is described in the HLCA as follows:

"*These are linear, riverine landscapes associated with a flat, generally well defined, alluvial floodplain, in places framed by steeply rising ground. They are secluded pastoral landscapes characterised by meandering tree lined rivers, flanked by riverside meadows which are defined by hedge and ditch boundaries. Settlement is typically absent……These are landscapes that accommodate a degree of annual flooding, a factor which has been reflected in the traditional patterns of land use, the lack of settlement and development (except for the occasional water mill) and the representation of species and habitats tolerant of such waterlogged conditions…..Tree cover is a notable element of Riverside Meadows, usually in a linear pattern along the hedge and ditch lines and to the banks of watercourses. Typically, species are alder and willow, the latter often pollarded…..*"

The landscape of the Site and surrounding area is less representative of this general description, partly because the River Frome is a minor watercourse and the extent of its floodplain is much less evident than where adjoining other water courses. Furthermore, of those key primary characteristics identified for the LT, 'pastoral land use' and 'well defined

linear patterns of willow and alder' are not present on the Site, although 'tree cover represented by stream side and hedgerow trees' is. Similarly, of those secondary characteristics listed, 'wetland habitat' is not present, but 'river channel' and 'hedge and ditch boundaries' are.

The overall landscape strategy for Riverside Meadows is one of 'conservation', 'restoration' and 'enhancement'. Opportunities identified that are potentially relevant to this LVA include:

- Conserve, restore and enhance continuous linear tree cover along hedgelines, ditches and watercourses;
- Conserve and restore wetland habitats and seek opportunities for further wetland habitat creation;
- Conserve areas of permanent pasture and seek opportunities to return arable areas to pasture; and
- Seek opportunities to restore natural river bank and bed features and resist further loss of river habitat.

4.3.3 Principal Wooded Hills

Principal Wooded Hills occurs in several locations across Herefordshire as prominent rounded hills, often steep-sided and densely wooded. It encroaches into eastern parts of the study area and adjoins Principal Settled Farmlands, with the boundary between the two broadly following the lower slopes of a series of hills including Blackbury Hill. This boundary also coincides with the boundary between NCA 100 and NCA 104.

The general character of Principal Wooded Hills is described in the HLCA as follows:

"*These are upstanding, densely wooded, hilly landscapes with a steeply sloping topography. The inherent character is derived from the pronounced relief and the dominant, flowing woodland cover which provide a strong sense of unity and visual integration. These are landscapes of large irregularly shaped ancient woodlands and wooded streamlines which interlink with the surrounding hedged fields……sparsely settled by farmsteads and wayside cottages. Views are usually framed between woodland blocks".*

Although this description and the key primary / secondary characteristics of the LT applies to the line of hills in the east of the study area, the character of the Site and its immediate setting is that of Principal Settled Farmlands and, to a much lesser extent, Riverside Meadows.

4.4 Local / Site Landscape Character

Although an important factor in the baseline assessment, the national / regional and county / district character types and areas described above cover broad areas which share similar characteristics. The level of detail provided is insufficient for more fine grained assessments such as this LVA, since, within each character type / area, there is likely to be considerable local variation that needs to be understood and factored into the baseline studies.

This section therefore analyses the landscape character of the Site and its surrounds in more detail based on field observations supported by maps and aerial photographs. It is divided into two parts: the first part summarises the local landscape character context corresponding with the study area; the second part describes the Site and its immediate boundaries / context.

4.4.1 Local Landscape Context

For ease of reference, the study area is broadly described in relation to sectors extending around the Site corresponding with the principal points of the compass (north, east, south and west), starting at north and working in a clockwise direction.

4.4.1.1 Northern Sector

This sector is characterised by a low-lying and gently rolling landscape that typically sits between 50 m and 75 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) – Refer Figure 1.8 (Topography), Appendix B. It is also a predominantly agricultural landscape and one which it quite open in character.

A small deciduous plantation and commercial orchard extend a short distance north of the Site to the A438 and provide a strong measure of containment. The road itself runs through this sector and has an urbanising effect along the corridor through which it travels, whilst a section of the Hereford to Worcester railway line passes further to the north.

Adjoining the A438 to the north is a larger block of deciduous woodland, but otherwise land use is predominantly a mixture of arable and grazing land with a scattering of orchards. Fields are mostly medium-sized and both regular and irregular in shape. They are also generally enclosed by hedgerows and whilst the overall field pattern is still clear, many of the hedged boundaries are fragmented or have been removed.

There is very little tree and woodland cover in the agricultural landscapes in this sector, just a scattering of small wooded areas and belts of trees along watercourses. This includes the River Frome which crosses the area, albeit it is an insignificant feature. Consequently, there is limited nature conservation interest in this sector.

A row of pylons supporting overhead power lines also crosses this sector, the vertical structures being prominent in the more open landscape. Other detracting / incongruous features include some modern agricultural buildings.

Settlement is limited to the hamlet of Weston Beggard with its Grade II* listed church and a scattering of farmsteads and small groups of properties linked by a network of minor roads. There is also a good network of public rights of way that provide access to the countryside.

4.4.1.2 Eastern Sector

The majority of this sector is characterised by a distinctive and often complex topography associated with a line of hills that extend east of Clay Hill Pitch and reach approximately 200 m AOD in the vicinity of Backbury Hill with steep northwest and west-facing slopes.

A series of arable fields of broadly medium-size and regular shape adjoin the Site and rise up gradually to Clay Hill Pitch, which generally follows the 60 m contour at the base of the hills. Although defined in part by hedgerows, many of the field boundaries are fragmented or missing and this conveys an open and slightly neglected / degraded quality.

Several rows of pylons and telegraph poles supporting overhead power lines also cross these fields and converge on Dormington Substation, a large energy infrastructure complex which adjoins Clay Hill Pitch and is quite visible where only partly contained by perimeter vegetation. The combination of vertical structures and extensive infrastructure complex set within a more open landscape detracts from the otherwise very good quality landscapes which characterise other parts of this sector further to the east.

Beyond Clay Hill Pitch, on the lower slopes of the hills, land use comprises a mixture of arable and grazing land with some orchards. Fields are small to medium-size and both regular and irregular shape with a more intact network of boundary hedgerows.

There is also a concentration of hamlets on the lower slopes adjoining Clay Hill Pitch and other minor roads which run parallel with it. They include Dormington, Prior's Court, Prior's Frome, Sufton Rise and Mordiford. With the exception of Sufton Rise which is of a distinctly modern character, these settlements retain a strong historic character with various listed buildings, including the Grade II* listed church at Dormington. Mordiford itself is designated as a Conservation Area and includes the Grade II* listed grounds of Sufton Court.

Beyond the lower slopes, the landform rises quite steeply and land use is mostly pasture as small-scale, irregular shaped fields contained by thick hedgerows and belts of trees. On the upper slopes and ridges, land use is dominated by large blocks of woodland, many of which are of ancient origin. There are also some areas of common land e.g. Backbury Common and Backbury Waste.

East of Backbury Hill, the land undulates with rounded hills incised by small watercourses. The steeper slopes are well-wooded but there are also small fields of pasture and other small holdings on the lower slopes. Settlement is very dispersed, consisting of isolated farmsteads and properties and small communities.

A comprehensive network of public rights of way provides widespread access to these hills, but views to the west in the direction of the Site are largely prevented by the extensive woodland cover and network of hedgerows.

4.4.1.3 Southern Sector

As described above, the line of hills east of Clay Hill Pitch exert a strong influence on the wider landscape, however, the Site is more strongly influenced by the flatter Principal Settled Farmlands and Riverside Meadows landscape types that extend to the west of these hills and mostly sit below 50 m AOD.

Several medium to large-sized fields in arable and pasture use sit between the Site and the River Lugg. The boundaries are mostly defined by hedgerows, although as with those fields to the east of the Site they are degraded or missing in places.

The River Lugg meanders through this sector on its way to joining with the River Wye at the southern limit of the study area. It is also joined by the River Frome south of the Site, however, unlike the Frome, it occupies a wider and more clearly defined floodplain where adjoined by linear pastures and meadows. The course of the river is also defined by belts of trees.

Between the Lugg and the Wye the land rises slightly and land use is predominantly agricultural, although settlement is also concentrated here by way of the small village of Hampton Bishop. Arable uses dominate the higher ground with occasional orchards and some grazing land, the latter concentrated on the edges of the village. Fields are mostly medium-sized and regular in shape, except for the grazing land which is smaller and more irregular. They are also generally enclosed by hedgerows, with those enclosing the grazing land being thicker.

Hampton Bishop itself is designated as a Conservation Area and includes several listed buildings, of which the Grade I listed church in the centre of the village is the most significant. A section of the Three Choir's Way long distance footpath also passes through the village and continues to Mordiford closely following the course of the River Lugg.

There is virtually no tree or woodland cover within the agricultural landscapes in this sector, beyond belts of trees along the River Lugg. In contrast, Hampton Bishop appears well-wooded where there is extensive mature tree cover within and on the edge of the village.

Conservation interest in this sector is, however, quite high by way of riverside meadows / common land adjoining the River Lugg, such as Hampton Meadow and Lower Lugg Meadow further to the west, both designated as SSSIs. The river itself is also designated as a SSSI.

Detracting features are limited to several rows of pylons and telegraph poles which follow the course of the Lugg and Wye and converge in the vicinity of the Site before continuing to Dormington Substation.

4.4.1.4 Western Sector

As with the northern sector, this sector is strongly influenced by Principal Settled Farmlands landscape type where the gently rolling landform sits between 50 m and 90 m AOD, however, Riverside Meadows also exerts some influence where the River Lugg extends into the area.

Land use is predominantly arable and grazing land laid out as small to medium-sized hedged fields, although some larger orchard fields lie immediately adjacent to the Site on gently rising ground. Tree cover is limited to a scattering of small wooded areas and belts of trees adjoining minor watercourses and the area retains an open character.

Settlement is more widespread and includes the villages of Lugwardine and Bartestree as well as a scattering of farmsteads and isolated properties. Both villages adjoin the A438, which continues across this sector, and have effectively merged where they have expanded along the road. A new residential development (Frome Park) also adjoins Bartestree to the south within the grounds of a former religious order. It includes a number of existing buildings, some of which are prominent features of the local landscape where they extend to three-storeys with high-pitched roofs and towers (Frome Court). The development also includes a modern two-storey hospice building (St. Michael's) on the southern edge.

Few detractors exist in this sector beyond the urbanising influence of the A438 and the expanded settlements which adjoin it.

4.4.2 Character of the Site and Immediate Surrounds

The Site, as defined by the redline application boundaries, extends to an area of some 46.15 hectares (ha) that sits in open countryside immediately west of Dormington Substation on Clay Hill Pitch, near Dormington. The location of the Site relative to the village and substation is shown on Figure 1.2 (Aerial Mapping), Appendix B.

The Site occupies a very shallow north-east to south-west orientated valley with a largely insignificant watercourse (the River Frome) flowing through the centre and dividing the Site. Ordnance Survey contour mapping of the area (1:25,000 scale) shows the 50 m contour adjoining the western boundary and passing immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary on either side of the river.

The Site is presently in agricultural use and comprises several fields of broadly medium-size and regular shape, together with an existing access track from Clay Hill Pitch. All of the fields are presently used to grow arable crops.

Several rows of pylons and telegraph poles supporting overhead power lines that emanate from Dormington Substation cross the Site or pass immediately adjacent to it and a group of modern farm buildings adjoin the Site beside the existing access track. Collectively, the pylons / telegraph poles, substation and farm buildings are urbanising features and detractors in the local landscape.

The Site boundaries are variously defined by native hedgerows and belts of trees which afford varying degrees of enclosure / containment. Intact hedgerows define the northern boundary and, together with the small plantation and orchard that adjoin the Site to the north, provide a high level of containment that prevents visibility of the Site from the A438.

In contrast, the eastern boundary is largely open except for a short section of hedgerow immediately south of the access track which includes a number of hedgerow trees. This affords views of the Site from Clay Hill Pitch on slightly higher ground and from residential properties on rising ground east of the local road. Similarly, the southern boundary with Larport Lane is defined by hedgerows maintained at a height of between 1 m and 2 m and these are also fragmented in places which allows some views across the Site.

The western boundary partly adjoins the River Frome and here linear tree belts define its course and provide relatively high levels of containment, including from Longworth Mill which adjoins the Site in the southwest corner. The reminder of the western boundary adjoins the former driveway to Longworth Hall from the A438 and is defined by a native hedgerow, albeit it is somewhat degraded and gappy. But orchards which adjoin the Site on rising ground help to contain it in views from this direction.

Within the Site, mature tree belts define the course of the River Frome and another minor channel that crosses the southern part of the Site. These further help to contain the Site in various views from the immediate surrounding area.

4.4.3 Local Historic Landscape Character

As part of pre-application consultation with HC, it was suggested that the Development might provide opportunities to reinstate historic field patterns on the Site. A historic map regression exercise was therefore undertaken with reference to old-maps.co.uk website[15]. The historic maps obtained from this website and reproduced in Appendix D provide clues as to how the landscape character of the Site which is evident today evolved.

The earliest map from 1889-91 shows the present alignment of the A438 together with Clay Hill Pitch, Larport Lane and Longworth Lane. The area contained by these routes, which includes the Site, is shown as farmland with the River Frome running through it.

The one exception is an area of parkland associated with Longworth Hall which extends east of Longworth Lane to the river and the Site boundary, with a formal driveway running through it. The driveway then continues northeast to the present A438 as a very linear feature with farmland on either side. The group of religious buildings located northwest of the Site on the southern edge of Bartestree are also shown.

The River Frome itself appears to have been straightened where it runs through the Site as the 1889 map shows a meandering section to the immediate east which no longer exists.

The pattern of fields shown on the 1889-91 map is also generally smaller than the present field pattern, particularly west of Clay Hill Pitch to the River Frome. This includes fields on either side of the river, within the Site, which are sub-divided into smaller enclosures.

The pattern of fields remains broadly unchanged until the 1930-31 map which shows some field boundaries removed north of Larport Farm. The area of parkland east of Longworth Lane also appears to have been converted to farmland by this date, with only the driveway remaining. This linear feature remains today where it defines the western boundary of the Site.

Further maps up to and including 1964 show very little change in the pattern of fields or land use. This includes the field pattern on the Site, which was presumably modified (enlarged) at some point after this date through the removal of some hedgerows.

The most recent map covering 1983-1995 shows the addition of Dormington Substation and various overhead power lines. It also shows a much denser and linear pattern of fields, however, this pattern is assumed to be an error since it bears no resemblance to the earlier field patterns which the present pattern of fields clearly relates to.

4.4.4 Baseline Colour Palette

Pre-application advice received from HC referred to the need to carry out an objective analysis of the colour selection in connection with elements of the Development in order to minimise visual glare and contrast within the landscape. Reference was made to

[15] Old-maps.co.uk website. Available online at: https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/ (Accessed on 25/06/2021).

guidance prepared by the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership in its publication 'Guidance on the Selection and Use of Colour in Development'[16].

This publication provides direction and guidance on the selection and use of colour associated with built development within the AONB, but is also applicable to development outside of the AONB. It has documented and analysed a range of indigenous colours found within the various landscapes that characterise the AONB and then synthesised these into 'existing palettes' which represent the essential colours that belong to these landscapes. Working within these palettes, the guidance has created 'developed palettes' of colour appropriate to a range of building materials in order to help new development integrate into the landscape.

Landscape character types identified within the guidance include 'Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use' and 'Settled Farmlands on River Terraces'. The former is characterised by the largely pastoral nature of the landscape, which includes orchards, unimproved rough grazing and fields bounded by mature hedgerows. The latter landscape type is commonly characterised by commercial orchards and arable cropping and is more characteristic of Principal Settled Farmlands found on the Site and wider study area. But as the Development involves replacing existing arable uses on the Site with species-rich grassland / wildflower meadows, the colour palettes associated with Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use were considered more appropriate. These colours are reproduced in Appendix E.

The developed palette for Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use lists a range of building materials against which a palette of colours is given to suit one of three design objectives:

- Integration – These colours include subtle shades of greys, browns, greens and oranges from light to dark and are used to integrate prominent building elevations or roofs into the landscape;
- Neutral / Tint – These include a neutral grey and a tinted (coloured) grey and are used to create a transition in a building elevation, as required e.g. between an original building and a contemporary extension; and
- Contrast / Accent – These colours include lighter and more intense shades of cream, grey, blue, green and purple and are used for details such as windows and doors.

In this instance, opportunities to apply colour to elements of the Development are limited to the GRP enclosures that house the substations, inverters and batteries and the CCTV camera system mounted on 3 m high poles.

Of the building materials listed against which a palette of colours is provided, the material which is considered to be a close match to the GRP enclosures and CCTV Camera system is 'metal sheet'. It would also be the intention to integrate the GRP enclosures and CCTV camera system into the landscape rather than highlight them with a contrast / accent colour and there is no requirement to include a transitional grey colour.

Of the six colours identified as being suitable for integrating metal sheet into the landscape, one is green (7010-G50Y) and the other five are shades of dark brown-grey (S7010-Y10R, S8010-Y30R, S8005-Y20R, S8005-G80Y and S8005-Y50R). Given that the Development would be sited within a new pastoral setting with potential to be overlooked from higher ground to the east, the preferred choice of colour to apply to all GRP enclosures and to the CCTV camera system would be green (7010-G50Y).

[16] Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, Guidance on the Selection and Use of Colour in Development. Available online at: https://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/managing-the-aonb/guidance-documents/ (Accessed on 02/05/2021).

4.5 Landscape Designations

4.5.1 Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Site is not covered by any statutory landscape-related designations. Within the wider study area, the northern western boundary of the Wye Valley AONB encroaches into south eastern parts and extends to within approximately 500 m of the Site at its closest point where it follows the local road north of Mordiford to Sufton Rise. The boundary then continues eastwards following the local road to Clouds and Checkley. The extent of the designation is shown on Figure 1.6 (Landscape Baseline), Appendix B.

AONBs are designated for their national landscape importance, the primary purpose of the designation being "*to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area*". The Wye Valley AONB covers some 326 square kilometres (km2) of lowland landscape adjoining a 72 km section of the River Wye stretching from just south of Hereford to Chepstow.

The special qualities for which the AONB was designated are listed in Section 2.1.9 and tabulated in Table 8 of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-2026[17]. As the Site lies outside of the AONB it would have no effect on the more physical qualities listed (e.g. biodiversity, geology, historic environment), however, it has some potential to affect more visual and sensory (perceptual) qualities as well as its setting. As noted in Section 4.5.1 of the Management Plan "*development and other activities within the setting of the AONB may have an impact upon some or all these processes"* . These are the natural and human processes which have shaped the distinctive landscapes of the AONB.

Those visual and perceptual qualities identified from the Management Plan which could potentially be affected by the Development are listed below with a brief explanation of their recognition, extent, condition and changes or threats as summarised from Table 8:

- "*11. Picturesque, extensive and dramatic views.*

  The Management Plan notes that 72 viewpoints have been identified throughout the AONB as part of a 2001 assessment of historic and picturesque viewpoints in the Wye Valley AONB (this study is available on request from the AONB Partnership). Condition is noted as varied, with some viewpoints offering spectacular views whilst others are overgrown and / or inaccessible. Threats include changes in ownership and / or land management which may degrade or block physical access to viewpoints. Similarly, inappropriate land management may degrade or destroy the landscape viewed from a viewpoint including-large single structures, large developments or the cumulative impact of small developments.

- *12. Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness."*

  The Management Plan notes that these senses, whilst varied, apply to much of the AONB. Condition is noted as poor to good with localised disturbance from heavy traffic and individual vehicles as well as military aircraft. Threats include changes in land management including new or expanding development and intensification of use (e.g. tourism, recreation and road or air traffic); loss of trees; and changes driven by new standards and legislation (e.g. street lighting, highway construction) which may lead to loss of tranquillity and sense of remoteness.

[17] Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2021-2026 (Adopted January 2021). Available online at: https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/ (Accessed on 29/04/2021).

4.6 Scheduled Monuments

Several Scheduled Monuments are located within the study area. These are:

- Ethelbert's Camp, which lies approximately 1.6 km east of the Site at Backbury Hill;
- Three churchyard crosses found in the churchyards of St. John the Baptist's Church at Western Beggard, St. Andrew's Church at Hampton Bishop and Holy Rood Church at Mordiford all lying between 1.3 km and 1.5 km northeast and south of the Site; and
- Mordiford Bridge, which lies approximately 1.5 km south of the Site on the western edge of Mordiford.

4.7 Conservation Areas

Three Conservation Areas are located within the study area. These are:

- Mordiford Conservation Area, which lies approximately 900 m south of the Site at its closest point where it incorporates the settlement and the grounds of Sufton Court immediately to the north (see also Historic Parks and Gardens below);
- Hampton Bishop Conservation Area, which lies approximately 1.0 km southwest of the Site where it covers the entire settlement; and
- Lugwardine Conservation Area, which lies approximately 1.8 km northwest of the Site where it covers the central part of the settlement.

4.8 Listed Buildings

A number of listed buildings and structures are found across the study area, both within the main settlements and in more isolated locations. Several of these listings lie within approximately 1 km of the Site and include:

- Larport Court Cottage and Larport Farmhouse (Grade II), which lie between 200 m and 300 m southeast of the Site on Larport Lane;
- South East Lodge and North West Lodge of the former driveway leading to Longworth Hall (Grade II), which lie approximately 300 m north of the Site beside the A438;
- Longworth Hall (Grade II), which lies approximately 400 m west of the Site off Longworth Lane;
- Group of three religious buildings which lie approximately 400 m northwest of the Site within the Frome Park development, one Grade II* listed (Roman Catholic Church of St. James) and two Grade II listed (Presbytery, Bartestree Convent and Convent of Our Lady of Charity);
- Barn approximately 20 metres northwest of Prior's Court Farmhouse (Grade II), which lies approximately 650 m east of the Site at Prior's Court;
- Group of seven listings (all Grade II) at Prior's Frome, which lie between 500 m and 700 m east of the Site;
- Group of three listings at Dormington, including the Church of St. Peter (Grade II*), which lie approximately 850 m northeast of the Site; and
- Two listings at Old Sufton, including Old Sufton (Grade II*), which lie approximately 900 m southeast of the Site.

4.9 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

Two Registered Historic Parks and Gardens fall within the study area. These are:

- Sufton Court (Grade II*), which adjoins Mordiford to the north and extends to within approximately 900 m of the Site to the south; and
- Stoke Edith (Grade II), which extends to the study area boundary approximately 2 km east of the Site.

4.10 National Trails / Cycle Routes and Long-Distance Footpaths

One long-distance footpath encroaches into the study area: Three Choir's Way. This route encroaches into north western and south western parts of the study area and at its closest passes within approximately 900 m of the Site where it closely follows the course of the River Lugg north of Hampton Bishop.

4.11 Public Rights of Way

No public rights of way (footpaths, bridleways and byways) pass through the Site or immediately adjacent to it. Across the wider study area there is a comprehensive network of public rights of way that provide access to the countryside. Several of these routes pass within approximately 1 km of the Site (refer Section 4.15 below).

4.12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

Four SSSIs are found within the study area where associated with the main water courses and wooded hills. These are:

- Lugg and Hampton Meadow, which lies approximately 400 m southwest of the Site beside the River Lugg (see also Common Land below);
- River Wye, which includes the River Lugg approximately 850 m southwest of the Site and is also designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- Woodshuts Wood, which lies approximately 1.5 km southeast of the Site; and
- Perton Roadside Section and Quarry, which lies approximately 1.9 km east of the Site.

4.13 Registered Common Land

Three areas of Common Land are found within the study area. These are:

- Hampton Meadow, which lies approximately 400 m southwest of the Site beside the River Lugg;
- Backbury Common and Backbury Waste, which lies approximately 800 m east of the Site in the vicinity of Backbury Hill; and
- Lower Lugg Meadow, which lies approximately 1.2 km west of the Site beside the River Lugg.

4.14 Ancient Woodland

Several ancient woods are found across the study area, mostly associated with the steep-sided hills to the east. These include:

- Tidnor Wood, which lies approximately 500 m west of the Site;
- Fern Hope Wood, which lies approximately 900 m east of the Site;
- Prior's Court Wood, which lies approximately 1 km east of the Site;
- Broad Grove, which lies approximately 1.7 km east of the Site; and
- Dormington Wood, which lies approximately 2 km east of the Site.

4.15 Visual Receptors

The visual appraisal draws upon the ZTVs, site visits and viewpoint analysis to determine the potential effects of the Development on views and visual amenity experienced by a variety of visual receptors (people) within the study area.

Visual receptors include people who:

- Live and work in the area;
- Visit the area for a specific reason (for instance, visitors to tourist or recreational attractions); and
- Pass through the area (on foot, by horse, by bike, by car or by train).

In this instance, the following key receptor groups have been identified within the study area:

- Occupiers of residential properties (individual, in groups or part of larger settlements);
- Users of sign-posted recreational routes (footpaths, bridleways and byways); and
- Users of the existing road network (A and B-class roads and local roads).

Within these key receptor groups, the appraisal of effects focusses on receptors who are most likely to undergo a 'significant' change in visual amenity arising from views gained of the Development.

4.15.1 Settlements and Residential Properties

The Site is located in a predominantly rural landscape in which settlement consists of a number of villages and hamlets as well as a scattering of farmsteads and residential properties. This pattern of settlement is clearly shown on Figure 1.1 (Site Location), Appendix B.

The main settlements identified within the study area and included in the appraisal are:

- Dormington, a small village located approximately 600 m northeast of the Site;
- Bartestree, a village located approximately 850 m northwest of the Site;
- Hampton Bishop, a small village located approximately 1.0 km southwest of the Site;
- Mordiford, a small village located approximately 1.5 km south of the Site
- Lugwardine, a village located approximately 1.8 km northwest of the Site;
- Prior's Frome, a hamlet located approximately 450 m east of the Site;
- Sufton Rise, a hamlet located approximately 500 m southeast of the Site;
- Prior's Court, a hamlet located approximately 600 m east of the Site;
- Upper Dormington, a hamlet located approximately 1.1 km m east of the Site;
- Weston Beggard, a hamlet located approximately 1.3 km northeast of the Site; and
- Frome Park, a new development located approximately 400 m northwest of the Site.

In addition to the main settlements, there are a number of isolated properties, small groups of properties and farmsteads scattered across the study area from which views of the Development may be gained. As noted in Section 2.4, the LVA considers potential effects on occupiers of properties within approximately 1 km of the Site.

A radius of 1 km was considered appropriate given the low-rise nature of the Development which has a considerable limiting effect on views. The undulating landform and pattern of vegetation which characterises the area also has a limiting effect on views.

Within this radius, twelve individual and groups of properties have been identified and are shown on Figure 1.9 (Visual Amenity), Appendix B where they are numbered R1, R2, etc.

4.15.2 Recreational Routes

One long distance walking route encroaches into north western and south western parts of the study area and is included in the appraisal. This is Three Choir's Way, which passes within approximately 900 m of the Site at its closest point where it closely follows the course of the River Lugg at Hampton Bishop.

A comprehensive network of public footpaths, bridleways and byways also cross the study area and are included in the appraisal. These are shown on Figure 1.6 (Landscape Baseline), Appendix B.

Users of recreational routes which pass within approximately 1 km of the Site have most potential to undergo a 'significant' effect on views and visual amenity arising from the Development and so the LVA focuses on these. These routes are identified separately on Figure 1.9 (Visual Amenity), Appendix B and are listed below relative to the principal points of the compass (north, east, south, west).

North of Site

- Footpath DR2, which passes through an orchard between the A438 and Clay Hill Pitch.

East of Site

- Footpath DR3, which passes through an orchard just west of Dormington;
- Footpath DR4, which passes through Dormington;
- Footpath MF1, which follows a field boundary on rising ground;
- Footpath MF2, which follows the southern edge of Prior's Frome;
- Footpath MF3, which crosses a field of pasture on rising ground;
- Footpath MF4, which crosses several fields of pasture on rising ground; and
- Footpath MF5, which passes through a wooded area on steeply rising ground.

South of Site

- Footpath MF26, which follows the southern edge on Sufton Rise on rising ground; and
- Bridleway MF27, which follows an access track on rising ground.

West of Site

- Bridleway HB9-LU21, which crosses open farmland on broadly flat ground;
- Footpath LU20-HB10, which crosses open farmland on broadly flat ground; and
- Footpath BJ1-BJ3, which crosses open farmland on the southern edge of Bartestree.

4.15.3 Transport Routes

Key transport routes which pass through the study area and which are included in the appraisal are shown on Figure 1.1 (Site Location), Appendix B. These are limited to:

- A438, which passes approximately 200 m north of the Site; and
- B4224, which passes approximately 1.5 km south of the Site.

In addition to these main roads, a network of local un-classified roads crosses the study area and are also included in the appraisal. Users of local roads which pass within approximately 1 km of the Site have most potential to undergo a 'significant' effect on views and visual amenity arising from the Development and so the LVA focuses on these. These routes are listed below and can be identified on Figure 1.9 (Visual Amenity), Appendix B:

- Clay Pitch Hill, which passes approximately 400 m east of the Site;
- Larport Lane, which adjoins the Site to the south;
- Tidnor Lane, which passes approximately 150 m west of the Site;
- Longworth Lane, which passes approximately 150 m west of the Site; and
- Unnamed minor road that runs parallel with Clay Pitch Hill between Upper Dormington and Old Sufton, approximately 700 m east of the Site.

4.16 Receptors Scoped Out of the LVA

Further to the information presented above, a number of landscape and visual receptors have been scoped out of this appraisal. These are listed below.

Landscape Receptors

The following landscape character receptors have been scoped out due to the extremely small geographic area with potential to be affected by the Development. The limited extent of theoretical visibility indicated by the augmented / screened ZTV for some of these receptors has also been a factor:

- Herefordshire Lowlands NCA;
- South Herefordshire and Over Severn NCA;
- Principal Timbered Farmlands LT; and

- Forest Small Holdings and Dwellings LT.

Visual Receptors

The following receptors have been scoped out on the basis of little or no theoretical visibility indicated by the augmented / screened ZTV:

- Bartestree village;
- Hampton Bishop village;
- Mordiford village;
- Lugwardine village;
- Upper Dormington hamlet;
- Weston Beggard hamlet;
- Residential properties R8 and R9;
- Footpath DR4;
- Footpath MF5;
- Footpath MF26;
- Footpath LU20-HB10;
- Footpath BJ1-BJ3; and
- Tidnor Lane.

4.17 Night Time Baseline

In general, and notwithstanding the rural location of the Site, there are many sources of light pollution arising from the settled nature of the study area. They include the various villages and hamlets as well as the scattering of farmsteads, isolated properties and small groups of properties linked by a network of local roads.

With the slight exception of the more sparsely populated floodplain associated with the River Lugg in the southwest of the study area, light pollution is fairly evenly distributed.

4.18 Future Baseline

It is not anticipated that the baseline conditions described above would differ significantly in the future, with or without the Development. This is due to the existing agricultural uses and woodland cover which dominate the area and would continue to in the future.

5 ZTV ANALYSIS

The augmented / screened ZTV (Figure 1.4, Appendix B) indicates theoretical visibility of the Development within the wider study area. For the most part visibility is contained to within 1 km of the Site, as summarised below relative to the principal points of the compass:

- To the north, visibility extends a short distance to the A438 and continues beyond the road to the northeast. In reality, a commercial orchard which adjoins the Site and is not factored into the ZTV model would prevent most views from this direction;
- To the east, visibility extends to Clay Hill Pitch and continues across the lower slopes and parts of the upper slopes of the steep wooded hills which lie to the east of the road;
- To the south, visibility extends across open farmland to the River Lugg; and
- To the west, slightly more patchy visibility extends across gently rising ground as far as a local ridgeline just beyond Longworth Lane. A commercial orchard which adjoins the Site to the northwest and is not factored into the ZTV model would have a limiting effect on some views from this direction.

Beyond 1 km of the Site, some patchy theoretical visibility is indicated across open farmland to the northeast and southwest extending up to 2 km. But when factoring in the low-lying landform and pattern of hedgerows, commercial orchards and other vegetation not included into the ZTV model, it is highly unlikely that any meaningful visibility of the Development would be gained from these locations.

5.1 Weather Conditions

In addition to screening afforded by vegetation, buildings and local landform, changing weather patterns and local climatic conditions would also influence visibility of the Development (in terms of the extent of view, degree of contrast, etc.) and thus the perceived visual impact. There would be periods of low visibility (i.e. fog, precipitation, low cloud, and bright sunny conditions that are accompanied by haze) as well as periods of high visibility in clear weather.

6 APPRAISAL OF LIKELY EFFECTS

In order to understand the likely effects of the Development, it is first necessary to understand the construction processes involved and the components of the Development which would be present during its operational life. The likely effects that would arise as a result of the Development can be attributed to either the short-term construction phase or the long-term operational phase.

The Site Layout Plan included in the Design and Access Statement and replicated on Drawing DR_LAN_101 (Landscape Mitigation Plan), Appendix C illustrates the layout and key components of the Development.

6.1 Effects of Construction

Access to the Site would make use of an existing farm track from Clay Hill Pitch. This would not necessitate the removal of any vegetation to accommodate sight-lines, etc.

Existing hedgerows and tree belts to the external boundaries of the Site would be protected and retained by setting the solar panels back by an appropriate distance (this would also avoid / minimise shading of the panels). Similarly, hedgerows and tree belts to internal field boundaries and adjoining watercourses would be retained, protected and incorporated with the Development.

Within the Site, access to the DNO / customer substations would be provided by the existing farm track from Clay Hill Pitch. Access to the field inverters would also make use of an existing track and crossing point of the River Frome, but some new tracks would also be provided. New tracks would generally follow existing field boundaries with crossing points coinciding with existing field entrances and / or gaps in existing vegetation. Both the access tracks, substations and inverters would result in the loss of a very small area of arable farmland.

The metal frames that support the solar panels would be driven into the ground rather than secured by concrete footings, thereby avoiding the need for extensive excavations and foundations. All cabling would be installed below ground with minimal disturbance to the existing ground.

There may be a need for lighting during the construction phase, depending on the time of year and the length of the construction programme. This should only be required during autumn-winter construction.

Overall, the effects of construction on landscape resources would be restricted to small geographical areas within the Site and would not result in the removal of any important or unusual landscape features. The effects would be of short duration (3-4 months) and localised in their extent and would not have any meaningful influence on landscape character beyond the Site and its immediate setting.

The visual effects of construction would be limited to views of construction activities, including from Clay Hill Pitch and Larport Lane where they adjoin the eastern and southern boundaries and from some properties on rising ground east of Clay Hill Pitch. These effects would be of short duration and localised and would not have any meaningful influence on visual amenity beyond the Site and its immediate setting.

6.2 Effects of Operation

Compared to the construction phase, the Development would gain a more 'settled' appearance during the operational period when construction activity ceases.

The Development would be seen or experienced in the surrounding area to a greater or lesser extent with potential for indirect effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The extent to which landscape and visual receptors would be affected by the Development during its operational phase is discussed in Sections 8 and 9 below.

7 MITIGATION MEASURES

The landscape and visual objectives of the embedded mitigation were:

- To screen elements of the Development from key receptor locations, e.g. nearby residential properties;
- To soften 'hard edges' of the Development from the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and views within the wider landscape; and
- To reflect existing landscape elements and character in areas of the wider landscape setting.

The embedded mitigation includes the following biodiversity objectives:

- To minimise impacts on existing habitats and species during construction;
- To extend and enhance the most valuable existing habitats onsite;
- To create new habitats onsite that reflect the natural flora and fauna of the area; and
- To make the most of opportunities to improve biodiversity within the Development site and surrounding area.

Mitigation and enhancement measures assumed to be incorporated with the Development as 'primary' mitigation to avoid any 'significant' or unacceptable adverse landscape and visual effects, or which reduces them to acceptable levels are illustrated on Drawing DR_LAN_101 (Landscape Mitigation Plan), Appendix C. These include:

- Retaining all existing hedgerows and tree belts to the perimeter of the Site and internally and incorporating them within the scheme to maintain landscape character as well as to filter and screen views of the Development;
- Gapping up / reinforcing existing hedgerows to the eastern and southern boundaries using locally indigenous hedgerows species to improve screening of the Development;
- Reinstating hedgerows to the eastern boundary where presently missing (approximately 736 linear metres) to further improve screening of the Development over time. New hedgerows would be planted as a double staggered row using locally indigenous hedgerow species supplied as forestry transplants (40/60 cm high);
- Reinstating hedgerows to field boundaries between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch where presently missing or degraded (approximately 1,694 linear metres) to help restore landscape features lost to intensive farming practices and improve habitat connectivity;
- Incorporating specimen trees within existing / new hedgerows where not conflicting with overhead power lines (42 no). The choice of trees would be based on locally indigenous species supplied as selected standards (minimum 300 cm high);
- Replacing existing arable uses on the Site with species-rich / wildflower grassland (approximately 39.6 ha) to further enhance local landscape character as well as improve the biodiversity value of the Development;
- Improving the management of existing hedgerows and tree belts generally on the Site;
- Incorporating a permissive footpath around the perimeter of the Site east of the River Frome (between the security fence and site boundary) with interpretation boards; and
- Providing five visitor car parking spaces off Larport Lane with a free electrical charging point for cars.

In addition, the existing river corridor through the Site would be subject to various ecological enhancements to further improve the biodiversity value of the Development, as set out in the ecological appraisal. In brief, these include planting Black Poplar (Populus nigra) trees using cuttings that are native to Herefordshire, sowing meadow grass in selected locations using locally sourced seed and providing bird and bat nesting boxes.

Overall, there is a considerable amount of planting proposed across the Site and the measures proposed in the LEMP have contributed to a biodiversity net gain of + 134.28% in Habitat Biodiversity Metric units and + 452.62% Hedgerow Biodiversity Metric Units as reported in Section 6 of the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan.

8 APPRAISAL OF RESIDUAL LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

This section considers the potential effects of the Development on the landscape character of the area during its operational phase. Judgments about levels of effect are arrived at by combining levels of receptor 'sensitivity' with the predicted levels of 'magnitude of effect' that are likely to arise from the Development being operated. This is set out in detail in Appendix A (LVA Methodology) of the LVA.

In summary, the sensitivity of a landscape character receptor takes account of its 'susceptibility' to the proposed change, together with any 'value' attached to the landscape. This is described in the following sections in relation to each landscape character receptor appraised.

Magnitude takes account of matters such as the 'size or scale' of change, the 'geographical extent' of area affected, the 'duration' of effects and their 'reversibility'.

The size or scale of change and geographical extent of area affected (at a local and site scale) are described in the following sections.

Duration of effects and their reversibility take account of timescales over which effects are experienced and whether they are temporary or permanent. For a scheme of this type, effects arising from the completed development are assumed to be 'long-term' but 'reversible' and are not reiterated in the appraisal.

It is also important to note that duration includes timescales for mitigation measures to become effective. This could take several years if, for example, new planting is provided to screen views but needs to achieve a certain height.

Timescales required for new planting to be effective at screening views is particularly important in the assessment of visual effects (as described in Section 9). As such, for this part of the assessment, levels of effect are normally assessed, firstly, at completion when new planting is in place but not effective (taken as Year 1) and, secondly, when new planting has matured sufficiently to be effective at screening views (taken as Year 15).

Levels of effects reported at Year 15 are also 'residual' effects that remain after mitigation has become effective.

For consistency, effects on landscape character described in this section are also assessed at Year 1 and Year 15, however, timescales required for planting to achieve an effective screen is less important since effects on landscape character are not dependent on visibility. As such, no meaningful reduction in levels of effect would be expected over this timescale even though planting provided to mitigate views can help to soften the appearance of development and integrate it with the wider landscape.

8.1 Appraisal of Effects on Landscape Character

At a national / regional level, the Site sits within Herefordshire Lowlands NCA where it occupies an extremely small part and is also close to the boundary with South Herefordshire and Over Severn NCA. The geographical extent of area influenced by the Development

relative to either NCA would also be extremely small and so, in this regard, the magnitude of effect would broadly amount to 'no change', resulting in 'no effect' on either NCA.

The effects of the Development on landscape character therefore focuses on a county / district level in relation to those Landscape Types (LTs) identified in the HLCA as summarised in Section 4.3 of the baseline conditions section. These are:

- Principal Settled Farmlands;
- Riverside Meadows; and
- Principal Wooded Hills.

The effects of the Development on the character of the Site itself and its immediate context has also been considered.

8.1.1 Effects on Principal Settled Farmlands

Principal Settled Farmlands is the 'host' LT for the Development (along with Riverside Meadows) and therefore has the potential to be directly affected by it. The Site itself forms a small part of this LT which covers the majority of the study area and occurs more widely across Herefordshire.

8.1.1.1 Sensitivity to the Development

In terms of susceptibility to change, the mainly medium-scale pattern of hedged fields combined with the gently undulating landform and sporadic woodland cover affords low to moderate levels of containment or enclosure.

Although predominantly rural in character, various industrial / urbanising land uses and features are present and have a localised negative influence on the character or experience of the landscape to a greater or lesser extent. These include Dormington Substation and the various pylons / telegraph poles which emanate from it as well as some modern farm buildings. The substation and pylons are particularly important at lowering susceptibility as the industrial nature of these features represents an existing reference or context within the landscape to the type of change proposed.

Whilst of some value, the relatively intact pattern of hedgerows, linear tree belts, small wooded areas and commercial orchards which characterise the area could potentially be replaced / substituted or their loss satisfactorily compensated for. The pattern of vegetation in conjunction with the low-lying landform also provides good potential for mitigating the type of change proposed.

Overall, the landscape is judged to be able to accept the type of change proposed but with some concerns for maintaining the baseline situation without adequate mitigation. On balance, the LT is judged to have a *low to medium* susceptibility.

In terms of value, the landscape is undesignated, however, it lies adjacent to the AONB and forms part of its setting notwithstanding its more settled character and presence of detractors. The quality of the landscape is good to fair, but with the pattern of landscape components / elements / features (field pattern, etc.) showing signs of erosion or loss.

Scenic quality is pleasant but with few, if any, rare landscape elements / features present. There are also some incongruous features or detractors present, most notably the existing electricity substation and pylons within the landscape.

Natural / heritage features of importance are largely absent and recreational value is limited to a number of public rights of way that provide access to the countryside, including Three Choir's Way long distance footpath.

Overall, there is some sense of place and some degree of tranquillity in more remote parts and, on balance, the LT is judged to have a *low to medium* value.

By combining judgments on susceptibility and value an overall level of sensitivity is derived. In this instance, the sensitivity of the LT to the Development is judged to be low-medium.

8.1.1.2 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect

The Development would have little effect on those key characteristics and sensitivities identified for the LT. The geographical extent of the LT influenced by the Development would also be limited and confined to that part of the LT already influenced by the presence of the electricity substation and pylons.

At Year 1, the magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible to small adverse. At Year 15, the magnitude of effect would remain unchanged i.e. negligible to small adverse.

8.1.1.3 Level of Effect

At Year 1, taking into account the low-medium landscape sensitivity attributed to the LT and the negligible to small adverse magnitude of effect predicted, the level of effect would be between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse. At Year 15, the level of effect would remain unchanged i.e. between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse.

8.1.2 Effects on Riverside Meadows

Riverside Meadows is a linear LT that coincides with the floodplains of the main rivers which flow through Herefordshire. This includes the River Frome which flows through the Site and therefore has some potential to be directly affected by the Development.

8.1.2.1 Sensitivity to the Development

In terms of susceptibility to change, the broadly flat landform of variable width combined with the mainly medium-scale pattern of hedged fields and absence of woodland affords low to moderate levels of containment.

Although predominantly rural in character, the various pylons / telegraph poles which follow the main river corridors have a negative influence on the character or experience of the landscape. In addition, with the exception of some rare meadows and tree belts adjoining the rivers, the pattern of hedgerows which characterise the area could potentially be replaced / substituted or their loss satisfactorily compensated for. The pattern of hedgerows combined with the broadly flat landform also provides good potential for mitigating the type of change proposed.

On balance, the LT is judged to have a *medium* susceptibility.

In terms of value, the LT forms part of the setting of the AONB although to a lesser extent than Principal Settled Farmlands given its linear nature. It is generally in good to fair condition with an attractive scenic quality, albeit with some detractors (pylons) present. There are also some natural / heritage features of value (meadows) and recreational interest includes the Wye Valley Walk / Three Choirs Way long distance footpath which closely follows the course of the River Wye. The LT also possesses a stronger sense of place and a greater degree of tranquillity resulting from the lack of settlement and other major infrastructure (roads, etc).

On balance, the LT is judged to have a *medium* value.

By combining judgments on susceptibility and value an overall level of sensitivity is derived. In this instance, the sensitivity of the LT to the Development is judged to be medium.

8.1.2.2 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect

The Development would have little effect on those key characteristics and sensitivities identified for the LT. Similarly, the geographical extent of the LT influenced by the

Development would also be limited and confined to a short section of the LT in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

At Year 1, the magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible to small adverse. At Year 15, the magnitude of effect would remain unchanged i.e. negligible to small adverse.

8.1.2.3 Level of Effect

At Year 1, taking into account the medium landscape sensitivity attributed to the LT and the negligible to small adverse magnitude of effect predicted, the level of effect would be between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse. At Year 15, the level of effect would remain unchanged i.e. between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse.

8.1.3 Effects on Principal Wooded Hills

Principal Wooded Hills adjoins Principal Settled Farmland in the east of the study area and has some potential to be indirectly affected by the Development. The LT corresponds with a series of rounded hills that are often steep-sided and densely wooded.

8.1.3.1 Sensitivity to the Development

In terms of susceptibility, the elevated and often steeply undulating landform combined with extensive woodland cover results in high levels of containment except on those upper slopes and ridgelines where woodland cover is absent.

The landscape retains a strong rural character with built elements limited to the occasional farmstead or isolated house linked by narrow lanes. Similarly detracting features are limited to a scattering of small quarries, both active and disused, which have limited influence on the character or experience of the wider open landscape.

The majority of the hedgerows, tree belts and woodlands which characterise the area are of historic / ancient value and could not be replaced / substituted or their loss compensated for. But the density of vegetation is such that there is good potential for mitigating the type of change proposed.

Overall, the landscape is judged to have limited ability to accept the type of change proposed without serious negative consequences for maintaining the baseline situation. On balance, the LT is judged to have a *medium to high* susceptibility.

In terms of value, parts of the LT fall within the AONB which confers a high value. The landscape is also generally in good condition with a consistent and largely intact pattern of landscape components / elements / features (hedgerows, etc.). Scenic quality is similarly attractive with few incongruous features or detractors present.

Natural / heritage features of importance include many ancient woodlands as well as some registered common land and a scheduled monument (Ethelbert's Camp) in the vicinity of Backbury Hill. Recreational value mostly relates to a network of public rights of way, including Three Choir's Way, albeit visibility from many of these routes is limited or prevented by the dense woodland cover.

Overall, the steep wooded hills convey a strong sense of place with high levels of tranquillity particularly where woodland cover is extensive. On balance, the LT is judged to have a *medium to high* value.

By combining judgments on susceptibility and value an overall level of sensitivity is derived. In this instance, the sensitivity of the LT to the Development is judged to be medium-high.

8.1.3.2 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect

The Development would have very little effect on those key characteristics and sensitivities identified for the LT. Similarly, the geographical extent of the LT influenced by the

Development would also be very limited and largely confined to the steep slopes on the periphery of the LT.

At Year 1, the magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible adverse. At Year 15, the magnitude of effect would remain unchanged i.e. negligible adverse.

8.1.3.3 Level of Effect

At Year 1, taking into account the medium-high landscape sensitivity attributed to the LT and the negligible adverse magnitude of effect predicted, the level of effect would be **Negligible** adverse. At Year 15, the level of effect would remain unchanged i.e. **Negligible** adverse.

8.1.4 Effects on Character of the Site and its Immediate Context

This part of the appraisal considers effects on the character of the Site and its immediate surrounds where the influence of the Development would be greatest i.e. immediately west of Dormington Substation.

As described in Section 4.4.2, the Site is presently in agricultural use comprising several arable fields. A number of pylons / telegraph poles supporting overhead power lines also cross the Site and, as such, it displays some industrial / urbanising characteristics despite its predominantly rural location.

8.1.4.1 Sensitivity to the Development

In terms of susceptibility to change, the low-lying landform occupied by the Site combined with the pattern of hedgerows, tree belts and wooded areas to some of its boundaries provides some degree of containment. But the fragmented nature or absence of hedgerows to other boundaries reduces this and, overall, the Site possess low-moderate levels of containment.

Whilst this increases susceptibility, factors which lower it include the rows of pylons / telegraph poles supporting overhead power lines that cross the Site and the proximity of Dormington Substation. These are both urbanising and detracting features that have a negative influence on the character of the Site. They also represent a similar type of 'energy / power' development to what is proposed which is important as it introduces a degree of familiarity.

In addition, existing landscape elements and features found on the Site (excluding boundary vegetation) are limited to commercial crops which are of little / no value and could easily be replaced / substituted or the loss satisfactorily compensated for. There is also good potential for mitigating the type of change proposed given the limited height of solar farms and opportunities for additional planting to complement / reinforce the existing framework of vegetation.

Overall, the Site is judged able to accept the type of change proposed with only limited concerns for maintaining the baseline situation. On balance, the susceptibility of the Site is judged to be *low*.

In terms of value, the Site is undesignated and is not subject to any specific landscape strategies or guidance beyond protecting / conserving / enhancing characteristic elements and features (trees, hedgerows, pasture, etc.). It does lie adjacent to the AONB and forms part of its setting, albeit a very small part where industrial / urbanising influences are already present.

Landscape quality is good to fair in that boundary hedgerows and tree belts where present appear to be in reasonable condition, but these features are also fragmented and missing in places. Scenic quality is, however, diminished by the presence of pylons which cross the Site and proximity of the electricity substation.

Similarly, no rare or distinctive landscape elements or features are found on the Site and those which are present (boundary vegetation) can be retained. In addition, no conservation interests exist on the Site and there is no public access to it.

Overall, the pylons and proximity of Dormington Substation ensures there is limited visual appeal or sense of place attached to the Site and relatively low levels of tranquillity. On balance, the value of the Site is judged to be *low*.

Taking account of the low susceptibility and low value attributed to the Site, its overall sensitivity to the Development is judged to be low.

8.1.4.2 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect

The main effects of the Development would be the addition of solar panels across the Site together with the substations, inverters and other related infrastructure.

Existing arable uses which cover the Site would be replaced by traditional grassland / wildflower meadows to improve the biodiversity value of the scheme. But existing boundary vegetation which partly encloses the Site would be retained and protected. In addition, existing hedgerows would be reinforced or reinstated where presently missing, both within and to the boundaries of the Site and between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch to fully enclose the Site and help restore landscape features lost to intensive farming practises. Various ecological enhancements are also proposed which would have a beneficial effect on local landscape character.

Judgments about the magnitude of effect on the character of the Site and its immediate setting took into account the introduction of the solar panels and associated infrastructure contained by a framework of existing and new vegetation. These effects are judged to be large adverse. Judgments also took account of localised enhancements, as described above, which at the Site level are judged to be small beneficial.

On balance, the magnitude of effect on the character of the Site and its immediate context at Year 1 is judged to be medium adverse. At Year 15, the magnitude of effect would remain unchanged i.e. medium adverse.

8.1.4.3 Level of Effect

At Year 1, taking into account the low landscape sensitivity attributed to the Site and the medium adverse magnitude of effect predicted, the level of effect would be **Minor** adverse. At Year 15, the level of effect would remain unchanged i.e. **Minor** adverse.

8.2 Implications for Landscape-related Designations

Identifying and understanding landscape-related designations and other protected features is integral to establishing landscape value, but new development may affect them individually. Those that could potentially be affected by the Development are described in Sections 4.5-4.14 of the baseline conditions.

It should be noted, however, that an assessment of effects on biodiversity and heritage assets, including their settings, is beyond the scope of this LVA (refer GLVIA3, para. 5.11). As such only effects on landscape-related designations are considered.

8.2.1 Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Site lies outside of, but adjacent to, the AONB where the north western boundary of the designation extends to within approximately 500 m at its closest point following Dormington Road north of Mordiford to the junction with Larport Lane at Sufton Rise. It then continues eastwards following the local road to Clouds and Checkley.

As the Site lies outside of the AONB, the Development would have no effect on those special characteristics and qualities for which it was designated other than, potentially, any

identified visual or sensory (perceptual) qualities. In addition, the proximity of the Site to the AONB is such that the Development has the potential to adversely affect its 'setting', as established at national policy level.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)[18] provides guidance on the handling of proposals within AONBs and within the setting of AONBs. It states (in paragraph 039) that local planning authorities should have regard to the purposes for which AONBs are designated when considering development outside of AONB boundaries, but which might have an impact on their setting or protection. It goes on to state (in paragraph 042) that:

"Land within the setting of these areas often makes an important contribution to maintaining their natural beauty, and where poorly located or designed development can do significant harm. This is especially the case where long views from or to the designated landscape are identified as important, or where the landscape character of land within and adjoining the designated area is complementary. Development within the settings of these areas will therefore need sensitive handling that takes these potential impacts into account."

Views toward the AONB from the local area were not a particular focus of this LVA, however, the elevated nature of the AONB is such that it is widely visible from low-lying areas to the west. But views gained towards the AONB in the vicinity of the Site invariably include the many rows of pylons / telegraph poles that emanate from Dormington Substation and, to a lesser extent, the substation itself.

Views gained from within the AONB in which the Site can be seen are limited to a single viewpoint listed in Section 2.10 and identified on the ZTVs illustrated in Figures 1.3 and 1.4, Appendix B. This is VP8, which coincides with a recognised viewpoint identified on OS maps of the area and is also included in a 2001 assessment of historic and picturesque viewpoints in the Wye Valley AONB (see below).

In terms of the screened ZTV (Figure 1.4), it is apparent that visibility of the Development from the AONB would be very limited and restricted to peripheral parts coinciding with the lower and upper slopes in the vicinity of Sufton Rise where not covered by woodland. In these views pylons which cross low-lying areas immediately west of the AONB are noticeable and detracting features as is Dormington Substation to a greater or lesser extent. This is demonstrated in the visual effects section (Section 9) in relation to VP8.

In terms of the character of the landscape within and adjoining the AONB in the vicinity of Site this is described in Section 4.4.1, whilst the character of the Site itself is described in Section 4.4.2. This demonstrates that the landscape is not complementary, but changes quite abruptly from steeply inclined and well-wooded slopes with some pastoral uses within the AONB to low-lying and more intensively farmed / settled landscapes at the AONB boundary with some detractors present (pylons). The Site itself lies immediately adjacent to Dormington Substation and includes urbanising / detracting features where it is crossed by several rows of pylons / telegraph poles.

As for those special qualities identified in Section 4.5.1 with potential to be affected by the Development, these are listed below together with a response on likely effects:

- "*11. Picturesque, extensive and dramatic views".*

  Of those 72 viewpoints identified in the 2001 assessment of historic and picturesque viewpoints in the Wye Valley AONB, one viewpoint (Swarndon Quarry) falls within the study area with potential to be affected by the Development. The viewpoint is located just east of Old Sufton on the AONB boundary and coincides with a recognised viewpoint identified on OS maps of the area. It is also included in the viewpoints assessed as part

[18] NPPG. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment (Accessed on 11/05/2021).

this LVA (VP8) where the level of effect was judged to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse.

One other viewpoint (Sufton Court, Mordiford) lies just beyond the southern limit of the study area and relates to intervisibility between the historic parkland of Sufton Court and the adjacent River Lugg at its confluence with the River Wye in which views of Mordiford Bridge are also obtained. But there is no potential for this view to be adversely affected by the Development, primarily due to distance (over 2 km).

- *"12. Overall sense of tranquillity, sense of remoteness and naturalness / wildness."*

  The existing pylons / telegraph poles that cross the Site and pass immediately east of it together with Dormington Substation already exert an industrial / urbanising influence in the immediate locality. As such, it is highly unlikely that the Development would diminish the sense of tranquillity or remoteness of the AONB in any meaningful way.

Taking the above into account and using the same criteria to determine levels of magnitude of effect on landscape character receptors, the effect on the setting of the AONB is judged to broadly amount to 'negligible', resulting in a 'negligible' indirect landscape effect on the AONB.

9 APPRAISAL OF RESIDUAL VISUAL EFFECTS

This section addresses the changes in the composition of available views of the landscape arising from the Development during its operational phase and the effects this has on those visual receptors (people) who experience the view. Effects on views and visual amenity are always assessed separately from effects on landscape character since change can affect landscape character regardless of whether anyone can see it.

As with landscape effects described in the previous section, judgments concerning levels of effect on views and visual amenity take into account the 'sensitivity' of the receptor and the 'magnitude' of change that arises from the Development being operated. This is described in more detail in Appendix A (Methodology) of the LVA. Similarly, the duration and reversibility of effects are assumed to be 'long-term' but 'reversible' and are not re-iterated.

As also noted in the previous section, visual effects are normally appraised at the year of completion (taken to be Year 1) and 15 years following completion in order to assess the effectiveness of structural planting at reducing levels of effects on views. In this instance, established vegetation on or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the Site already provides some measure of containment. The exceptions to this are the eastern and southern boundaries where existing hedgerows are fragmented, degraded or missing and where new hedgerows with hedgerow trees are proposed to fully enclose the Site.

Where new hedgerows are provided, it is assumed that by Year 8 they would achieve a height of approximately 3 m, thereafter, they would be maintained at this height to minimise shading / avoid conflicts with overhead power lines. This is based on an initial planting height of 0.5 m and a conservative growth rate of 30 cm per year. Hedgerow trees are assumed to achieve a height of approximately 7.5 m by Year 15 based on an initial planting height of 3 m and a similar rate of growth. In both instances, rates of growth given assume adequate levels of aftercare are provided.

The appraisal also took seasonality into account when considering the effectiveness of existing vegetation at screening the Development. In most instances the density of vegetation meant that unless it was removed the Development would be largely screened throughout the year, but in some instances where vegetation is thin filtered views are likely in winter when it is not in leaf.

Where notable differences are likely between levels of effects in summer and winter this is noted. Judgments about levels of effects recorded in the following viewpoint assessment and Tables 1.3-1.6 below are, however, based on a worst-case winter scenario when screening by deciduous vegetation is least effective.

The following appraisal considers effects in relation to the agreed viewpoints and key visual receptors identified in Section 4.15 of the baseline. It is based on the scheme described in Section 2.1 and takes account of colours that would be used on visible structures as set out in Section 4.4.4. In this instance, the nature of the Development (i.e. a solar farm) is that such that there are only limited opportunities to introduce colour in order to minimise its visibility and influence judgments on magnitude.

9.1 Viewpoint Assessment

In order to gain an understanding of the nature of changes to views and visual amenity arising from visibility of the Development, eight viewpoints were identified in the visual baseline section (Section 2.10) to represent visibility from key visual receptor groups (e.g. residents, recreational walkers, road users, etc.).

For each viewpoint, the following information is provided:

- A representative baseline photograph (90-degree horizontal angle of view) orientated in the direction of the Development to show the context of the viewpoint;
- A description of the existing baseline view; and
- A qualitative appraisal of the potential visual effects, taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of change in the view.

It is recognised that different receptors would appreciate the landscape in many different ways, depending on whether they live in, work in, or are holidaying in the area and how they are travelling through e.g. on road or foot, or on water etc.

Those living within, or travelling through, the landscape of the study area on a regular basis may appreciate it beyond the perception of a visitor and may appreciate familiarity of landscape and views, based on their experience of viewing it in a certain way, over time and in its present state without intervention. Therefore, those who notice change within the landscape may be more acutely affected by change irrelevant of the scale of the Development. There may also be a different appreciation for change where such change for instance brings social or economic benefits and as such it is difficult to interpret how such changes would be interpreted by various users other than as set out in the methodology in Appendix A.

The location of the viewpoints is shown in conjunction with the bare-earth and screened ZTVs on Figures 1.3 and 1.4, Appendix B. Baseline photographic panoramas obtained from each viewpoint in the direction of the Site are illustrated on Figures 1.5a-1.5h, Appendix B.

9.1.1 Viewpoint 1 – Larport Lane Adjoining Site Looking Northeast

Larport Lane adjoins the Site to the south where the roadside hedgerow on the Site boundary is maintained at a height of 1.5-2.0 m but is also fragmented / degraded in places and this allows some views across the Site. The viewpoint is representative of views gained by users of the local road.

9.1.1.1 Baseline

The outlook extends across the Site in the immediate foreground where in arable use and continues to a tree-lined channel which crosses it. This vegetation has a limiting effect on views of the Site beyond, but the surface area is generally visible extending to the eastern boundary. Beyond the Site, the landform rises quite steeply to Backbury Hill in the middle distance which defines the limit of the view. The upper slopes and summit of the hill are

predominantly wooded, but the lower slopes are a mixture of agriculture and settlement. This includes the built form of Prior's Court, Prior's Frome and Sufton Rise which are visible in the wider outlook to a greater or lesser extent. Detracting features are limited to a row of pylons and telegraph poles supporting overhead powerlines which cross the Site.

Refer to Figure 1.5a, Appendix B.

9.1.1.2 Sensitivity

Road Users: Medium

9.1.1.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From here, close range views of the solar panels would be gained orientated towards the lane and the magnitude of effect is judged to be large adverse.

9.1.1.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Road Users: **Moderate-Major** adverse

9.1.1.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

Assuming the existing hedgerow is reinforced with additional planting where gaps are present and is maintained to a height of approximately 3 m then visibility would be limited to filtered views, less so in summer when the hedgerow is in leaf. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be small adverse.

9.1.1.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Road Users: **Minor** adverse

9.1.2 Viewpoint 2 – Clay Hill Pitch West of Prior's Court Looking West

This viewpoint is located on Clay Hill Pitch where an existing track provides access to a group of farm buildings (and is the proposed access for the Development). It is representative of views gained by users of the local road where it passes closest to the Site on slightly higher ground.

9.1.2.1 Baseline

The outlook extends a short distance across broadly flat, open arable fields to a group of modern agricultural buildings in the centre of the view which lie immediately adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site. The surface area of the Site can also be seen extending to the right and left of these agricultural buildings, partly contained by a framework of linear tree belts and wooded areas adjoining the River Frome where it passes through the Site. Beyond the Site, the landform rises gradually to a low treed and wooded ridgeline in the middle distance that defines the limit of the view. Detracting features include the agricultural buildings and a row of telegraph poles supporting overhead powerlines that pass between the Site and the viewer. Dormington Substation is also partly visible to the far right of the outlook.

Refer to Figure 1.5b, Appendix B.

9.1.2.2 Sensitivity

Road Users: Medium

9.1.2.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From here, close views of the solar panels would be gained over a wide proportion of the view where the eastern boundary is effectively open. The substations would also be visible

where positioned in front of the agricultural buildings. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be medium adverse.

9.1.2.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Road Users: **Moderate** adverse

9.1.2.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

Assuming existing hedgerows to the eastern boundary of the Site are reinforced or reinstated where none presently exist and maintained to a height of approximately 3 m, then some limited visibility of the solar panels is likely to remain. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be small adverse. If, in addition, other hedgerows are reinstated to field boundaries between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch and the existing hedge along the local road is maintained to a height of approximately 3 m, then visibility of the Development is likely to be prevented. The magnitude of effect arising from this would therefore be 'neutral'.

9.1.2.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Road Users: **No effect** (assumes hedges are reinstated between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch)

9.1.3 Viewpoint 3 – Public Footpath MF4 South of Prior's Court Looking West

Public footpath MF4 crosses the lower slopes of Backbury Hill between Prior's Court and Prior's Frome following the edge of a woodland. The viewpoint is located on the public footpath approximately 700 m east of the Site and is representative of views gained by users of the route. It is also representative of views gained by the occupiers of some properties at Prior's Court and Prior's Frome who gain views towards the Site.

9.1.3.1 Baseline

From this more elevated location (approximately 95 m AOD) an extensive outlook is obtained across a low-lying but gently rolling landscape to a line of distant hills just visible on the skyline. Mixed arable and pasture uses dominate the landscape interspersed with blocks of woodland and other linear belts of vegetation that convey a wooded character. Pylons are a prominent and detracting feature and it is also possible to see Dormington Substation towards the right of the outlook and group of agricultural buildings which adjoin the Site. The surface area of the Site itself is also widely visible between the A438 and Larport Lane, albeit partly contained by a framework of hedgerows, tree belts and wooded areas.

Refer to Figures 1.5c and 1.10 a,b,c, Appendix B.

9.1.3.2 Sensitivity

Walkers: High

Residents: High

9.1.3.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From here, the solar panels would be noticeable over a wide proportion of the view partially filtered or screened by intervening vegetation, more so in summer when vegetation is in leaf. The substations would also be visible features positioned beside the existing agricultural buildings. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be medium adverse.

9.1.3.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Walkers: **Moderate-Major** adverse

Residents: **Moderate-Major** adverse

9.1.3.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

From this elevated location there would be no noticeable change in the outlook from Year 1, therefore the magnitude of effect would broadly remain medium adverse.

9.1.3.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Walkers: **Moderate-Major** adverse

Residents: **Moderate-Major** adverse

9.1.4 Viewpoint 4 – Dormington Road at Sufton Rise Looking North

This viewpoint is located approximately 600 m southeast of the Site on the local road in the immediate vicinity of Sufton Rise. It is representative of the likely first available views of the Development gained by users of the road heading north from Mordiford and also for occupiers of some properties at Sufton Rise who gain views towards the Site.

9.1.4.1 Baseline

The outlook extends across several hedged fields to a low treed and wooded ridgeline in the middle distance which defines the limit of the view. Pylons are a prominent and detracting feature of the skyline whilst Larport Farmhouse and associated outbuildings are noticeable features to the right of centre. It is also possible to see the complex of buildings associated with St. Michael's Hospice and Frome Court just below the ridgeline in the centre of the view with Longworth Mill visible to the far left (behind a pylon). Some visibility of the surface area of the Site is also gained immediately to the right of the mill.

Refer to Figure 1.5d, Appendix B.

9.1.4.2 Sensitivity

Road Users: Medium

Residents: High

9.1.4.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From here some limited visibility of the solar panels on the southern part of the Site would be gained together with some filtered views, less so in summer when deciduous vegetation is in leaf. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be small adverse.

9.1.4.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Road Users: **Minor** adverse

Residents: **Minor-Moderate** adverse

9.1.4.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

Assuming existing hedgerows to the southern boundary of the Site are retained and reinforced and maintained a minimum height of 3 m then visibility is likely to be reduced to some filtered views, less so in summer. On balance, the magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible adverse.

9.1.4.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Road Users: **Negligible** adverse

Residents: **Negligible** adverse

9.1.5 Viewpoint 5 – Public Bridleway HB9 at Hampton Meadow Looking Northeast

Public bridleway HB9 crosses the floodplains of the River Lugg and River Frome north of Hampton Bishop to Larport Lane. The viewpoint is located on the bridleway approximately 700 m southwest of the Site and is representative of views gained by users of the route.

9.1.5.1 Baseline

The outlook extends a short distance across the meadow towards linear tree belts which define its edge where adjoining the River Frome. Together with other intervening vegetation this prevents visibility of the Site in the broadly flat landscape. To the right of the outlook, a more distant view is obtained of the upper wooded slopes and summit of Backbury Hill and it is also possible to see part of the built form of Prior's Frome on the lower slopes of the hill. Telegraph poles supporting overhead powerlines which cross the meadow are a minor detracting feature of the view.

Refer to Figure 1.5e, Appendix B.

9.1.5.2 Sensitivity

Walkers: High

9.1.5.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

It is highly unlikely that any visibility of the Development would be gained from here due to screening by intervening vegetation. The magnitude of effect would therefore be no change.

9.1.5.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Walkers: **No effect**

9.1.5.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

There would be no change in the outlook from Year 1, therefore the magnitude of effect would remain no change.

9.1.5.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Walkers: **No effect**

9.1.6 Viewpoint 6 – Longworth Lane South of Bartestree Looking Southeast

This viewpoint is located approximately 700 m northwest of the Site on the highest part of the local road coinciding with a field entrance. It represents the likely first available views of the Development by users of the road heading south from Bartestree.

9.1.6.1 Baseline

From this more elevated location (approximately 90 m AOD) a wider outlook is obtained across a gently rolling landscape to a line of hills in the middle distance which include Backbury Hill. Arable uses dominate the lower lying ground with pasture on the upper slopes interspersed with blocks of woodland. Dormington Substation is clearly visible on rising ground in the centre of the view as are pylons. It is also possible to see the built form of Prior's Court on the lower slopes of Backbury Hill above the substation, whilst to the left of the view the roofscape and tower of Frome Court can just be seen projecting above the intervening landform. The Site itself is largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation, but some limited visibility is gained below the substation where there is a gap in the vegetation.

Refer to Figure 1.5f, Appendix B.

9.1.6.2 Sensitivity

Road Users: Medium

9.1.6.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

Some limited visibility of the Development is likely to be obtained from the vantage point together with some filtered views, less so in summer. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be negligible to small adverse.

9.1.6.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Road Users: Between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse

9.1.6.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

From this locally elevated location there would be no noticeable change in the outlook from Year 1, therefore the magnitude of effect would remain negligible to small adverse.

9.1.6.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Road Users: Between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse

9.1.7 Viewpoint 7 – Three Choirs Way at Hampton Bishop Looking Northeast

This viewpoint is located on a section of the long distance walking route where it passes closest to the Site closely following the course of the River Lugg, approximately 900 m to the south. It is representative of views gained by users of the route.

9.1.7.1 Baseline

The outlook extends a short distance to the River Lugg where linear tree belts adjoin the river and prevent visibility towards the Site in the broadly flat landscape. To the right of the outlook, a more distant view is obtained of the upper wooded slopes and summit of Backbury Hill and it is also possible to see part of the built form of Prior's Frome and Sufton Rise on the lower slopes of the hill. Pylons are also visible on the skyline above the linear tree belts and are a minor detracting feature of the view.

Refer to Figure 1.5g, Appendix B.

9.1.7.2 Sensitivity

Recreational Walkers: High

9.1.7.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From this location it is highly unlikely that any visibility of the Development would be gained due to screening by intervening vegetation. The magnitude of effect would therefore be no change.

9.1.7.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Recreational Walkers: **No effect**

9.1.7.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

There would be no change in the outlook from Year 1, therefore the magnitude of effect would remain no change.

9.1.7.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Recreational Walkers: **No effect**

9.1.8 Viewpoint 8 – Swarndon Quarry East of Old Sufton Looking Northwest

This viewpoint coincides with a recognised viewpoint at an elevated location (120 m AOD) on the north western edge of the Wye Valley AONB, approximately 1 km southeast of the Site. It is a specific viewpoint from where a panoramic outlook is obtained from the AONB across low-lying areas to the west.

9.1.8.1 Baseline

From this elevated location an expansive outlook is obtained across a low-lying but gently rolling landscape that includes several steep-sided and wooded hills in the distance as well as the distant built form of Hereford. Mixed arable and pasture uses dominate the landscape interspersed with small blocks of woodland and other linear belts of vegetation that convey a wooded character. Pylons are a noticeable and detracting feature below the viewpoint as are a more distant group of large domed agricultural buildings to the far left of the outlook. It is also possible to see the complex of buildings associated with St. Michael's Hospice and Frome Court to the right of the view below which the surface area of the Site is visible extending left to Larport Lane, albeit partly screened by intervening vegetation.

Refer to Figures 1.5h and 1.11 a,b,c, Appendix B.

9.1.8.2 Sensitivity

Recreational Walkers (within the AONB): High

9.1.8.3 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 1)

From here, the solar panels would be noticeable over a wide area partially filtered and screened by intervening vegetation, more so in summer. The magnitude of effect arising from this is judged to be small to medium adverse.

9.1.8.4 Level of Visual Effect (Year 1)

Recreational Walkers (within the AONB): Between **Minor-Moderate** and **Moderate-Major** adverse

9.1.8.5 Nature of Change and Magnitude of Effect (Year 15)

From this elevated location there would be no noticeable change in the outlook from Year 1, therefore the magnitude of effect would remain small to medium adverse.

9.1.8.6 Level of Visual Effect (Year 15)

Recreational Walkers (within the AONB): Between **Minor-Moderate** and **Moderate-Major adverse**

9.2 Visual Effects on Views from Residential Properties

The effect of the Development on local residents requires particular attention because they may experience the Development from different locations, at different times of the day, usually for longer periods of time and in different seasons.

Whilst individual or specific observations are made below concerning views or potential views from properties in the direction of the Development, a 'summation' is offered based on an opinion 'in the round' i.e. taking all relevant factors into account. This could include

potential views from the property itself as well as from the surrounding amenity ground, the access / egress points and the immediately adjacent highway.

In all, twelve individual or groups of properties were identified in Section 4.15.1 of the baseline conditions as being within approximately 1 km of the Site. Some of these properties were scoped out of the appraisal at the baseline stage on the basis of little or no theoretical visibility indicated by the screened ZTV (see Section 4.16). Those with theoretical visibility are considered further in Table 1.3 below based on a desktop appraisal in conjunction with a site visit to the closest public location in the vicinity of each property.

Occupants of residential properties are judged to be of 'high' sensitivity as they are static receptors whose enjoyment of their property is likely to be affected by the quality of views and visual amenity experienced there.

Table 1.3: Visual Effects on Residential Properties

Property	Description of Effect
R1	Description: 1.5-storey, detached property (Longworth Mill) facing Longworth Lane at the bridge crossing of the River Frome with the gable end orientated towards the Site and incorporating a single upper floor window. Tall vegetation partly adjoins the property on the boundary with the Site which has a limiting effect on views, but some visibility of the Development would be gained from the upper floor window along the southern boundary with the lane. Assuming a row of specimen trees are planted along the Site boundary in the southwest corner then by Year 15 visibility would be limited to filtered views, less so in summer. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
R2	Description: 2-storey, semi-detached property (Old Longworth and Hare's Watch) orientated due south and facing on to Bridleway LU21. The east facing gable end of Old Longworth includes an upper floor window, but tall garden vegetation as well as intervening vegetation adjoining the River Frome is likely to prevent visibility of the Development. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
R3	Description: 3-storey, detached property (Longworth Hall) orientated due south on gently rising ground with an open aspect. Mature tree belts which adjoin the River Frome have a considerable limiting effect on views of the Site and are likely to prevent visibility of the Development other than possibly some filtered views in winter. No change in the view is predicted in Year 15. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Negligible adverse. Level of effect: Negligible adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Negligible adverse. Level of effect: Negligible adverse
R4	Description: 2-storey, detached property (Sheepcote) overlooking the Site from higher ground west of Longworth Lane with a mostly open aspect. This property is visible from eastern parts of the Site and as such some visibility of the Development would be gained. No change in the view is predicted at Year 15 from this elevated location. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
R5	Description: 1.5-storey, detached property (Stile Cottage) adjoining Larport Lane to the rear where the only windows are at ground floor level. A tall, thick hedge adjoins the lane on the opposite side and would effectively prevent visibility of the Development. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
R6	Description: 1.5-storey, detached property (Larport Court Cottage) facing directly on to Larport Lane. A tall, thick hedge adjoins the lane on the opposite side and would effectively prevent visibility of the Development. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect

Property	Description of Effect
R7	Description: 2.5-storey, detached property (Larport Farmhouse) set back slightly from Larport Lane with the side elevation facing the road. Adjacent outbuildings and a row of mature trees to the rear of the outbuildings have a limiting effect on views towards the Site, but some filtered views of the Development are likely from the upper floor windows, less so in summer when the vegetation is in leaf. No change in the view is predicted at Year 15. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
R10	Description: Detached bungalow (Prior's Court Bungalow) facing the unnamed minor road leading to Prior's Court on gently rising ground and set back slightly. A field hedgerow adjoins the property and has a limiting effect on views towards the Site, but it is likely that some filtered views of the Development would be gained from the rear and side garden, less so in summer when the vegetation is in leaf. No change in the view is predicted at Year 15 from this slightly elevated location. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
R11	Description: Row of three detached properties: two 2-storey dwellings (Prior's Court Cottage and an unnamed property) and one bungalow (Hill View), all overlooking the Site from higher ground just south of Prior's Court with an open aspect. The Development would be seen from these properties over a wide proportion of the view, albeit in context with pylons which pass between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch. No change in the view is predicted at Year 15 from this elevated location (refer VP 3, Figure 1.5c and photomontage Figure 1.10 a,b,c). Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse
R12	Description: 2-storey, detached property (gatehouse leading to Sufton Court) facing on to Dormington Road with the gable end orientated towards the Site. A tall evergreen hedge partly encloses the property and the absence of upper floor windows in the gable end is such that no visibility of the Development is predicted in the broadly flat landscape. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
R13	Description: 2-storey, detached property (Old Sufton) orientated northwest towards Dormington Road on rising ground. The ground rises steeply immediately north of this property and together with intervening vegetation it is unlikely that any visibility of the Development would be gained. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect

9.3 Visual Effects on Views from Settlements

Of those settlements identified in Section 4.15.1 of the baseline conditions, the screened ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Development from some of these. This is considered further in Table 1.4 below. As with occupants of residential properties described above, occupants of properties within settlements are judged to be of 'high' sensitivity.

Table 1.4: Visual Effects on Settlements

Settlement	Description of Effect
Dormington	Description: A small village which lies approximately 600 m northeast of the Site at its closest point where it adjoins Clay Hill Pitch on gently rising ground. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility extending to the north western edge of the village with Clay Hill Pitch. In reality, little or no visibility of the Development is predicted due to the orientation of properties that face the local road together with screening by roadside hedgerows, intervening hedgerows and commercial orchards that adjoin

Settlement	Description of Effect
	the village and extend west to the Site. This assumes that the orchards are not removed during the operational phase of the Development. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
Prior's Court	Description: A small hamlet which lies approximately 600 m east of the Site on more steeply rising ground (between 75 m and 95 m AOD) where it is situated along the minor road that passes through it. The view gained from here is represented in VP3 (Figure 1.5c and photomontage Figure 1.10 a,b,c). The ZTV shows theoretical visibility extending across much of the settlement and it is highly likely that some properties which are orientated towards the Site with an open aspect would gain visibility of more northern parts of the Development at Year 1 over a wide arc of view, albeit in context with Dormington Substation and pylons that emanate from it. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the settlement. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse
Prior's Frome	Description: A small hamlet which lies approximately 450 m east of the Site adjoining Clay Hill Pitch, but which also occupies more steeply rising ground further to the east (between 65 m and 85 m AOD) where it is situated along the minor road that passes through it. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility extending across much of the settlement and it is highly likely that some properties located on higher ground which are orientated towards the Site with an open aspect would gain some visibility of more southern parts of the Development at Year 1 over a wide arc of view, albeit in context with several rows of pylons that pass east of the Site. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the settlement. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse
Sufton Rise	Description: A small hamlet which lies approximately 500 m southeast of the Site on gently rising ground where the oldest parts are strung out along the minor road that passes through it generally following the 75 m contour. The settlement has also extended across lower lying ground to the west as far as Clay Hill Pitch / Dormington Road. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility extending across much of the hamlet and it is highly likely that several properties which adjoin the minor road on higher ground with an open aspect would gain oblique views of the southern part of the Development at Year 1, albeit in context with several rows of pylons that pass east of the Site. Some properties on lower lying ground further to the west are also likely to gain some views where orientated towards the Site. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the settlement. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse
Frome Park	Description: A new residential development and hospice which lies approximately 400 m northwest of the Site on gently rising ground (between 60 m and 70 m AOD) within the grounds of a former religious order at the southern limit of Bartestree. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility extending to the south eastern edge of the development where existing 3-storey buildings have been converted to residential use and the 2-storey hospice is located. A group of three listed buildings are also located on the south eastern edge.

Settlement	Description of Effect
	Intervening vegetation including a commercial orchard has some limiting effect on views, however, these buildings are visible from within the Site and as such some visibility of the Development would be gained at Year 1 from the upper storeys. No noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted at Year 15 given the more elevated location. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse

9.4 Visual Effects on Views from Recreational Routes

Of those recreational routes identified in Section 4.15.2 of the baseline conditions, the screened ZTV indicates some theoretical visibility of the Development from a small number of public footpaths and bridleways which pass within approximately 1 km of the Site. These are considered in Table 1.5 below. The permissive footpath proposed to the perimeter of the Site is not included in the assessment since it forms part of the mitigation and enhancement measures developed specifically for the scheme.

Users of recreational routes are judged to be of 'high' sensitivity to the Development as they pass slowly through the area and focus on views of the landscape.

Table 1.5: Visual Effects on Recreational Routes

Route	Description of Effect
Three Choirs Way	Description: This long distance footpath crosses southern parts of the study area in a broadly east-west direction and at its closest passes within approximately 900 m of the Site where it closely follows the course of the River Lugg. The view gained from here is represented in VP7 (Figure 1.5g). The ZTV indicates patchy theoretical visibility along the section between Hampton Bishop and Mordiford over a distance of approximately 2 km. In reality, no visibility of the Development is predicted due to screening by mature tree belts which adjoin the River Lugg and other intervening vegetation within the broadly flat landscape. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
Footpath DR2	Description: This short section of footpath extends south of the A438 to Clay Hill Pitch over a distance of approximately 600 m where it passes through a commercial orchard. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along the length of the route, however, intervening vegetation associated with the orchard prevents all views towards the Site. Assuming the orchard is retained, there would be no change in the view at Year 15. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
Footpath DR3	Description: This very short route extends south of the A438 to Clay Hill Pitch over a distance of approximately 150 m where it passes through a commercial orchard. It then effectively continues through Dormington as Bridleway DR4, from where the ZTV indicates little or no visibility. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility, however, no views of the Development would be gained at Year 1 due to screening by intervening vegetation associated with the orchard. Assuming the orchard is retained, there would be no change in the view at Year 15. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect

Route	Description of Effect
Footpath MF1-MF3	Description: This route comprises three short sections of footpath that rise up the lower and upper slopes of Backbury Hill from Clay Hill Pitch and skirt around the southern edge of Prior's Frome over a total distance of approximately 1 km. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along the lower parts of the route over a distance of approximately 600 m. In reality, views of the Development are likely to be restricted to the section immediately east of Clay Hill Pitch (Footpath MF1) which crosses a field of pasture due to screening by buildings and mature vegetation which adjoin the rest of the route (Footpath MF2 is also overgrown and inaccessible). At Year 1, the more southern part of the Development would be seen in context with the rows of pylons that pass between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the route. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
Footpath MF4	Description: This footpath crosses the lower slopes of Backbury Hill south of Prior's Court following the edge of a woodland that rises up more steeply to the east on the upper slopes of the hill. The view gained from the footpath is represented in VP3 (Figure 1.5c and photomontage Figure 1.10 a,b,c). The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along virtually the length of the route over a distance of approximately 600 m and from this elevated location a mostly open aspect is gained towards the Site. At Year 1, the Development would be clearly visible over a wide area, albeit in context with Dormington Substation and the rows of pylons that pass between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the route. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Medium adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse
Bridleway MF27	Description: This bridleway rises up the lower and upper wooded slopes of Backbury Hill just south of Sufton Rise over a distance of approximately 900 m. The view gained from here is represented in VP8 (Figure 1.5h and photomontage Figure 1.11 a,b,c), which coincides with a recognised viewpoint at the highest point along the bridleway. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility from the viewpoint and from the bridleway where it crosses the lower open slopes following a track over a distance of approximately 400 m. An intact hedgerow adjoins the track and has a limiting effect on views towards the Site, but some visibility of the southern part of the Development in context with pylons is likely from the upper section of the track and from the viewpoint itself. At Year 15, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted given the elevated location of the route and the viewpoint. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor-Moderate adverse
Bridleway HB9-LU21	Description: This bridleway extends north of Hampton Bishop to Larport Lane over a distance of approximately 1.2 km and crosses over the River Lugg. The view gained from here is represented in VP5 (Figure 1.5e). The ZTV indicates patchy theoretical visibility along the length of the route, however, no visibility of the Development is predicted due to screening by mature tree belts adjoining the River Frome and other intervening vegetation in the broadly flat landscape. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect

9.5 Visual Effects on Views from Scheduled Monuments

Of those Scheduled Monuments identified in Section 4.6 of the baseline conditions, the screened ZTV indicates little or no theoretical visibility of the Development for any of them. The magnitude of effect would therefore broadly amount to 'no change', resulting in 'no effect' on views from these heritage assets.

9.6 Visual Effects on Views from Conservation Areas

Of the three Conservation Areas identified in Section 4.7 of the baseline conditions, the screened ZTV indicates some theoretical visibility of the Development from Mordiford Conservation Area.

The Conservation Area incorporates the village, which lies approximately 1.5 km south of the Site at the crossing of the River Lugg, and the grounds of Sufton Court, which extends north of the village to within approximately 900 m of the Site (see Historic Parks and Gardens below). The ZTV indicates patchy theoretical visibility and this is almost entirely confined to the grounds of Sufton Court, which rise up to the east from Dormington Road with an open aspect to the west overlooking the River Lugg. It is possible that some limited visibility of the Development would be gained from higher ground at the northern extent of the park.

At Year 1, the magnitude of effect is judged to be small adverse and this would remain broadly unchanged at Year 15 given the elevated nature of this part of the Conservation Area. Taking account of the high sensitivity attributed to views from heritage assets and the small magnitude of effect predicted at Year 1 and Year 15, the level of effect would be **Minor-Moderate** adverse.

9.7 Visual Effects on Views from Listed Buildings

Of the Listed Buildings identified within approximately 1 km of the Site in Section 4.8 of the baseline conditions, those with theoretical visibility of the Development indicated by the screened ZTV are mainly limited to Larport Court Cottage and Larport Farmhouse on Larport Lane; the group of listed religious buildings retained as part of the Frome Park development; and various listings within the villages of Prior's Court and Prior's Frome.

Potential views of the Development from these properties has been considered in Tables 1.3 and 1.4 above in respect of residential properties and settlements. In summary, the highest levels of effect are predicted to be Moderate-Major adverse for those listings within Prior's Court and Prior's Frome.

9.8 Visual Effects on Views from Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

Of the two Registered Historic Parks and Gardens identified in Section 4.9 of the baseline conditions, only one has theoretical visibility of the Development indicated by the screened ZTV: Sufton Court (Grade II*), which lies approximately 900 m south of the Site at its closest point.

The linear parkland which surrounds the Grade II* listed residence is broadly orientated north-south and rises up to the east from Dormington Road. It includes a scattering of individual and small groups of mature trees and this affords an open aspect to the west overlooking the River Lugg. The ZTV indicates patchy theoretical visibility and it is likely that some visibility of the Development would be gained from higher ground at the northern extent of the parkland, as described above in relation to Mordiford Conservation Area.

9.9 Visual Effects on Views from Transport Routes

Of those key transport routes identified in Section 4.15.3 of the baseline conditions, the screened ZTV indicates some theoretical visibility of the Development from the A438 and

B4224. Theoretical visibility is also indicated from a number of local roads which pass within approximately 1 km of the Site. These routes are considered in Table 1.6 below.

Users of main (A-class) roads are judged to be of 'low' sensitivity to the Development where they pass through the area at high speed with limited awareness of their surroundings. Users of local (B-class) and minor roads are judged to be of 'medium' sensitivity as they travel at slower speeds and generally have a greater appreciation of their surroundings.

Table 1.6: Visual Effects on Transport Routes

Location	Description of Effect
A438	Description: The A438 crosses central parts of the study area in a broadly east-west direction and passes within approximately 200 m of the Site to the north. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility for the section between Frome Park and Dormington over a distance of approximately 1.5 km. In reality, no visibility of the Development is predicted due to screening by roadside hedgerows together with a mature plantation and commercial orchard which adjoin the road to the south and extend to the Site. This assumes that the roadside hedgerows are maintained at their present height and the orchard is not removed. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
B4224	Description: The B4224 crosses southern parts of the study area in a broadly east-west direction and passes within approximately 1.5 km of the Site. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility for a short section between Hampton Bishop and Mordiford over a distance of approximately 500 m. In reality, no visibility of the Development is predicted due to a combination of distance, the broadly flat landform and screening by roadside hedgerows and other intervening vegetation. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): No change. Level of effect: No effect Magnitude of effect (Year 15): No change. Level of effect: No effect
Clay Hill Pitch / Dormington Road	Description: This local road crosses eastern parts of the study area in a broadly north-south direction and passes within approximately 400 m of the Site. Views gained from the road are represented in VP2 (Figure 1.5b) and VP4 (Figure 1.5d). The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along the length of the route between Mordiford and Dormington over a distance of approximately 3.5 km. In reality, roadside hedgerows and other intervening vegetation have a considerable limiting effect on views towards the Site in the broadly flat landscape and it is unlikely that any visibility of the Development would be gained for northbound travellers from the section between Mordiford and Sufton Rise over a distance of approximately 1.8 km. Similarly, no visibility is predicted for southbound travellers between Dormington and Prior's Court over a distance of approximately 700 m due to screening by roadside hedgerows together with a commercial orchard which adjoins the road and extends to the Site. This assumes that the roadside hedgerows are maintained at their present height and the orchard is not removed. For approximately a 1 km section between Sufton Rise and Prior's Court the roadside hedgerows are of variable quality and intactness and are mostly trimmed low. At Year 1, fleeting views of the Development are likely from along this section at an acute angle to the direction of travel. Assuming hedgerows are reinforced / reinstated to the eastern boundary of the Site and reinstated generally to fields between the Site and the road, then by Year 15 no visibility is predicted. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small to Medium adverse. Level of effect: Between Minor and Moderate adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Neutral. Level of effect: No effect
Larport Lane	Description: This short section of local road links Dormington Road with Longworth Lane via a bridge crossing of the River Frome. It also adjoins the southern boundary of the Site over a distance of approximately 400 m where the view gained from the road is represented in VP1 (Figure 1.5a). The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along the length of the route over a distance of approximately 1 km. In reality, no visibility is predicted for approximately a 600 m section west of the junction with Dormington Road due to screening by roadside

Location	Description of Effect
	hedgerows and other intervening vegetation. Where adjoining the Site, the hedgerows are less well established and more fragmented and at Year 1 this would allow some close but fleeting views at an acute angle to the direction of travel. Assuming the hedgerows are reinforced, then by Year 15 visibility would be limited to filtered views, less so in summer. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Large adverse. Level of effect: Moderate-Major adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor adverse
Longworth Lane	Description: This local road extends south of Bartestree to Larport Lane and passes within approximately 150 m of the Site at its southern extent. Views gained from the road are represented in VP6 (Figure 1.5f) which coincides with a field entrance. The ZTV indicates patchy theoretical visibility along approximately a 1.7 km section south of Bartestree where the road descends a local ridge line. Roadside hedgerows and other intervening vegetation have a considerable limiting effect on views towards the Site, with visibility limited to field entrances or short sections where hedgerows are degraded / fragmented. At Year 1, some glimpsed and fleeting views of the Development are likely from the higher parts of the route at an oblique angle to the direction of travel. Assuming existing roadside hedgerows are maintained at their present height, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted at Year 15 given the elevated nature of the route relative to the Site. Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Negligible to Small adverse. Level of effect: Between Negligible and Minor adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Negligible to Small adverse. Level of effect: Between Negligible and Minor adverse
Minor road between Upper Dormington and Old Sufton	Description: This single track lane runs parallel with Dormington Road / Clay Hill Pitch to the east where it links Upper Dormington, Prior's Court, Prior's Frome and Sufton Rise. At its closest, the minor road passes within approximately 600 m of the Site. The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility along virtually the length of the route over a distance of approximately 1.7 km where it crosses the lower slopes below Backbury Hill. But roadside buildings and hedgerows and other intervening vegetation have a considerable limiting effect on views towards the Site and this includes a commercial orchard which adjoins the road between Upper Dormington and Prior's Court. At Year 1, some limited visibility of the Development is likely for the section between Prior's Court and Prior's Frome where the road is orientated towards the Site. Assuming existing hedgerows are maintained at their present height, no noticeable reduction in magnitude is predicted at Year 15 Magnitude of effect (Year 1): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor adverse Magnitude of effect (Year 15): Small adverse. Level of effect: Minor adverse

10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are additional effects on key characteristics of landscape character and / or on views and visual amenity that arise when the Development is experienced or seen in conjunction with one or more related developments from a particular location. Cumulative effects on views and visual amenity may also occur 'sequentially' where two or more related developments may be seen as part of a journey, for instance, along a road or recreational route.

The assessment of cumulative effects is generally limited to developments of a similar nature to that which is proposed and includes both existing developments and any which are foreseeable in the future. Accordingly, a search was undertaken of HC website for ground-mounted solar PV array sites that are operational, approved but not constructed or subject of a valid planning application within approximately 4 km of the Site.

The search identified no ground-mounted solar PV array sites, however, a solar farm development near Westhide village has recently entered the planning system and is presently the subject of an EIA screening opinion. In its current arrangement, Westhide

Solar Farm is a 125 acre scheme located approximately 4.5 km northeast of the Site that is capable of generating up to 40 MW of electricity. But given the distance that separates these schemes they are highly unlikely to give rise to unacceptable cumulative effects on landscape character or visual amenity in conjunction with each other.

Separately from this, HC considers the industrial nature of the Development to have the potential for cumulative landscape and visual effects in conjunction with the existing Dormington Substation. This energy infrastructure complex lies immediately east of the Site where it incorporates various electrical equipment and buildings laid out in a highly regimented manner within a fenced compound. In addition, tall pylons and telegraph poles supporting overhead power cables radiate out from the substation across the low-lying landscape (refer to Planning Drawing 2).

A planning application for an additional sixth 132/66V transformer located immediately south of the substation has also recently been submitted to HC (reference P210525/F). If consented, this would increase the area of the existing substation by approximately half.

10.1 Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

In terms of additional effects on landscape character, the existing substation and pylons which emanate from it already exert an industrial / urbanising influence on Principal Settled Farmlands and Riverside Meadows LTs in which they are located. They also exert some influence on Principal Wooded Hills, albeit to a lesser extent. The Development would add to this, but in comparison with the many rows of pylons which are both prominent and detracting features in the more open landscape the geographical extent of its influence would be small.

At Year 1, the cumulative magnitude of effect on Principal Settled Farmlands and Riverside Meadows LTs arising from the Development in conjunction with the substation / pylons is judged to be small adverse. For Principal Wooded Hills LT, the cumulative magnitude of effects is judged to be negligible to small adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative magnitude of effect would remain broadly unchanged i.e. small adverse and negligible to small adverse respectively.

Taking account of the low-medium sensitivity attributed to Principal Settled Farmlands / medium sensitivity attributed to Riverside Meadows and the small adverse cumulative magnitude of effect predicted, the cumulative level of effect at Year 1 would between **Negligible-Minor** and **Minor** adverse and **Minor** adverse respectively. At Year 15, the cumulative level of effect would remain broadly unchanged i.e. between **Negligible-Minor** and **Minor** adverse and **Minor** adverse.

Taking account of the medium-high sensitivity attributed to Principal Wooded Hills LT and the negligible to small adverse cumulative magnitude of effect, the cumulative level of effect would be between **Negligible** and **Minor-Moderate** adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative level of effects would remain broadly unchanged i.e. between **Negligible** and **Minor-Moderate** adverse.

10.2 Cumulative Effects on Views and Visual Amenity

In terms of additional effects on views and visual amenity, opportunities for the Development to be seen in conjunction with the substation / pylons within the wider landscape at the same time from a particular (static) location are largely limited to occupants of residential properties within the settlements of Prior's Court, Prior's Frome and Sufton Rise. These small villages occupy rising ground east of the Site and a number of properties are orientated towards it with an open aspect in which the substation / pylons are visible features to a greater or lesser extent.

At Year 1, the cumulative magnitude of effect on views for occupants of these properties arising from the Development in conjunction with the substation / pylons is judged to be

small to medium adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative magnitude of effect would remain broadly unchanged i.e. small to medium adverse given the elevated location of these settlements.

Taking account of the high sensitivity attributed to occupants of residential properties and the small to medium adverse cumulative magnitude of effect predicted, the cumulative level of effect at Year 1 would be between **Minor-Moderate** and **Moderate-Major** adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative level of effect would remain unchanged i.e. between **Minor-Moderate** and **Moderate-Major** adverse.

A number of opportunities exist for the Development to be seen in conjunction with the substation / pylons as part of a journey through the landscape, most notably from Clay Hill Pitch and Larport Lane which adjoin the Site.

At Year 1, the cumulative magnitude of effect on views for users of these local roads arising from the Development in conjunction with the substation / pylons is judged to be small to medium adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative magnitude of effect is judged to be negligible to small adverse as screen planting to the eastern and southern boundaries becomes effective.

Taking account of the medium sensitivity attributed to users of local roads and the small to medium adverse cumulative magnitude of effect predicted, the cumulative level of effect at Year 1 would be between **Minor** and **Moderate** adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative level of effect would be between **Negligible** and **Minor** adverse.

Opportunities also exist for the Development to be see in conjunction with the substation / pylons from the various public rights of way that cross the local area, most notably from the public footpaths which cross rising ground east of the Site.

At Year 1, the cumulative magnitude of effect on views for users of these public rights of way arising from the Development in conjunction with the substation / pylons is judged to be small to medium adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative magnitude of effect would remain broadly unchanged i.e. small to medium adverse given the elevated nature of many of these routes.

Taking account of the high sensitivity attributed to users of public rights of way and the small to medium adverse cumulative magnitude of effect predicted, the cumulative level of effect at Year 1 would be between **Minor**-**Moderate** and **Moderate-Major** adverse. At Year 15, the cumulative level of effect would be broadly unchanged i.e. between **Minor-Moderate** and **Moderate-Major** adverse.

11 SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

This LVA has been carried out in order to appraise the likely landscape and visual effects associated with the proposed Larport Solar Farm ('the Development') located on land west of Clay Pitch Hill, near Dormington, Herefordshire ('the Site'). The application site extends to an area of approximately 46.15 ha and is presently in agricultural use as several arable fields of broadly medium size.

The LVA has recorded and analysed the baseline landscape and visual resources of the Site and surrounding area, identified landscape and visual receptors likely to be affected by the Development and determined the extent to which these would be altered.

Mitigating measures assumed to be built into the Development to reduce likely levels of adverse landscape and visual effects include retaining all existing vegetation within and to the perimeter of the Site as characteristic features of the local landscape and improving its management. Other beneficial measures assumed to be incorporated with the Development include reinforcing / reinstating hedgerows to the eastern and southern boundaries to fully enclose the Site and improve screening of the scheme and reinstating hedgerows between the Site and Clay Hill Pitch where lost to intensive farming practises.

In addition, existing land uses on the Site would be replaced with species-rich grasslands / wildflower meadows to improve the biodiversity value of the Development. Various other ecological enhancements are also proposed along the course of the River Frome where it passes through the Site to further improve the biodiversity value of the scheme.

The LVA concluded that whilst the Development would give rise to varying degrees of adverse landscape and visual effects on a number of receptors, the degree of effects predicted to arise during the operational phase would be largely limited to the Site and its immediate setting.

11.1 Summary of Predicted Landscape Effects

The main effect on landscape character would be largely associated with the change from arable uses which cover the Site partly contained by established hedgerows and tree belts, to species-rich grasslands / wildflower meadows with solar panels and related infrastructure within the same context immediately west of Dormington. All existing vegetation would be protected, retained and strengthened and new hedgerows with hedgerow trees would be planted to help restore characteristic landscape features as well as to improve the biodiversity value of the Development and habitat connectivity.

In summary, residual levels of effect on local landscape character are predicted to be:

- Principal Settled Farmlands: Between Negligible and Minor adverse (Years 1 & 15).
- Riverside Meadows: Between Negligible and Minor adverse (Years 1 & 15).
- Principal Wooded Hills: Negligible adverse (Years 1 & 15)
- Character of the Site: Minor adverse (Years 1 & 15).

The LVA also considered the effects of the Development on the setting of the Wye Valley AONB, which the Site lies adjacent to, having regard to how it might impact on long views identified as being important or landscapes that are of complementary character.

One recognised viewpoint (VP8) on the AONB boundary was identified as having some visibility of the Development, however, the outlook in the direction of the Site includes pylons which pass immediately west of the AONB as prominent / detracting features. Furthermore, there is nothing special or complementary about the landscape which adjoins the AONB within which the Site sits. Indeed, the immediate context is that of a low-lying landscape dominated by arable farmland in which industrial / urbanising influences are present (Dormington Substation and pylons).

The LVA also considered the effects of the Development on the special qualities for which the AONB was designated. Of those visual and sensory qualities that contribute it its sense of place and identity and which have potential to be adversely affected by the Development, none were judged to undergo an unacceptable effect.

Finally, the appraisal of landscape character considered the cumulative effects of the Development in conjunction with those cumulative sites identified in the locality namely the existing Dormington Substation / pylons. The appraisal concluded that cumulative levels of effect on local landscape character would be:

- Principal Settled Farmlands: Between Negligible-Minor and Minor adverse (Yrs 1 & 15).
- Riverside Meadows: Minor adverse (Years 1 & 15).
- Principal Wooded Hills: Between Negligible and Minor-Moderate adverse (Yrs 1 & 15).

11.2 Summary of Predicted Visual Effects

Effects on views and visual amenity arising from the Development have been determined through analysis of a 'screened' ZTV diagram and a number of viewpoints that represent visibility for a range of visual receptors (people).

In this instance, the ZTV shows theoretical visibility of the Development mainly confined to areas northeast and southwest of the Site at distances up to approximately 1 km with some patchy visibility at distances up to 2 km. This largely reflects the topography of the area, notably the line of steep-sided hills immediately east of the Site and localised high ground to the west separated by low-lying areas occupied by the Rivers Frome and Lugg. The relatively contained nature of the Site itself afforded by established vegetation on or immediately adjacent to the boundaries also has a limiting effect on views, particularly from the north and west.

Close but mainly filtered views of the Development would be obtained from Larport Lane where it adjoins the southern boundary of the Site and from Clay Hill Pitch which passes to the east. Visibility of the Development would also be obtained from a number of small communities and properties that occupy higher ground east and west of the Site and from a number of public rights of way that cross rising ground east of the Site.

In summary, residual levels of effect on views and visual amenity are predicted to be:

- Effects on people living in residential properties adjacent to the Site (on Larport Lane) who are of high sensitivity are predicted to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse at Year 1, reducing to Minor-Moderate adverse at Year 15 as new screen planting establishes.
- Effects on other people living in residential properties adjacent to the Site (on Longworth Lane) who are also of high sensitivity are predicted to be between Negligible and Minor-Moderate adverse at Years 1 and 15.
- Effects on people living in small communities that overlook the Site from higher ground to the east (Prior's Court, Prior's Frome and Sufton Rise) and west (Frome Park) who are of high sensitivity are predicted to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse at Years 1 and 15.
- Effects on people using public footpaths and bridleways that cross rising ground east of the Site (MF1, MF3, MF4 and MF27) who are of high sensitivity are predicted to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse at Years 1 and 15.
- Effects on people using Larport Lane which adjoins the Site to the south who are of medium sensitivity are predicted to be Moderate-Major adverse at Year 1, reducing to Minor adverse at Year 15 where existing boundary hedgerows are reinforced. Effects on people using Clay Hill Pitch which passes adjacent to the Site to the east are predicted to be between Minor and Moderate adverse at Year 1, reducing to Neutral at Year 15 where existing boundary hedgerows are reinforced / reinstated and other hedgerows between the Site and the local road are reinforced / reinstated.
- Effects on people using other local roads adjacent to the Site (Longworth Lane and minor road between Upper Dormington and Old Sufton) who are of medium sensitivity are predicted to be between Negligible and Minor adverse at Years 1 and 15.

The appraisal also considered the cumulative effects on views and visual amenity of the Development in conjunction with Dormington Substation and pylons. The appraisal concluded that cumulative levels of effect on those visual receptors assessed as part of the standalone scheme (above) would be:

- Effects on people living in residential properties / communities are predicted to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse at Years 1 and 15.
- Effects on people using public footpaths / bridleways are predicted to be between Minor-Moderate and Moderate-Major adverse at Years 1 and 15.
- Effects on users of local roads are predicted to be between Minor and Moderate adverse at Year 1, reducing to between Negligible and Minor adverse at Year 15.

11.3 Conclusion

The nature, scale and form of the Development would inevitably result in some adverse effects on landscape character and on visual amenity as summarised above. However, the

limited height of the Development, combined with a framework of existing and new boundary vegetation and proximity to Dormington Substation, ensures that effects would be relatively localised in their extent.

There is a considerable amount of embedded mitigation planting proposed across the Site, and the Development would retain, protect and enhance landscape features such as existing trees, hedgerows and woodland areas where possible with minimal losses. The measures proposed have contributed to a biodiversity net gain of + 134.28% in Habitat Biodiversity Metric units and + 452.62% Hedgerow Biodiversity Metric Units as reported in Section 6 of the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan.

Overall, there is no reason why the likely landscape and visual effects arising from the Development should be regarded as unacceptable.

APPENDIX A – LVA METHODOLOGY

1 LVA METHODOLOGY

1.1 Guidance

The assessment methodology follows the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' Third Edition (GLVA3)[1]. As recommended by GLVA3, this is not a generic LVA methodology, but has been tailored to be proportionate to the nature and location of the Development. The methodology also considers the following guidance:

- Landscape Institute/ Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013), 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', 3rd Edition ('GLVA3')[2];
- Landscape Institute (2013), GLVA3 Statement of Clarification 1/13[3];
- Landscape Institute (2019), 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Technical Guidance Note[4];
- Landscape Institute (2019), Residential Visual Amenity Assessment TGN 2/19[5]
- Natural England (2014), 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment[6]'; and
- Natural England (2019), An approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment[7].

1.2 Introduction

The level of landscape and visual effect is determined through consideration of the 'sensitivity' and 'susceptibility' of the landscape or visual receptor to the proposed solar panels and the 'magnitude of change' that would be brought about by the proposed solar panels were they to be constructed.

The time period for the assessment covers the construction of the proposed solar panels and associated infrastructure, to completion of the works and the commencement of its operation.

The assessment has involved a process of iterative design and re-assessment of any remaining, residual effects that could not otherwise be mitigated or 'designed out'. The type of effect is also considered and may be direct or indirect; temporary or permanent (reversible); cumulative; and positive, neutral or negative. The landscape and visual assessment unavoidably involves a combination of both quantitative and qualitative assessment and wherever possible a consensus of professional opinion has been sought through consultation, internal peer review, and the adoption of a systematic, impartial, and professional approach.

[1] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.

[2] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.

[3] The Landscape Institute (2015) GLVIA3 – Statements of Clarification. Available online at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/glvia3-clarifications/

[4] The Landscape Institute, *Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical Guidance Note 06/19*, 17th September 2019. Available online at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation.pdf

[5] Landscape Institute, *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) Technical Guidance Note 02/19* 15th March 2019. Available online at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/03/tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf

[6] Natural England (2014), An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landscape-character-assessments-identify-and-describe-landscape-types (Accessed on 14/08/2020).

[7] Natural England (2019), An approach to landscape sensitviity assessment. Available on line at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/817928/landscape-sensitivity-assessment-2019.pdf

1.3 Terminology

A description of the terms used in this LVA are provided below.

1.3.1 Sensitivity of Receptor

This is established by considering the value of the receptor and its susceptibility to change. Both these two aspects inform the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors as set out in Sections 1.5.1 and 1.6.1 below. For the purposes of this LVA, receptor sensitivity is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.4 and A1.11).

1.3.2 Resource / Receptor Value

For the landscape resource this is related to the value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different people for different reasons. For visual receptors this relates to the recognition attached to a particular view (for example in relation to heritage assets or through planning designations) and indicators of value attached to views by visitors (for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps and the provision of facilities such as car parking and interpretation). For the purposes of the LVA a receptor value is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.1, A1.2 and A1.9).

1.3.3 Susceptibility to Change

For landscape receptors this means the ability to accommodate a Development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies

For visual receptors this is a product of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and visual amenity they experience.

For the purposes of this LVA, susceptibility to change is classified on a three-point scale of: low, medium, and high (refer to Tables A1.3 and A1.10).

1.3.4 Magnitude of Change

This is gauged by assessing the type and amount of change predicted to occur in relation to the landscape or visual receptor. Factors influencing the magnitude of change include: size, scale and nature of change; geographical extent; and duration and reversibility of effect as set out in Sections 1.5.2 and 1.6.2 and associated tables.

For the purposes of the LVA, magnitude of change is classified on a four-point scale of: negligible, small, medium, and large (refer to Table A1.8 and A1.14)

Where there is no change to the receptor, or indeed no view of the solar panels, the magnitude of change is assessed as **No Change** which would result in **No Effects.**

1.3.5 Level of Effect

The level of landscape and visual effect is gauged by considering the magnitude of change along with the sensitivity of the receptor using professional judgement. For the purposes of the LVA, level of effect is classified on a six-point scale of: negligible, minor, minor to moderate, moderate, moderate to major and major (Tables A1.15 and A1.16).

In line with best practice guidance set out in GLVA3, in addition to assessing level, effects are classified as: beneficial, adverse or neutral, as well as direct and indirect. An effect is understood to be neutral when the predicted residual change would, on balance, result in neither an improvement, nor a deterioration of the landscape and visual resource compared with the existing situation.

1.4 Baseline

The landscape and visual baseline of the assessment was established by undertaking a detailed desk study, fieldwork, and analysis of findings to create a detailed understanding of the existing landscape and visual context of both the site and surrounding landscape within the study area.

Establishing the landscape baseline included gathering data on the landscape character and how this varies through the study area; together with its geographic extent; and how it is experienced and valued. The desk-based assessment began with a review of legislation, policy and guidance including published landscape character assessments of the area and its wider context. This developed an understanding of the baseline environment within which the 2 km radius study area is located.

The visual baseline establishes the areas from where the new components of the development can be seen, who can see them, the places where those who see them would be affected and the nature of views and visual amenity.

Together the established baseline provides an understanding of the components of the landscape and visual resource that may be affected by the development, which includes the identification of key receptors and viewpoints which represent such receptors. The baseline is of sufficient detail to enable a well-informed assessment of the likely landscape & visual effects on the baseline conditions of the Development.

The desk-based assessment has involved the following key activities:

- Familiarisation with the landscape and visual resources of the area within which the development would be located;
- Identification of landscape and visual resources likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- Preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps;
- Identification of the location of viewpoints, informed by the ZTV, that were used to inform the assessment of effects of both landscape and visual resources; and
- Identification of suitable study areas for the LVA.

Viewpoints identified through consultation and during desk studies were ground-truthed through fieldwork and their positions fixed prior to photography being undertaken. Landscape character types (LCTs) were reviewed during fieldwork and the descriptions contained in the published landscape character assessment were augmented where necessary. Landscape and visual receptors were also assessed to ensure they are accurately represented through desk-based assessment.

1.5 Assessment of Landscape Effects

In accordance with GLVIA3 the assessment of landscape and visual effects are separate but linked procedures; the landscape is assessed as an environmental resource in its own right, whereas visual effects are assessed on views and visual amenity experienced by people.

Both landscape and visual effects have been assessed at construction stage and during operation of the solar panels.

1.5.1 Sensitivity

As noted above, the sensitivity of landscape receptors is assessed through consideration of their value and susceptibility to change. The process for determining landscape sensitivity is set out below.

Landscape Value

For landscape receptors, value concerns the importance of the landscape resource as evidenced by the presence of landscape designations and professional judgement. Susceptibility is concerned with the landscapes ability to absorb change brought about by the development.

Table A1.1 below illustrates how the value has been determined.

Table A1.1: Landscape Receptor Value

Value	Recognition	Features / Quality	Condition
High	Typically, a landscape / feature of international or national recognition e.g. World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Scheduled Monuments and Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Registered	A strong sense of place with landscape / features worthy of conservation; Absence of detracting features.	A very high-quality landscape / feature; attractive landscape / feature; exceptional
Medium	Regional recognition e.g. Conservation Areas; Grade II Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens	A number of distinguishing features worthy of conservation; evidence of some degradation and occasional detracting features.	Ordinary to good quality landscape / feature with some potential for substitution; a reasonably attractive landscape / feature.
Low	Undesignated, but locally valued landscape / features	Few landscape features worthy of conservation; evidence of degradation with some detracting features.	Ordinary landscape / feature with high potential for substitution; quality that is fairly commonplace.
Negligible	Typically, an undesignated landscape / feature.	No landscape features worthy of conservation; evidence of degradation with many detracting features.	Low quality landscape / feature with very high potential for substitution; limited variety or distinctiveness; commonplace

The European Landscape Convention[8] promotes the need to take account of all landscapes, with less emphasis on the special and more recognition that ordinary landscapes, such as community landscapes also have their own value. The criteria used to assess undesignated (community value) landscapes are set out using Box 5.1 in GLVIA3[9], as per Table A1.2 below.

Table A1.2: Factors for Assessing the Value of Undesignated Landscapes

Factor	Criteria
Landscape Quality (condition)	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Scenic Quality	The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).
Rarity	The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.

[8] The European Landscape Convention for the UK. Available on line at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-landscape-convention-guidelines-for-managing-landscapes

[9] Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Box 5.1, Page 84.

Factor	Criteria
Representativeness	Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.
Conservation interests	The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
Recreation value	Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.
Perceptual aspects	A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquility.
Associations	Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.

Susceptibility of the Landscape Receptors to Change

This means the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies[10].

Susceptibility of landscape receptors to change has been assessed using the criteria set out in Table A1.3 below.

Table A1.3: Landscape Receptor Susceptibility to Change

Susceptibility	Criteria
High	The landscape receptor is highly susceptible to the development, and a low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the key characteristics of the landscape have no or very limited ability to accommodate the specific proposed change without undue adverse effects taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.
Medium	The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.
Low	The landscape receptor has low susceptibility to the development, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape are generally able to accommodate it with little, or no, undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape.
Negligible	Very high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change; no undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation (receptor value) and/or achievement of relevant planning policies / strategies.

Landscape Sensitivity

GLVIA3 indicates that combining susceptibility and value can be achieved in a number of ways and needs to include professional judgement. However, it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptibility and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a low susceptibility and low value is likely to resulting in the lowest level of sensitivity. A summary of the likely characteristics of the different levels of

[10] Landscape Institute Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Paragraph 5.40, Page 88.

sensitivity is described below in Table A1.4 below. It should be noted that the levels are indicative and in practice there is not a clear distinction between criteria levels.

Table A1.4: Landscape sensitivity criteria

Landscape Resource Sensitivity	**Characteristics**
High	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would generally be a lower landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality. Often includes landscapes which are highly valued for their scenic quality, including most statutorily (nationally / internationally designated landscapes). Elements/features that could be described as unique or are nationally scarce. Mature vegetation with provenance such as ancient woodland or mature parkland trees, and/or mature landscape features which are characteristic of and contribute to a sense of place and illustrates time- depth in a landscape and if replaceable, could not be replaced other than in the long term.
Medium	Landscape character, characteristics, and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be a medium landscape capacity or some scope for landscape change. Often includes landscapes of medium landscape value and quality which may be locally designated. Areas that have a positive landscape character but include some areas of alteration/degradation/or erosion of features. Perceptual/aesthetic aspects has some vulnerability to unsympathetic development; and/or features/elements that are locally commonplace; unusual locally but in moderate/poor condition; or mature vegetation that is in moderate/poor condition or readily replicated.
Low	Landscape character, characteristics and elements where, through consideration of the landscape resource and characteristics, there would be higher landscape capacity or scope for landscape change or positive enhancement. Damaged or substantially modified landscapes with few characteristic features of value. Capable of absorbing major change, and landscape elements/features that might be considered to detract from landscape character such as obtrusive man-made features (e.g. power lines, large scale developments, etc.).
Negligible	Landscape character, characteristics and elements where there is a high landscape capacity or a planned desire for landscape change. Usually applies to landscapes with a lower landscape susceptibility or higher landscape capacity for the development. May also apply to derelict landscapes, spoil heaps, and de-graded urban fringe areas that require restoration or re- development / re-planting. Areas that are relatively bland or neutral in character with few/no notable features.

Landscape Resource Sensitivity	Characteristics
	A landscape that includes areas of alteration/degradation or erosion of features, and/or landscape elements/features that are common place or make little contribution to local distinctiveness. Opportunities for the restoration of landscape through mitigation measures associated with the proposal.

1.5.2 Magnitude of Landscape Effects

The determination of the magnitude of landscape and visual effects combines an assessment of the size or scale of change likely to be experienced as a result of each effect[11], the geographical extent of the area likely to be influenced and the duration and reversibility of effects.

Geographical Extent

The geographical area over which the landscape effects would be felt is also considered. This is dependent upon the nature of the proposal and the scale of effects upon the receiving landscape; however, in general effects may have an influence at the following scales:

- At the site level, within the Development site itself;
- At the level of the immediate setting of the site;
- At the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies; or
- On a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas.

Size or Scale

Judgements are needed about the size or scale of change in the landscape that is likely to be experienced as a result of each effect. GLVIA3 states that 'judgements should, for example, take account of:

- The extent of the existing landscape elements that would be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape – in some cases this may be quantified;
- The degree to which aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either for example, removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones; and
- Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

Duration and Reversibility of the Landscape Effects

Duration and Reversibility are separate but linked considerations. Duration can usually be simply judged on a scale such as:

- Short-term: 0-5 years;
- Medium-term: 5-10 years; and
- Long-term: 10-40 years.

For the purposes of this assessment this Development has been assessed as long term.

Reversibility is a judgement about whether or not a development can be removed, and once removed can the landscape / landscape be fully restored. The examples in Table A1.7 below indicate the type of land use and the respective assessment of reversibility defined in GLVIA3. Tables A1.5 to A1.8 set out the criteria used to assess the magnitude of

[11] Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (page 90)

landscape effects. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

Table A1.5 Magnitude of Landscape Change: Reversibility

Category	Description
Permanent	Permanent, is irreversible change to the landscape, for example housing development, as it not possible to remove the Solar panels and restore the land to the original state.
Partially Reversible	Partially Reversible, change to the landscape, where the landscape can be restored to something similar to the landscape that was removed. For example, mineral developments, as it is possible to restore the land to something similar to the original state, but not the same state.
Reversible	Reversible, change to the landscape where the landscape can be fully restored. For example, a marine fish farm development, as it is possible to wholly remove the remove the Solar panels and to restore the landscape to the original state. This also includes construction activities which are of temporary nature.

Overall Magnitude of Landscape Change

The overall magnitude combines size and scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility as set out in Table A1.6 below.

Table A1.6: The Assessment of Overall Magnitude of Change

Category	Description
Large	A large extent of existing landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the landscape is considerable and the resultant change to the landscape character resulting from such a loss is large. Large scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape such as the removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones – for example, removal of hedges may change a small scale, intimate landscape into a large-scale, open one, or introduction of new buildings or tall structures may alter open skylines. The effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape & landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. The change would affect all of the landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a large geographical extent, e.g., the change would be on a large scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas. The effects are either of a long duration, permanent, or irreversible /reversible change to the landscape.
Medium	A medium extent of existing landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the landscape is medium and the resultant change to the landscape character resulting from such a loss is medium. Medium scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones. The effect changes some of the key characteristics of the landscape & landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. The change would affect a medium extent of the landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a moderate geographical extent, e.g., at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies. The effects are either of a long / or medium duration, permanent, or irreversible /reversible change to the landscape.
Small	A small extent of existing landscape elements would be lost / adjusted, the proportion that this represents within the landscape is low and the resultant change to the landscape character resulting from such a loss is low.

Category	Description
	Small scale alteration of the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape such as the, removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones. The effect changes a small number of the key characteristics of the landscape & landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. The change would affect a small part of the landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a small geographical extent, e.g., at the level of the immediate setting of the site. The effects are either of a Medium / or short duration and reversible change to the landscape.
Negligible	A barely perceptible extent of landscape features and elements of importance to the character of the baseline are lost / adjusted. There is a barely discernible change to aesthetic and / or perceptual attributes of landscape & landscape character and such changes occurs across a very limited geographical area and / or proportion of the landscape receptor. The effect changes a barely discernible number of the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character. The change would affect only a negligible part of the landscape receptors being assessed, as the development would occupy a limited geographical extent, e.g., the site level, within the development site itself. The effects are of short duration and reversible.
No Change	The proposals would not affect any of the landscape receptors being assessed

1.6 Assessment of Visual Effects

Visual effects are concerned wholly with the effect of the development on views, and the general visual amenity and are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA3, paragraphs 6.1, as follows:

"An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern ... is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the context and character of views."

Visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:

- Visual effect: a change to an existing static view, sequential views, or wider visual amenity as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view.
- Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may
- combine to have a cumulative visual effect.

The visual assessment aims to determine from which points the Development can be seen in the surrounding landscape; this is known as the visual envelope. Once determined, a series of key representative viewpoints are chosen (i.e. areas within the visual envelope from where it may be possible to see the Development from publicly accessible viewpoints), such as residential areas, public open spaces, PRoW / public footpaths and roads.

Visual effects relate to changes in available views of the landscape and the effect of those changes on people, including:

- The direct effects of the Development on the content and character of views through the intrusion or obstruction and/or the change or loss of existing elements.
- The overall effect on visual amenity, be it degradation or enhancement.

In predicting the effects of the Development on the visual receptors from specific viewpoints being assessed, GLVIA3 (para 6.27) states that it is helpful to consider (but not restricted to) the following issues:

- Nature of the view (full, partial or glimpsed);
- Proportion of the Development visible (full, most, part or none);
- Distance of the viewpoint from the Development and whether it would be the focus of the view or only a small element;
- Whether the view is stationary, transient or sequential; and
- The nature of the changes to the view.

Additionally, the seasonal effects of vegetation are to be considered, in particular the varying degree of screening and filtering of views.

People have different responses to views which are dependent upon context such as the:

- Location;
- Time of day;
- Season; and
- Degree of exposure to views.

Responses to views are also dependent upon the purpose of people being in a particular place such as:

- Recreation;
- Residence;
- Employment; and
- Passing through on roads, rail or other forms of transport.

As people move through the landscape, certain activities or locations may be specifically associated with the experience and enjoyment of the landscape, such as:

- The use of paths such as footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic (BOATs) and National Trails;
- National or local cycle routes; and
- Tourist or scenic routes, and associated viewpoints on land or water.

1.6.1 Evaluating Visual Sensitivity to Change

To determine visual effects both the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of change must be considered. Determining visual sensitivity is the combination of susceptibility to change and value of a view. It is considered that a combination of high susceptibility to change and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a low susceptibility and value is likely to result in the lowest level. The value, susceptibility to change and resultant sensitivity of a visual receptor are broadly categorised based on the following Tables A1.7 and A1.8 below. It should be noted that the levels are indicative and in practice there is not a clear distinction between criteria levels.

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in the view and visual amenity is related to activity they are engaged in and the extent to which their attention is focussed on the views and visual amenity at that location. As such those receptors most sensitive to change are likely to include people engaged in outdoor activities where an appreciation of the landscape is the focus or residents in areas where the landscape setting contributes to the setting of the properties.

Conversely, those considered least sensitive to change include (but are not restricted to) people engaged in outdoor sports or recreation where there is no focus on the surrounding landscape/views and people at their place of work where the focus is on the work activity.

See Table A1.7 below for a full description of the criteria used to assess the susceptibility of viewpoints.

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views depends upon:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.12

The criteria used to assess the susceptibility of a visual receptor are summarised in Table A1.7 below.

Table A1.7 Visual Receptor Sensitivity to Change

Susceptibility	Type of Receptor
High	Residents at home. Views from well used public rights of way including strategic footpaths / long distance trails and cycle routes (where the attractive nature of the countryside is a significant factor in the enjoyment of the walk). Visitors along scenic routes and to recognised viewpoints. Visitors to protected landscapes or heritage assets where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint would be high. Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area. Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes along scenic routes, where the appreciation of the view contributes to the enjoyment and quality of the journey.
Medium	Views experienced from boats, public rights of way / footpaths used locally and passing through the landscape and well used footpaths within settlements. Views from places of worship and associated grounds, schools, country parks and golf clubs. Views experienced by users of local roads where there are clear / open views across the landscape and low levels of traffic. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint would be medium.
Low	Views experienced from places of work where workers and visitors are concentrating on their day to day activities. Views experienced by on near to motorways, major roads Views experienced by users of the rail network and main roads travelling at speed or local roads where the focus is upon the road ahead owing to traffic conditions and the context / composition of the view. Views experienced from less well used public rights of way which pass through less attractive landscapes or townscapes and are not used for enjoyment of the scenery. Views experienced by those playing or spectating at outdoor sports or utilising outdoor sports facilities. The location, numbers, frequency of use and visual context of the viewpoint would be low.

In making judgements about the value of each view, the assessment should take into account the following:

- Recognition of the value to a particular view, e.g. in relation to heritage assets or planning designations; and
- Indicators of the value attached to views by others, e.g., in guide books, tourist maps, literary references, painting etc.

[12] Ibid. 1. Paragraph 6.32

Table A1.8 below shows a full description of the criteria used to assess the value of the view.

The value attached to views should be made on judgements based on the following:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment and references to them in literature or art.

The criteria used to assess the value of views are summarised in Table A1.8 below.

Table A1.8 Value Attached to Views

Value	Criteria
High	Views from and within landscapes / viewpoints of national importance (National Parks, , AONBs), highly popular visitor attractions where the view forms an important part of the experience, or heritage assets, or through planning designations such as conservation areas, listed buildings, Parks & Gardens or with important cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a high value.
Medium	Views from landscapes / viewpoints of regional/district importance, or visitor attractions at regional or local levels where the view forms part of the experience, or local planning designations, or with local cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a medium value.
Low	Views from landscapes / viewpoints with no designations, and not particularly popular as a viewpoint, and unlikely to be visited specifically to experience the view available with minimal or no cultural associations, or where the view is deemed by the assessor to be of a low small value.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

The sensitivity of visual receptors is defined in terms of the relationship between the value of views and the susceptibility of the different viewers to the proposed change. Professional judgements are made on the merit of the view based on the visual receptor, with Table A1.9 below serving as a guide.

Table A1.9 Visual sensitivity criteria

Value	Criteria
High	A well balanced view containing attractive features and notable for its scenic quality. A view which is an important reason for receptors being there. A view which is experienced by a large number of people and/ or recognized for its qualities. A view with a medium – high susceptibility to change, and experienced by visual receptors of a high sensitivity.
Medium	An otherwise attractive view that includes some attractive or discordant features or visual detractors. A view which plays a small part in the reason why a receptor would be there.

Value	Criteria
	A view which is locally recognized. A view with a low - medium susceptibility to change, and experienced by visual receptors of a low - medium sensitivity.
Low	A view that is unattractive, discordant and/or contains many visual detractors. A view which is unlikely to be part of the receptor's experience. A view with a negligible susceptibility to change, and a low sensitivity.

1.6.2 Magnitude of Visual Change

The magnitude of change to visual receptors is assessed in terms of the following:

- The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the Development;
- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture; and
- The nature of the view of the Development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it would be experienced and whether views would be full, partial or glimpses.

Table A1.10 below sets out the criteria used to assess the magnitude of visual change. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

Geographical Extent

The geographical extent of the visual change identified at viewpoints is assessed by reference to a combination of the ZTV and field work. The following factors are considered:

The geographical extent of a visual effect reflects:

- The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;
- The distance of the viewpoint from the Solar panels; and
- The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.

Duration and Reversibility of Visual Change

The following terminology, which considers whether views would be permanent and irreversible or temporary and reversible, is used to describe the duration of the visual change at representative viewpoints:

- Short-term: 0-5 years;
- Medium-term: 5-10 years; and
- Long-term: 10 to 40 years.

For the purposes of this assessment the solar panels has been assessed as long term.

Reversibility is a judgement about whether or not a development can be removed, and once removed can the view be fully restored.

Overall Magnitude of Visual Change

The three factors that contribute to assessment of the magnitude of visual change are combined as shown in Table A1.10.

Table A1.10 Assessment of Magnitude of Visual Change

Magnitude evaluation	Size, scale and nature	Geographical Extent	Duration & Reversibility
Large	Occupies an extensive proportion of the view and may even obstruct a significant portion of the view. Views may become the dominant feature. Considerable change to the majority / many existing landscape elements and/or landscape character; fundamental changes the surroundings and baseline to a large extent; very noticeable	Ranging from notable change over extensive area to intensive change over a more limited area.	Long term; permanent / non- reversible or partially reversible.
Medium	Occupies much of the view but would not fundamentally change its characteristics. Changes would be immediately visible but not a key feature of the view. Some change to existing landscape elements and /or landscape character; discernible changes the surroundings of a receptor, such that its baseline is partly altered; readily noticeable.	Moderate changes in a localised area.	Medium term; semi-permanent or partially reversible.
Small	Occupies a small portion of the view and therefore would not result in a change to the view's composition. Small change to existing landscape elements and/or landscape character; slight, but detectable impacts that do not alter the baseline of the receptor materially not readily noticeable	Minor changes in a localised area.	Short term / temporary; partially reversible or reversible.
Negligible	Occupies a small portion of the view and therefore would not result in a change to the view's composition. Small change to existing landscape elements and/or landscape character; slight, but detectable impacts that do not alter the baseline of the receptor materially not readily noticeable	Minor changes in a localised area.	Short term / temporary; partially reversible or reversible.
No Change	There are no changes to the existing view.		

1.7 Nature of Effect

The nature of an effect is also assessed. This is dependent on a number of criteria which vary between effects upon the landscape/landscape and effects on visual amenity. Effects are classified as beneficial, neutral or adverse according to the following definitions:

- **Beneficial** effects contribute to the landscape and visual resource through the enhancement of desirable characteristics or the introduction of new, positive attributes. The removal of undesirable existing elements or characteristics can also be beneficial, as can their replacement with more appropriate components;
- **Neutral** effects occur where the development neither contributes to nor detracts from the landscape and visual resource or where the effects are so limited that the change is hardly noticeable. A change to the landscape and visual resource is not considered to be adverse simply because it constitutes an alteration to the existing situation; and
- **Adverse** effects are those that detract from or weaken the landscape and visual resource through the introduction of elements that contrast in a detrimental way with the existing characteristics of the landscape and visual resource, or through the removal of elements that are key in its positive characterisation.

The LVA describes the overall effects on receptors and explains the justification for each assessment. For each assessed effect, a conclusion has been drawn on whether the effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse.

1.8 Level of Effect and Criteria

The level of landscape and visual effect has been assessed based on the sensitivity of the affected resource / receptor, and the magnitude of change caused by the proposed Extension, as set out for each above in the preceding tables.

The combined sensitivity and magnitude used to determine the level of effect is summarised within Table A1.11 below. Note that effects can be either positive or negative, and in some cases, neutral (neither positive, nor negative).

Table A1.11 - Matrix for Determining Level of Effect

		Sensitivity (value / importance)			
		High	**Medium**	**Low**	**Negligible**
Magnitude of change	**Large**	Major	Moderate – Major	Minor – Moderate	Negligible
	Medium	Moderate – Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
	Small	Minor – Moderate	Minor	Negligible – Minor	Negligible
	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

It should be noted that the above matrix is intended as a framework for assessment only and that the level of effect will vary depending on the circumstances, the type and scale of development proposed, the baseline context and other factors. The gradations of magnitude of change and level of effect used in the assessment represent a continuum; the assessor has used professional judgement when gauging the level of effect.

Table A1.12 below provides a more detailed summary of the categories of effect.

Table A1.12 - Categories of Landscape and Visual Effect

Level of Effect	Description of Landscape Effect	Description of Visual Effect
Major	Considerable change over an extensive area of a highly sensitive landscape, fundamentally affecting the key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would become a prominent feature and would result in a very noticeable change to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view.
Moderate	Small or noticeable change to a highly sensitive landscape or more intensive change to a landscape of medium or low sensitivity, affecting some key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would introduce some enhancing or detracting features to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view, or would be prominent within a less well composed and less sensitivity view, resulting in a noticeable improvement or deterioration of the existing view.
Minor	Small change to a limited area of landscape of high or medium sensitivity or a more widespread area of a less sensitive landscape, affecting few characteristics without altering the overall impression of its character.	Where the Development would form a perceptible but not enhancing or detracting feature within a view of high or medium sensitivity or would be a more prominent feature within a poorly composed view of low sensitivity, resulting in a small improvement or deterioration of the existing view.
Negligible	No discernible improvement or deterioration to the existing landscape character.	No discernible improvement or deterioration in the existing view.
No Effect	The development would not affect the landscape receptor.	The development would not affect the view
Major	Considerable change over an extensive area of a highly sensitive landscape, fundamentally affecting the key characteristics and the overall impression of its character.	The development would become a prominent feature and would result in a very noticeable change to an existing highly sensitive and well composed view.

1.9 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

The assessment of cumulative effects is essentially the same as for the assessment of the stand-alone landscape and visual effects, in that the level of landscape and visual effect is determined by assessing the combination of sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor (ranging from high to negligible) and the magnitude of change (ranging from high to zero).

Types of cumulative effect are defined as follows:

- Cumulative Landscape Effects: Where more than one type of development may have an effect on a landscape designation or particular area of landscape character.
- Cumulative Visual Effects: Where the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of
- Development combined generate a cumulative visual effect.
- These can be further defined as follows:
    - Simultaneous or combined: where two or more developments may be viewed from a single fixed viewpoint simultaneously, within the viewer's field of view and without requiring them to turn their head.

- Successive or repetitive: where two or more developments may be viewed from a single viewpoint successively as the viewer turns their head or swivels through 360°.
- Sequential: where a number of developments may be viewed sequentially or repeatedly at increased frequency, from a range of locations when travelling along a route within the Study Area.

A cumulative landscape or visual effect simply means that more than one type of development is present or visible within the landscape. Other forms of existing development and land use such as woodland and forestry, patterns of agriculture, built form, and settlements already have a cumulative effect on the existing landscape that is already accepted or taken for granted. These features often contribute strongly to the existing character, forming a positive component of the local landscape. Landscapes however, will have a finite capacity for new development, beyond which further change or alteration to the existing landscape character may be unacceptable in landscape terms.

Whilst the CLVIA considers other development, it should not be considered as a substitute for individual LVA assessment in respect of each of the other developments concerned.

The methodology for cumulative assessment follows that contained within GLVIA3. GVLIA3 (para 7.8) and requires that the baseline includes additional changes to the baseline landscapes or visual resources as a result of other development.

Existing similar types of developments are therefore included within the baseline description, and cumulative effects of consented and Development are considered separately.

1.9.1 Magnitude of Cumulative Change

Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or visual resources, as a result of the Development, in conjunction with other developments.

The principle of magnitude of cumulative change thus makes it possible for the Development to have a major effect on a particular receptor, while having only a minor cumulative effect in conjunction with other existing developments.

The cumulative landscape and visual magnitude of change is determined with reference to the criteria set out above and the following considerations:

- The number of visible existing and/or potentially visible proposed developments.
- The distance to existing and/or proposed developments.

1.9.2 Significance of Cumulative Effects

Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or visual resources, as a result of the Development, in conjunction with other developments.

The principle of magnitude of cumulative change thus makes it possible for the Development to have a major effect on a particular receptor, while having only a minor cumulative effect in conjunction with other existing developments.

The cumulative landscape and visual magnitude of change is determined with reference to the criteria set out above and the following considerations:

- The number of visible existing and/or potentially visible proposed developments; and
- The distance to existing and/or proposed developments.

2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Planning law contains a widely understood principle that individuals (i.e. visual receptors at a single residential property) have no 'right to a view' and that the outlook or view from a private property is a private interest and not therefore protected by the UK planning system.

However, the planning system also recognises situations where the effects on residential visual amenity are considered as a matter of public interest. This matter has been examined at a number of public inquiries where the key determining issue was not the identification of significant effects on views, but whether a Development would have an overbearing effect and/or result in unsatisfactory living conditions, leading to a property being regarded, objectively, as an unattractive (as opposed to a less attractive) place in which to live.

As a consequence, the visual assessment methodology provides for a much more detailed assessment of the closest residential properties. This allows the assessor, and consequently the determining authority, to make a judgement as to whether the residents at these properties would be likely to sustain unsatisfactory living conditions which it would not be in the public interest to create. Reviews of decisions demonstrate that significant changes to the views available from a residential property, and its curtilage, are not the decisive consideration.

By way of further clarification, the methodology for assessing the visual effects on views from residential properties allows for two stages of assessment as follows:

- The first stage is to identify those properties where a significant visual effect on a view from the property is likely to occur.
- The second stage is to consider the residential amenity and whether, in terms of the wider public interest, the visual effects would result in unsatisfactory living conditions, leading to a property being regarded, objectively, as an unattractive (as opposed to a less attractive) place in which to live.

A residential property, for the purposes of environmental impact assessment, should be one that was designed and built/converted for that purpose and currently (at the time of the assessment) remains in a habitable condition, of a safe construction, wind and water tight with appropriate vehicle access, and services (drinking water, sanitation, and power supply). Related buildings such as barns/outbuildings, garage, huts and derelict properties should generally be excluded from the assessment, unless they form part of the curtilage of an existing residence.

The sensitivity of individual residential receptors is assessed as high in each case.

The assessment of residential properties or groups of residential properties in this case has been limited to those properties within 1 km of the proposed solar farm, which appear on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map. Whilst most of the properties can be viewed at close range from public roads and footpaths, some of these properties are accessed via private or gated roads and due to these access limitations, they have been assessed from the nearest public road or footpath which may be at greater distance from the property. The assessment, in this instance, should therefore be regarded as a 'best estimate' of the likely visual effects.

The assessment has been further supported by aerial and ground level photography as well as map-based data. The assessment takes account of the likely views from the ground floors of properties and main garden areas, but excludes upper floors and other land that may be connected with the property. Relevant information considered as part of the assessment may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Scale of Development:
  - Number and height of the Development;

  - The horizontal extent or AOV of the visible array; and
  - Separation distance (closest and furthest buildings).
- Description of Property, as far as this can be ascertained:
  - Orientation and size of property and whether views from the property towards the development would be direct or oblique;
  - Location of principle rooms and main living areas such as living/dining rooms, kitchens and conservatories, as opposed to working areas such as farm buildings and utility areas;
  - Location of principle garden areas which may include patios and seating areas as opposed to less well used areas such as paddocks or garages; and
  - The effects of any screening by landform, vegetation or nearby built development.
- Location and Context:
  - The aspect of the property in terms of the overall use and relationship to the garden areas and surrounding landscape;
  - The principle direction of main views and visual amenity; and
  - The context and nature of any intervening structures e.g. other existing development, farm buildings or forestry.

3 VIEWPOINT ANALYSIS

Viewpoint analysis is used to assist the LVA and is conducted from selected viewpoints within the Study Area. The purpose of this is to assess both the level of visual impact for particular receptors and to help guide the design process and focus the landscape and visual assessment.

A range of viewpoints are examined in detail and analysed to determine whether a significant visual effect would occur. By arranging the viewpoints in order of distance it is possible to define a threshold or outer limit beyond which there would be no further significant effects.

The assessment involves visiting each viewpoint location. The fieldwork is conducted in periods of fine weather and good visibility and also considers seasonally reduced leaf cover.

Viewpoint selection followed good practice guidance and in particular paragraphs 6.18 to 6.20 of GLVIA3. The viewpoints chosen were used to aid the description of effects on both landscape and visual resources.

The selection of viewpoints was made on the basis of the following types of publicly accessible viewpoints, as follows:

- Representative viewpoints (for example, representing views of users of a particular footpath);
- Specific viewpoints (for example, a key view from a specific visitor attraction);
- Illustrative viewpoints (chosen to demonstrate a particular effect/specific issue);
- Any important sequential views, for example, along key transport routes; and
- Any additional viewpoints that have been requested by consultees at Scoping.

For the purposes of the LVA, all of the viewpoints were taken from publicly accessible land.

Baseline photographic panoramas have been produced for each viewpoint to illustrate the nature of existing views in the direction of the solar panels. A baseline photographic survey

has been undertaken using a digital SLR camera in accordance with current good practice guidance[13].

The methodology for photography follows GLVA3 and the Landscape Institute's TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals.

4 ZTV METHODOLOGY

In order to assist with viewpoint selection and to appreciate the potential influence of the development in the wider landscape, preliminary ZTV plans are used. ZTV plans illustrate the area from where it may be theoretically possible to view all, or part, of the Development. The ZTV does not however, take account of the screening effects of buildings, localised landform and vegetation, unless specifically mentioned (see individual figures). As a result, there may be roads, tracks and footpaths in the vicinity of the site and in the wider setting which, although shown as falling within the ZTV, are screened or filtered by banks, walls and vegetation which would otherwise preclude viewing opportunities.

The ZTVs provide a starting point in the assessment process and accordingly tend towards giving a 'worst case' or greatest calculation of the theoretical visibility.

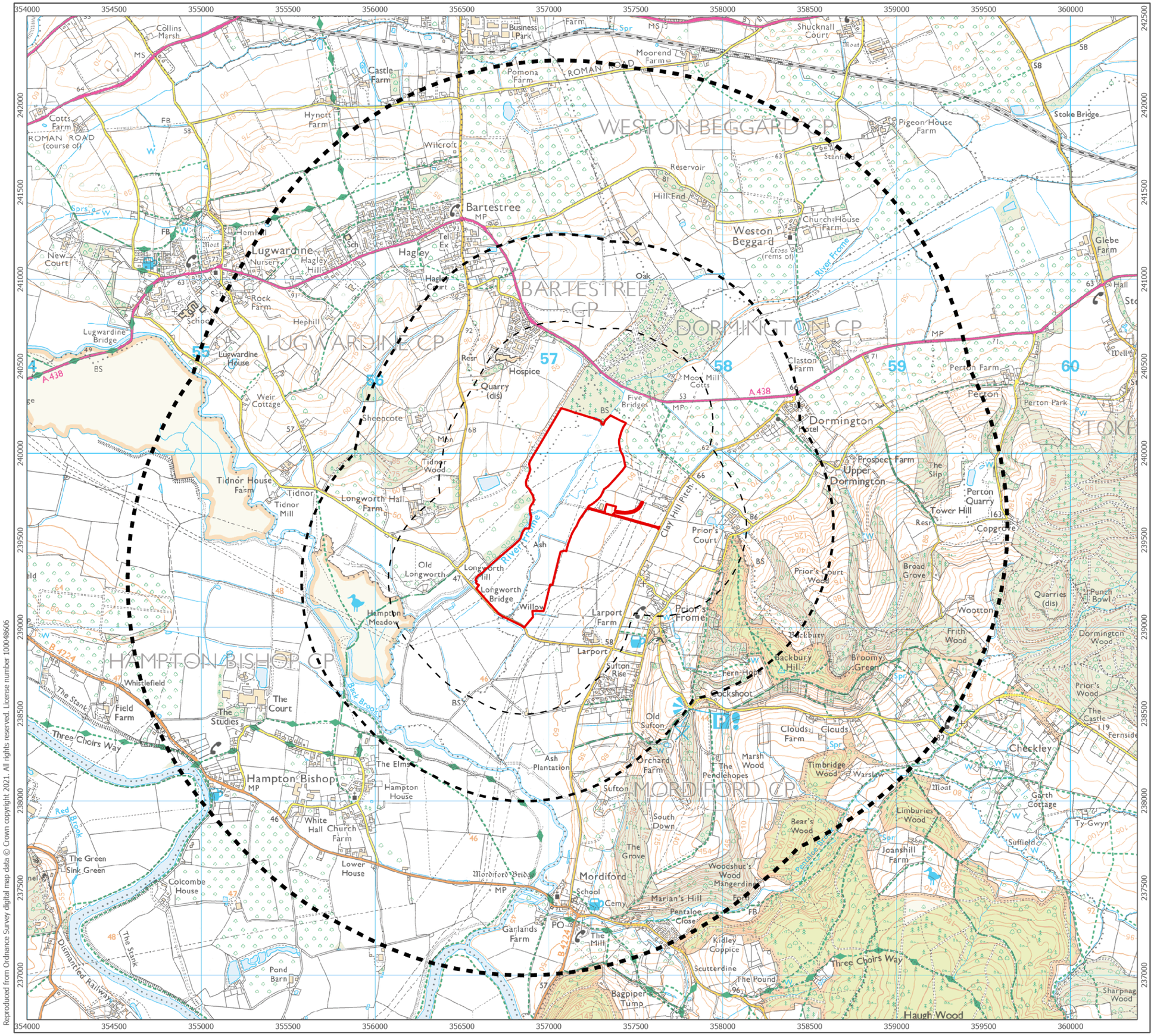
Ordnance Survey Terrain 5 dataset was used as the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) for the Bare Earth ZTV. This DTM is a 5 m by 5 m raster dataset that is representative of the land form across Great Britain.

The ZTV was produced using ArcGIS Pro 2.1 software, and the calculations were based on the proposed infrastructure. The ZTV is created by highlighting areas on the DTM where a potential piece of infrastructure may be visible, based on the DTM. The height value given to the infrastructure was dependent on the flood depth value per field within the solar panels, plus the height of solar panels.

Arcus has developed additional methodology to supplement the "bare earth ZTV" which enables a more accurate representation of viewpoint assessment and a greater understanding of the visual baseline. The ZTV has been refined using the topographic survey of the site, LiDAR and DTM data, and stereo-photography modelling of trees, to enable a better understanding of the likely visual footprint of the Development. This will still represent theoretical visibility and will be considered in line with fieldwork to ground truth the findings of the data.

[13] Landscape Institute, 2019, *Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals* https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation.pdf

APPENDIX B – FIGURES



N:\GIS\Landscape\Projects\3900 Larport Solar Farm\3900 Larport Solar Farm.aprx\3900-REP-007 Fig1.1 Site Location

ARCUS

Site Boundary

Landscape Study Areas

0.5 km Study Area

1 km Study Area

2 km Study Area

1:21,000 Scale @ A3

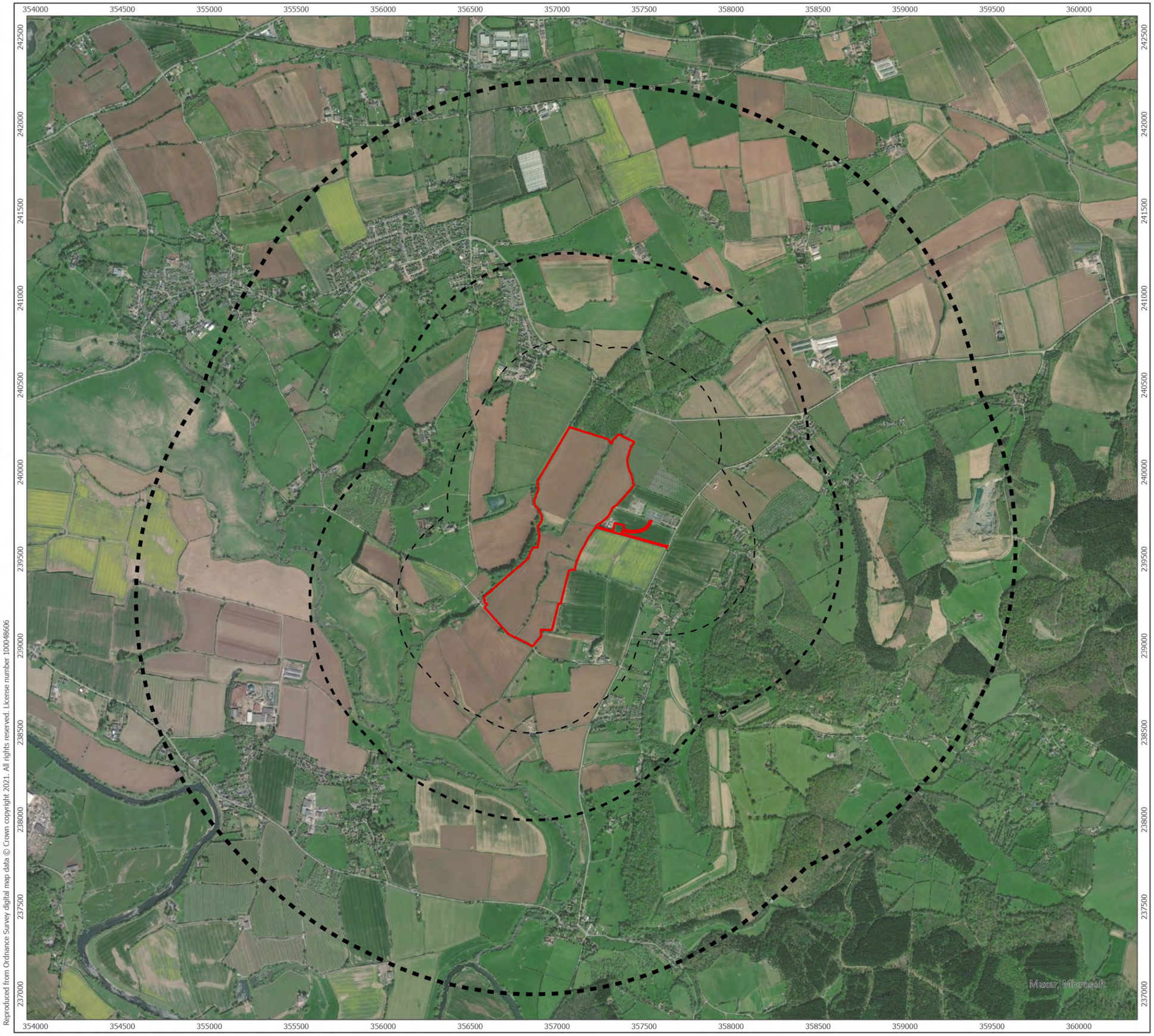
0 0.5 1 km

NORTH

Produced By: AK	Ref: 3900-REP-007
Checked By: CH	Date: 13/08/2021

Site Location
Figure 1.1

Larport Solar Farm
Landscape Visual Appraisal



ARCUS

Site Boundary

Landscape Study Areas

0.5 km Study Area

1 km Study Area

2 km Study Area

1:21,000 Scale @ A3

0 0.5 1 km

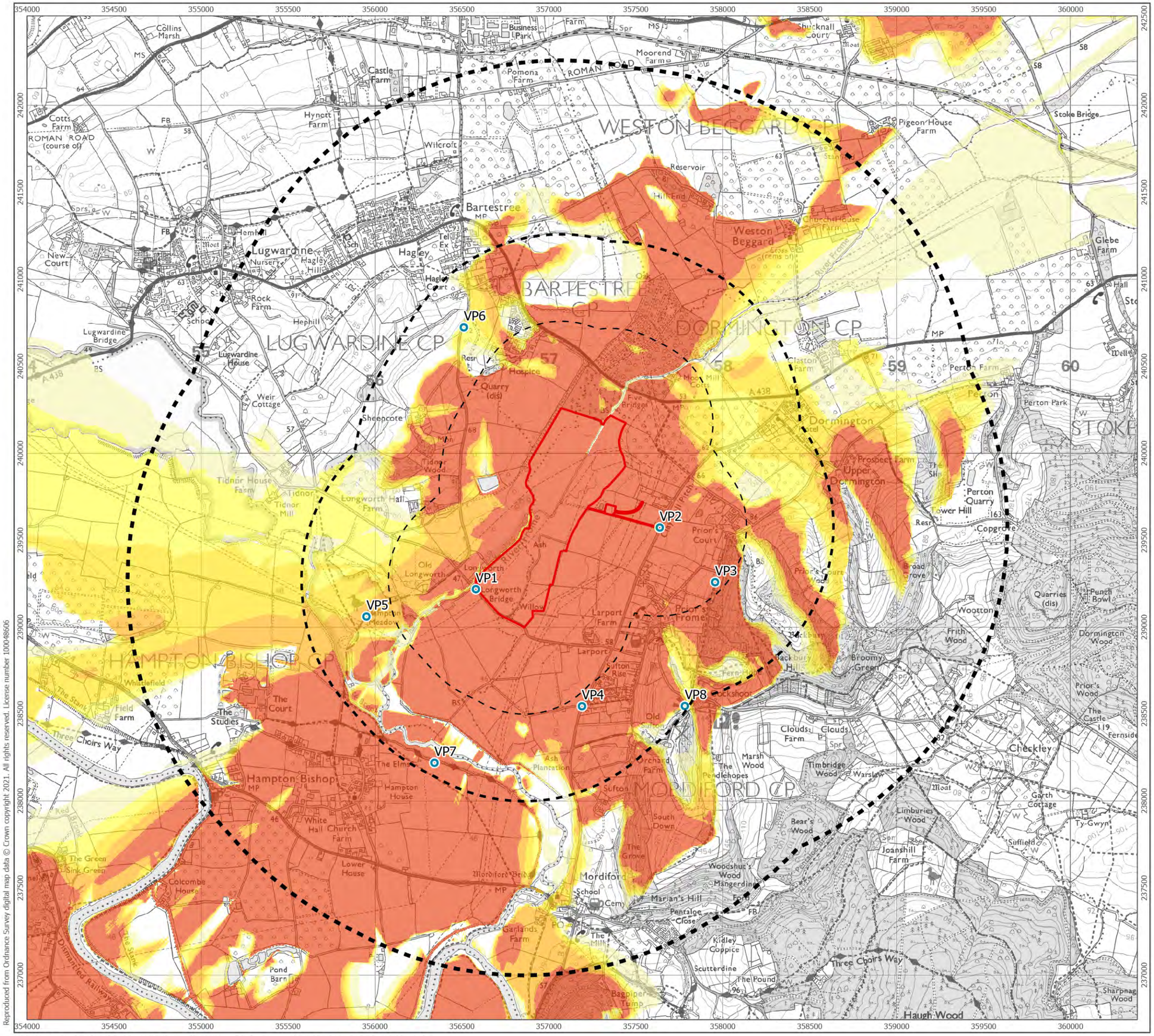
NORTH

Produced By: AK	Ref: 3900-REP-008
Checked By: CH	Date: 13/08/2021

Aerial Mapping
Figure 1.2

Larport Solar Farm
Landscape Visual Appraisal

N:\GIS\Landscape\Projects\3900 Larport Solar Farm\3900 Larport Solar Farm.aprx\3900-REP-008 Fig1.2 Aerial Mapping



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Checked By: CH	Date: 13/08/2021

Bare Earth ZTV
Figure 1.3

Larport Solar Farm
Landscape Visual Appraisal

N:\GIS\Landscape\Projects\3900 Larport Solar Farm\3900 Larport Solar Farm.aprx\3900-REP-012 Fig1.3 Bare Earth ZTV

ARCUS

- Site Boundary
- Viewpoint Locations

Landscape Study Areas

- 0.5 km Study Area
- 1 km Study Area
- 2 km Study Area

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 1-20% Proposed Development may be visible
- 21-40% Proposed Development may be visible
- 41-60% Proposed Development may be visible
- 61-80% Proposed Development may be visible
- 81-100% Proposed Development may be visible

1:21,000 Scale @ A3

0 0.5 1 km

NORTH

Produced By: AK	Ref: 3900-REP-013
Checked By: CH	Date: 16/08/2021

Screened ZTV
Figure 1.4

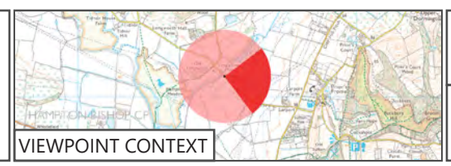
Larport Solar Farm
Landscape Visual Appraisal

N:\GIS\Landscape\Projects\3900 Larport Solar Farm\3900 Larport Solar Farm.aprx\3900-REP-013 Fig1.4 Screened ZTV

Approximate Extent Of Proposed Development Boundary

Existing View

Larport Solar Farm			
ARCUS			
Viewpoint Location:	356590E 239214N	Paper Size:	420 mm x 297 mm
View Direction:	98°	Image Size:	98.75 mm x 398 mm
Camera Elevation:	48.5m AOD	Camera:	Canon EOS 1300D
Distance to Development:	On site boundary	Lens:	50 mm
Horizontal Field of View:	90 degrees	Camera Height:	1.5 m
Date of Photography:	16.06.2021	Time of Photography:	13.00



VIEWPOINT CONTEXT

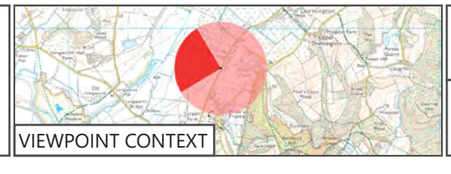
Figure:1.5a

Viewpoint 1: View from Larport Lane adjoining site, looking northeast

Approximate Extent Of Proposed Development Boundary

Existing View

Larport Solar Farm	Viewpoint Location:	357636E 239579N	Paper Size:	420 mm x 297 mm	Figure:1.5b
ARCUS	View Direction:	284°	Image Size:	98.75 mm x 398 mm	Viewpoint 2: View from Clay Hill Pitch west of Prior's Court, looking west
	Camera Elevation:	59.5 m AOD	Camera:	Canon EOS 1300D	
	Distance to Development:	300 m	Lens:	50 mm	
	Horizontal Field of View:	90 degrees	Camera Height:	1.5 m	
	Date of Photography:	16.06.2021	Time of Photography:	8.50	



VIEWPOINT CONTEXT

Approximate Extent Of Proposed Development Boundary

Existing View

Larport Solar Farm			
ARCUS			
Viewpoint Location:	357935E 239197N	Paper Size:	420 mm x 297 mm
View Direction:	278°	Image Size:	98.75 mm x 398 mm
Camera Elevation:	96.5 m AOD	Camera:	Canon EOS 1300D
Distance to Development:	600 m	Lens:	50 mm
Horizontal Field of View:	90 degrees	Camera Height:	1.5 m
Date of Photography:	16.06.2021	Time of Photography:	10.15

VIEWPOINT CONTEXT

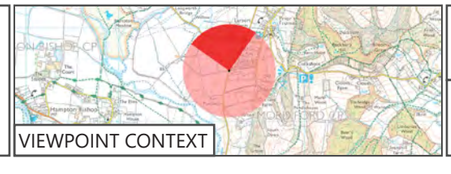
Figure:1.5c

Viewpoint 3: View from Public Footpath MF4 south of Prior's Court, looking west

Approximate Extent Of Proposed Development Boundary

Existing View

Larport Solar Farm	Viewpoint Location:	357186E 238543N	Paper Size:	420 mm x 297 mm	Figure:1.5d
ARCUS	View Direction:	350°	Image Size:	98.75 mm x 398 mm	Viewpoint 4: View from Dormington Road at Sufton Rise, looking north
	Camera Elevation:	55.5m AOD	Camera:	Canon EOS 1300D	
	Distance to Development:	600 m	Lens:	50 mm	
	Horizontal Field of View:	90 degrees	Camera Height:	1.5 m	
	Date of Photography:	16.06.2021	Time of Photography:	12.15	



VIEWPOINT CONTEXT

Approximate Extent Of Proposed Development Boundary

Existing View

Larport Solar Farm			
ARCUS			
Viewpoint Location:	355910E 238945N	Paper Size:	420 mm x 297 mm
View Direction:	86°	Image Size:	98.75 mm x 398 mm
Camera Elevation:	48.5m AOD	Camera:	Canon EOS 1300D
Distance to Development:	700 m	Lens:	50 mm
Horizontal Field of View:	90 degrees	Camera Height:	1.5 m
Date of Photography:	16.06.2021	Time of Photography:	14.20

VIEWPOINT CONTEXT

Figure:1.5e

Viewpoint 5: View from Public Bridleway HB9 at Hampton Meadow, looking northeast