Botley West Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1

Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
The Applicant	SolarFive Ltd
The Project	The Botley West Solar Farm (Botley West) Project
Access Land	Land designated as open access as defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act).
Characteristics	Elements, or combinations of elements, which contribute to distinctive landscape character.
Designated landscapes	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for one or more Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).
Effect	Best practice guidance defines effect as the change resulting from an impact (which is defined as "*the action being taken*") (e.g. the effect erecting a building/structure of removing a tree on seascape/landscape character or views/visual amenity). (GLVIA3, pages 8-9).
Environmental Impact Assessment	A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement.
EIA Scoping Report	A report setting out the proposed scope of the EIA process. The Transmission Assets Scoping Report was submitted to The Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) for the Morgan and Morecambe Offshore Windfarms Transmission Assets in October 2022.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
Feature	Prominent elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines.
Green infrastructure	Networks of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities.
Heritage	The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities, such as historic buildings and cultural traditions.
Key characteristics	Elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.

Term	Meaning
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape quality (condition)	A measure of 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.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposal.
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.
Magnitude (of impact)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the impact or change, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long-term in duration.
Maximum design scenario	The scenario within the design envelope with the potential to result in the greatest impact on a particular topic receptor, and therefore the one that should be assessed for that topic receptor.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of a proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs of the existing landscape.
Representative Viewpoint	A viewpoint location that is chosen to represent a number of publicly accessible views.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
Significance (of effect)	A judgement of the environmental effect resulting from a combination of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact of a proposed development.
Special Qualities	A term usually used in relation to National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is given to those qualities for which the area is designated.

Term	Meaning
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Substation	Part of an electrical transmission and distribution system. Substations transform voltage from high to low, or the reverse by means of electrical transformers.
Study area	This is an area which is defined for each environmental topic which includes the Order Limits as well as potential spatial and temporal considerations of the impacts on relevant receptors. The study area for each topic is intended to cover the area within which an impact can be reasonably expected.
The Project	The Botley West Solar Farm.
The Site or Order Limits	The area of land encompassing the Project development and shown on the Site Location and Order Limits plan (Volume 2, Figure 1.1 of the ES).
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy in their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a proposed development.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PINS	The Planning Inspectorate
PV	Photovoltaic

Abbreviation	Meaning
PVDP	Photovolt Development Partners GmbH
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASNW	Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland
EGL	Existing Ground Level
ES	Environmental Statement
EU	European Union
CA	Conservation Area
CRoW	Countryside Rights of Way Act
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LDP	Local Development Plan
LDF	Local Development Framework
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LI	Landscape Institute
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MDS	Maximum Design Scenario
NCA	National Character Area
NP	National Park
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OS	Ordnance Survey
PA	Planning Act
PDE	Project Design Envelope
PEI	Preliminary Environmental Information
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Abbreviation	Meaning
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area
UK	United Kingdom
TGN	Technical Guidance Note (Landscape Institute)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

[Include all units used in the document in the table below. The units included in the table below are examples – delete if they are not relevant to this document and add those used.]

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
km^2	Square kilometres
kWh	Kilowatt hour
MW	Megawatt
MWe	Megawatt electrical
MWh	Megawatt hour
km	kilometres
m	metres
km^2	square kilometres
m^2	square metres
°	degrees

8 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

8.1 Introduction

Overview

8.1.1 This chapter of the ES sets out the approach to the assessment of likely significant effects, of the Project, upon landscape resources and visual receptors. The application for development consent is being made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) under the Planning Act 2008. The proposal is to install and operate approximately 840MWe of solar generation in parts of West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and Vale of White Horse Districts, within the county of Oxfordshire (the Project).

8.1.2 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared by RPS for Photovolt Development Partners GmbH (PVDP) on behalf of SolarFive Ltd (the Applicant).

8.1.3 This chapter describes and addresses the existing landscape and visual resources within the Project Site and the surrounding Study Area (the Baseline). This includes identification of the character and features of the landscape and consideration of changes that would result as a consequence of the Project. In addition, it considers the potential visual effects arising as a result of the Project. The chapter reports on studies (including a combination of field surveys and desktop research) to describe, classify and evaluate the existing resources to form the basis for the assessment of the likely effects of the Project.

8.1.4 Landscape and visual effects are two separate but related concepts, and they do not always coincide. Effects on the landscape alter the fabric, character and quality of the landscape itself. Visual effects assessment is the interrelated, by separate, assessment of the visual experience of people who live nearby or who visit the area, and for people who experience the countryside for recreational purposes.

8.1.5 The principal objectives of the LVIA are:

- to describe, classify and evaluate the existing landscape likely to be affected by the Project during its construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
- to identify visual receptors and views of the Project; and
- to identify effects on landscape and views and assess their significance, considering measures proposed to reduce or avoid any effects identified.

8.1.6 This Chapter also draws upon information contained within Appendix 8.1: Landscape Character and 8.2: Landscape Value, of the ES **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**.

8.2 Legislative and Policy Context

Legislation

8.2.1 National government policy and underpinning legislation is summarised in **Table 8.1** together with how it has been considered in the LVIA for the Land West of Botley Solar Farm Project.

Table 8.1: Summary of national government legislation relevant to the landscape and visual impact assessment

Summary of National Legislation	How and where considered in the ES
Primary Legislation	
The European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000) acknowledges that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource. The convention defines the meaning of 'landscape', and the importance of its characterisation through assessment, its protection, management and planning and its contribution to the quality of life for people everywhere.	An assessment of effects, on the landscape character within the study area, as a result of the Project is provided at **Section 8.5.25** within this LVIA ES chapter.
The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949) provides the original framework for the creation of National Parks and National Landscapes for the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty and also addresses rights of way and access to open land.	The indirect effect on the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape). An assessment of indirect and direct effects, on the landscape character, as a result of the Project is provided at **Section 8.5.25** within this LVIA ES chapter.
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000 (CRoW), sets out the rights of the public in relation to access land and public rights of way and the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape) for the purpose of conserving and enhancing natural beauty.	The indirect effect on the Cotswolds National Landscape. The effect on land within the LVIA Study Area designated as access land/open country. An assessment of indirect and direct effects, on the landscape character and areas designated as access land / open country, as a result of the Project is provided at **Section 8.5.25** within this LVIA ES chapter.

Planning policy context

National Policy Statements

8.2.2 There are currently six designated energy National Policy Statements (NPSs), EN-1, EN-2, EN-3, EN-4, EN-5 and EN-6. The 2023 revised NPSs (EN-1 to EN-5) came into force on 17 January 2024.

8.2.3 **Table 8.2** sets out a summary of the policies within these NPSs, relevant to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

Table 8.2: Summary of designated NPS document requirements relevant to this chapter

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
Summary of NPS EN-1 policy (January 2024)	
"The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues. *The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England…"* (Paragraphs 5.10.16 to 5.10.17 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, EN-1, January 2024)	The existing landscape character and assessments are summarised in Section 8.6 (Baseline Environment) with further detail at Appendix 8.1 **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**. Relevant planning policy used to inform the assessment are summarised in **Section 8.2** (Legislative and policy context).
"The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or a National Landscapes the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas." (Paragraph 5.10.20 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, EN-1, January 2024)	Assessment of effects on the landscape and landscape elements, at construction, operation and decommissioning are assessed in **Section 8.9**.
"The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation." (Paragraph 5.10.21 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy, EN-1, January 2024)	Assessment of effects on the landscape and landscape elements, at construction, operation and decommissioning are assessed in **Section 8.9**.
Summary of NPS EN-3 policy (January 2024)	
The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure. (Paragraph 2.10.94 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, EN-3, January 2024)	Assessment of cumulative effects on landscape and visual resources are assessed at **Section 8.9.**
However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised. (Paragraph 2.10.95 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, EN-3, January 2024)	An Illustrative Masterplan, detailing existing vegetation and proposed landscape mitigation is included as part of the ES, refer to figure **[EN010147/APP/6.4]**.
Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre-application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a	Consultation caried out as part of this LVIA ES chapter is summarised in **Table** 8.5 Table 8.6: Summary of consultation

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
part of the pre- application process. (Paragraph 2.10.96 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, EN-3, January 2024)	relevant to this chapter above. This has informed the iterative design process and the form and content of the ES LVIA chapter.
Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints. (Paragraph 2.10.97 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, EN-3, January 2024)	For the purposes of the ES, photomontages from 31no. Representative Viewpoints have been produced. These are presented at Figures 8.248 to 8.371 **[EN010147/APP/6.4]**. They illustrate winter Year 1 (worst-case scenario without mitigation planting) and summer Year 15, with mitigation planting fully established. The Representative Viewpoints and those selected as photomontage location were chosen and refined following consultation with the host authorities.
The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. (Paragraph 2.10.100 of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy, EN-3, January 2024)	An Illustrative Masterplan, detailing existing vegetation and proposed landscape mitigation is included as part of the ES, refer to figure **[EN010147/APP/6.4]**. An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) has been completed as part of the ES **[EN010147/APP/7.6.2]**.
Summary of NPS EN-5 policy (January 2024)	
New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts. (Paragraph 2.9.9 of the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure, EN-5, January 2024)	Assessment of effects on the landscape and visual resources, at construction, operation and decommissioning included in **Section 8.9**. The assessment of effects includes reference to all substations and other associated infrastructure.

The National Planning Policy Framework

8.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in 2012 and updated in 2018, 2019, 2021 and twice in 2023 (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, December 2023). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England.

8.2.5 **Table 8.3** sets out a summary of the NPPF policies relevant to this chapter.

Table 8.3: Summary of NPPF requirements relevant to this chapter

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
Section 1. Introduction		
Paragraph 5	*"The Framework does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects. These are determined in accordance with the decision making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other matters that are relevant (which may include the National Planning Policy Framework). National policy statements form part of the overall framework of national planning policy, and may be a material consideration in preparing plans and making decisions on planning applications."*	The NPPF has been reviewed and referenced as part of the overall policy context. Though NPS is the primary policy.
Section 2. Achieving sustainable development		
Paragraph 7	*"The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection".*	The Project facilitates a renewable energy project (Planning Support Statement, 1st November 2024 **[EN010147/APP/7.1]**).
Paragraph 8	*"Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives)".*	The Project facilitates a renewable energy project (Planning Support Statement, 1st November 2024 **[EN010147/APP/7.1]**).

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
Paragraph 10	*"So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (paragraph 11)".*	The Project facilitates a renewable energy project (Planning Support Statement, 1st November 2024 **[EN010147/APP/7.1]**).
Paragraph 11	*"plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development". For decision-taking this means d) granting permission unless:* *i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed. 7* *Footnote 7 lists those sites of particular importance. For landscape these are: Local Green Space; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and National Parks; The proposed solar park/farm lies outside these designations".*	No elements of the Project are located within nationally designated seascapes or landscapes (see paragraphs 8.6.29 to 8.6.32.
Section 3. Plan-making		
Paragraph 32	*"Significant adverse impacts on these [economic, social, and environmental] objectives should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)".*	Noted, Mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the Project are detailed at **Section 8.8**.
Section 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change		
Paragraph 155	*"To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:* *provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts)".*	The Project facilitates renewable energy project. The cumulative effects are considered in **Section 8.10.**
Paragraph 158	*"When determining planning applications for renewable and low*	The effects of the temporary and permanent elements of the Project on the landscape

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	carbon development, local planning authorities should: *approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas".*	resources are assessed in **Section 8.9** (Assessment of Effects).
Section 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment		
Paragraph 174	*"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:* *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);* *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland".*	The effects of the temporary and permanent elements of the Project on the landscape resources are assessed in **Section 8.9** (Assessment of Effects).
Paragraph 175	*"… distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries".*	The effects of the temporary and permanent elements of the Project on the landscape resources are assessed in **Section 8.9** (Assessment of Effects).
Paragraph 185	*"Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location considering the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural*	The effects of the temporary and permanent elements of the Project on the landscape resources are assessed in **Section 8.9** (Assessment of Effects).

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development".	

National Planning Practice Guidance

8.2.6 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021) supports the NPPF and provides guidance across a range of topic areas.

8.2.7 The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (DCLG, 2014) a web-based guidance resource that was introduced in 2014 in order to bring together existing planning practice guidance for England in an accessible and useable way. The Natural Environment section was updated in July 2019. Only sections of relevance to The Project are discussed below.

Natural Environment – Landscape (21st July 2019)

8.2.8 NPPG at paragraph: 036 (Reference ID: 8-036-20190721) explains the NPPF requires that "plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include nationally and locally designated landscapes but also the wider countryside".

8.2.9 In the same paragraph, the NPPG requires that where landscapes have a particular, local value planning policies should 'identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence'. In addition, 'Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures…'. Also 'The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully'.

8.2.10 Paragraph 037 (Reference ID: 8-037-20190721) refers to using Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments to demonstrate the likely effects of a Project on the landscape. The baseline character of the Project Site is described in this LVIA in **section 8.6**. The likely landscape and visual effects are assessed at paragraphs 8.9.1 to 8.9.259, with potential cumulative effects dealt with at paragraphs 8.11.1 to 8.11.73.

Local planning policy

8.2.11 The relevant local planning policies applicable to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, based on the extent of the study areas for this assessment are summarised in **Table 8.4**.

Table 8.4: Summary of local planning policy relevant to this chapter

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part 1 (Adopted December 2016)		

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
Core Policy 44: Landscape	*"The key features that contribute to the nature and quality of the Vale of White Horse District's landscape will be protected from harmful development and where possible enhanced".*	Landscape features and characteristics will be retained, so far as possible, protected and manged long term as part of the Project. The Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Figure prj-01-0401 to 0407) details the intended landscape strategy for the Project. Including retained landscape elements and features. An assessment of landscape effects is detailed at Section 8.9.
Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure	*"A net gain in Green Infrastructure, including biodiversity, will be sought either through on-site provision…"*	As above with Biodiversity Net Gain is covered in Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation
West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 (Adopted 27th September 2018)		
Policy EH4: Public Realm and Green Infrastructure	*"The existing areas of public space and green infrastructure of West Oxfordshire will be protected and enhanced for their multi-functional role, including their biodiversity, recreational, accessibility, health and landscape value and for the contribution they make towards combating climate change."*	As above with Biodiversity Net Gain is covered in Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**
Policy EH2: Landscape Character	*"The quality, character and distinctiveness of West Oxfordshire's natural environment, including its landscape, cultural and historic value, tranquillity, geology, countryside, soil and biodiversity, will be conserved and enhanced".*	As above.
Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (incorporating re-adopted Policy Bicester 13 re-adopted on 19th December 2016) (July 2015)		
Policy ESD 13: Local Landscape Projection and Enhancement	*"Opportunities will be sought to secure the enhancement of the character and appearance of the landscape, particularly in urban fringe locations, through the restoration, management or enhancement of existing landscapes, features or habitats and where appropriate the creation of new ones, including the planting of woodlands, trees and hedgerows".*	As above.

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
Policy ESD 17: Green Infrastructure	*"The District's green infrastructure network will be maintained and enhanced…"*	As above
Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2021)		
Policy DBC1: General Design Principles in the Parish	*"A. Development proposals should, as is relevant to their nature and location, have regard to the provisions of the Vale of White Horse Design Guide and to the essential character of their local area as defined by the Cumnor Parish Character Assessment.* *B. Development proposals should also consider the following general design principles:* *Prioritising pedestrian permeability and taking opportunities to provide connections and improved access to the footpath network and other walking and cycling routes;* *Retaining mature trees and hedgerows or, where there is an overriding case for their removal, providing like-for-like replacement;* *Sensitively integrating new development into the landscape and topography";*	The Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Figure prj-01-0401 to 0407) details the intended landscape strategy for the Project. Including new and retained planting and connectivity of the local PRoW network.
Policy DBC7: Important Views	*"A. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies Important Views on the Policies Maps (page 63), table 5 and map 12 (below) as contributing to the essential rural character of the Parish.* *B. Development proposals should preserve, or where practicable enhance, the local character of the landscape in general and should take account of the important views as identified on map 12 and as listed in table 5 in particular.* *Development proposals which would have an unacceptable impact on the local character of the landscape and/or on an identified important view will not be supported".*	Representative Viewpoints have been selected, where appropriate, with reference to important views. The following Representative Viewpoints are included with reference to the nearest equivalent Important View where possible. Representative Viewpoint 44 (Important View 23); Representative Viewpoint 45 (Important View 20b); Representative Viewpoint 51 (Important View 31); Representative Viewpoint 53 (Important View 3) including photomontage; Representative Viewpoint 55 (Important View 24) **[EN010147/APP/6.4]**. It has not been possible or suitable to capture all Important Views. This was due a lack of a publicly accessible location(s) and / direction of view. Also, in some cases the Important Views did not fall within the ZTV for the Project

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
		and / or were focused away from it and were therefore not considered suitable.
Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan (adopted February 2020)		
ENP13 Trees	*"Trees frame the landscape context of the village and development should, as far as practical, preserve or enhance the quality and quantity of tree cover of sites affected by development:* *A Whenever possible existing healthy mature trees should be preserved, particularly as part of hedgerows and site boundaries.* *B Trees lost or in poor condition should be replaced on site (or nearby) to preserve and enhance the landscape context of the village and the new development".*	Existing trees will be retained and protected where possible to better integrate the Project into the exiting landscape.
Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2023 – 2025		
Policy CE1: Landscape	*"CE1.1. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape, should have regard to, be compatible with, and reinforce the landscape character of the location, as described by the Cotswolds Conservation Board's Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines. There should be a presumption against the loss of key characteristics identified in the landscape character assessment. CE1.2. Proposals that are likely to impact on, or create change in, the landscape of the Cotswolds National Landscape, should have regard to the scenic quality of the location and its setting and ensure that views – including those into and out of the National landscape – and visual amenity are conserved and enhanced. CE1.3. Conserving and enhancing landscape character should be a key objective of Environmental Land Management and rural development support mechanisms in the Cotswolds National Landscape. CE1.4. Rural skills training and the utilisation of those skills – such as dry stone walling, stonemasonry, traditional*	An assessment of landscape effects is detailed at Section 8.9.

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	woodland management and hedgelaying – will be supported to ensure the long-term retention, creation and management of the key features of the Cotswolds National Landscape."	

8.3 Consultation and Engagement

8.3.1 On 15 June 2023, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate, which described the scope and methodology for the technical studies being undertaken to provide an assessment of any likely significant effects for the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases. It also described those topics or sub-topics which are proposed to be scoped out of the EIA process and provided justification as to why the Project would not have the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects in these areas.

8.3.2 Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) provided a Scoping Opinion on 24 July 2023. Key issues raised during the scoping process specific to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment are listed in **Table 8.5**, together with details of how these issues have been addressed within the ES. This table also gives details of consultation responses from Local Planning Authorities, regarding the selection of Representative Viewpoints.

Table 8.5: Summary of scoping responses

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
Planning Inspectorate	
Visualisations during construction and decommissioning *No justification is provided for scoping out visualisations for the construction or decommissioning. It is unclear what is meant by the term "visualisations" in this context, although it is noted in the Historic Environment section of the Scoping Report (specifically paragraph 7.1.26) that visualisations include photomontages and wireframes.* *The Inspectorate is content that visualisations of the construction and decommissioning phases are not required. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the ES should assess visual effects at construction and decommissioning where there is the potential for significant effects to occur.*	Landscape and visual effects at Construction and Decommissioning are provided at **Section 8.9** of this LVIA chapter of the ES. In the context of the LVIA chapter of the ES, 'visualisations' include photomontages. For the purposes of the ES photomontages have been provided for 31 no. Representative Viewpoints at Operation. Winter and summer photography was completed, with photomontages for the 55 No. Representative Viewpoints within the ES illustrating both winter Year 1 (i.e. the worst case scenario with no mitigation in place and existing vegetation devoid of foliage) and summer Year 10 with mitigation planting having reached its intended design function and existing vegetation in full leaf.
Night-time assessment during all phases *A night-time assessment is proposed to be scoped out on the basis that no permanent lighting is proposed. However, it is unclear whether temporary lighting is proposed during construction and decommissioning and the nature and location of any temporary lighting. Lighting during operation is set out in Table 6.2 and includes manually operated lighting as well as motion sensor lighting for security and emergencies. It is unclear what the nature of the manually operated lighting would be.* *In the absence of such information the Inspectorate is not in a position to scope this matter out at this stage. The ES should describe the nature of the lighting strategy for all stages of the development and assess any significant effects where they are likely to occur.*	Night-time effects have not been considered as part of the ES as no permanent lighting within the Project is proposed. Further details of proposed lighting, although limited, can be found within Chapter 6: Project Description of this ES **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
Residential Visual Amenity Assessment during all phases *A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is proposed to be scoped out as no significant effects are expected "that would overwhelm existing properties nor render properties an unattractive place to live". No further justification is provided for scoping this matter out.* *In line with guidance, the requirement for a RVAA is generally dependent on the outcome of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). Therefore, in the absence of LVIA conclusions, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out a RVAA at this time. The need for an RVAA should be justified based on the conclusions of the LVIA presented in the ES and agreed with the relevant consultation bodies.*	The need for an RVAA will be determined through the outcome of the ES and through further consultation with relevant parties as required following the ES process. As part of the ongoing iterative design process through the LVIA and wider ES, residential properties (predominantly individual farmsteads) in proximity to the Project have been identified. As part of the embedded mitigation for the Project a minimum 25 m offset to the Project has been included from the outer edge of the property boundary. Refer to Botley West Masterplan Overview Figures 2.1 to 2.4.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
5km Study Area *The Applicant proposes to scope out impacts beyond a 5km Study Area on the basis that significant effects are not expected to occur for the highest sensitivity receptors beyond 5km. However, Scoping Report paragraph 7.2.6 states that the extent of the Study Area will be determined by the findings of the ZTV and is likely to extend to a 5km buffer from the red line boundary.* *On the basis of the information provided, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out impacts beyond 5km. The ES should define the Study Area based on the ZTV and consultation with the relevant bodies and explain any assumptions around the extent of visibility.*	The LVIA Study Area extent is formulated in accordance with relevant best practice guidance, in particular, 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition, 2013, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3)'. The LVIA has therefore taken the approach, as set out in the GLVIA3, paragraph 1.17 – "the emphasis is on the identification of likely significant environmental effects". It is considered that, due to distance, there is no potential for significant effects beyond the 5 km buffer from the outer edges of the Project Site, in all directions, maximum design scenario (MDS). The ZTV has shown that potential intervisibility of the Project from the surrounding landscape would be generally confined to 3 km. The Applicant considers that the 5km radius Study Area for the LVIA is therefore appropriate. The ZTV's and Representative Viewpoint locations have been shared with all relevant consultees to inform the ES LVIA chapter (see below).
Photomontages *Table 7.2 of the Scoping Report states that photomontages will be used "where appropriate". No further detail is provided on the number of photomontages or locations proposed.* *The Applicant should justify the location and number of photomontages, ensuring these capture a worst-case scenario of impacts from the Proposed Development and are representative of visual receptors. The Applicant should seek agreement from relevant consultees regarding the appropriateness of selected photomontages and evidence of this agreement should be provided within the DCO application.* *The photomontages should show all components of the Proposed Development, including security fencing, CCTV poles, battery storage system, substations etc., and demonstrate the Proposed Development before and after mitigation in order to enable a worst-case scenario and the effectiveness of mitigation to be fully understood.*	For the purposes of the ES 31 no. photomontages (winter and summer) have been completed, spread across the three sections of the Project. These are illustrated following their corresponding Representative Viewpoint photograph(s) at Figures 8.248 to 8.371 **[EN010147/APP/6.4]**.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) *Table 7.3 states that a ZTV is not required for the cable route. As noted in ID 2.1.2 above, limited information is provided on the export cable route corridor and therefore this element of the Proposed Development is unable to be fully understood.* *The ES should justify the exclusion of the cable route corridor from the ZTV considering the short-, medium- and long-term worst-case scenario of visual impacts of the cable corridor including, for example, any removal of vegetation. The cable route may be*	No ZTV has been produced related to the cable corridors. Effects would be limited to the Construction Phase of the Project. With no above ground elements, there would be no effect during Operation.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
visible outside of the ZTV of the array considering its location south of the main site.	
Viewpoints *The Scoping Report states that visual effects will be assessed based on publicly accessible viewpoints, although it is noted that "not all public viewpoints from which the project would potentially be seen can necessarily be included in the assessment". Figure 7 shows the location of the representative viewpoints.* *The ES should provide clear justification of the suitability of selected viewpoints. Paragraphs 7.2.15 and 7.2.16 of the Scoping Report state that the Local Planning Authorities and Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape) Board will be consulted. Therefore, it is unclear whether the viewpoints provided in Figure 7 are subject to change.* *The ES should include evidence of any consultation and agreement of the methodology used, including selected viewpoints.*	Consultation with the host authorities was carried out to determine the suitability of the selected Representative Viewpoints. Where alternative / additional Representative Viewpoints were suggested or asked for, these were visited and either included as part of the final selected Representative Viewpoints or discounted. Refer to individual host authorities within this table below.
20m buffer zones *A 20m buffer zone is proposed for residential properties to provide a "setback distance". The ES should explain the use of buffer zones and why they are appropriate and the extent to which this reduces any potential adverse effects.*	As part of the ongoing iterative design process through the LVIA and wider ES, residential properties (predominantly individual farmsteads) in proximity to the Project have been identified. As part of the embedded mitigation for the Project a minimum 25 m offset to the Project has been included from the outer edge of the property boundary.
Landscape masterplan *Scoping Report paragraph 7.2.23 states that either a Landscape Masterplan or a Landscape Strategy Plan would set out the design measures for landscape and visual mitigation. It is unclear how the management and monitoring of the mitigation would be secured.* *The ES should describe landscape and ecological mitigation and monitoring and explain how these are secured, cross-referencing to any relevant control documents where appropriate.*	For the ES an Illustrative Landscape Masterplan has been completed **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** informed by the LVIA and through consultation with multiple disciplines, as part of an iterative design process. A Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been completed as part of the ES **[EN010147/APP/7.6.2].**
Year 1 and 10 summer and winter views. *Scoping Report paragraph 7.2.39 states that a worst-case scenario will be assessed in winter at year 1 and again after mitigation has matured at year 10 during the summer. The ES should also include an assessment of impacts during winter in year 10 to understand the effectiveness of mitigation or explain why this is not necessary with reference to relevant guidance. The ES should also justify the year of maturation of vegetation.*	The ES has assessed 55 No. winter and summer views (see **section 8.9**) (including photomontages from 31no.).
Raising of panels *It is unclear from Scoping Report Section 7.4 whether panels are intended to be raised to avoid*	The ZTV and the maximum design scenario for the ES has assumed that the solar panel would be a

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
potential flood risk. Where this is proposed, the ES should apply this parameter to the Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage assessments of significant effects.	maximum height of 2.3 m at higher edge when land is not flat. Flood Risk is covered within Chapter 10: Hydrology and Flood Risk **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
Hanborough Parish Council	
Hanborough Parish Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **HP1** (Kissing gate adjacent to Pinsley House, Footpath 238/1/10) - view towards Lower Road); **HP2** (Edge of Pinsley Wood, Footpath 238/1/10); and, **HP3** (Eastern side of Pinsley Wood, Footpath 238/2/20)	**HP1** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP20 (Figures 8.54 to 8.55, winter, and 8.170 to 8.171, summer). **HP2** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP21 (Figures 8.56 to 8.57, winter, and 8.172 to 8.173, summer). **HP3** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP23 (Figures 8.60 to 8.61, winter, and 8.176 to 8.177, summer).
Eynsham Parish Council	
Eynsham Parish Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **EP1** (Intersection of footpath 206/10/20 and bridleway 206/11/20); **EP2** (view from bridleway 206/32/10).	**EP1** - Viewpoint visited on edge of ZTV with limited visibility, therefore discounted. Similar representative view photographed and selected from bridleway 206/11/30 at Lower Road, RPS VP30 (Figures 8.74 to 8.75, winter, and 8.190 to 8.191, summer). **EP2** - Should be footpath 206/32/10 at edge of ZTV. Similar representative viewpoint selected form bridleway 206/11/30 at Lower Road near New Wintles Farm, RPS VP30 and bridleway 206/9/10, RPS VP31 (Figures 8.76 to 8.77, winter, and 8.192 to 8.193, summer).
Church Hanborough Parish Council	
Church Hanborough Parish Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **CH01** (Junction of A4095 and Lower Road); **CH02** (Blenheim Office Park entrance); **CH03** (Junction of Church Road and Lower Road); **CH04** (Southeast corner, Pinsley Wood (Footpath 238/2/20); **CH05** (30mph signs, Church Road); **CH06** (Entrance to Purwell Farm Drive); **CH07** (Entrance to Eynsham Mill Drive); **CH08** (New Barn Farm).	**CH01** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and discounted on the basis that it is a location adjacent to the highway, reducing sensitivity of people in cars or on the pavement and the view would be a glimpse through a gap in roadside hedge. A worse case situation occurs from A4095 which will be represented in LVIA. RPS VP19 (Figures 8.52 to 8.53, winter, and 8.168 to 8.169, summer). **CH02** - Viewpoint visited and discounted. No safe location for photography. Transient view from road by people in cars. Representative location selected for LVIA from Lower Road as RPS VP22 (Figures 8.58 to 8.59, winter, and 8.174 to 8.175, summer). **CH03** - Viewpoint visited and discounted. No safe location for photography. Transient view from road by people in cars. Visibility restricted by roadside vegetation and buildings at College Farm. Representative location selected for LVIA from Lower Road as RPS VP22 (Figures 8.58 to 8.59, winter, and 8.174 to 8.175, summer).

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
	CH04 - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA. RPS VP23 (Figures 8.60 to 8.61, winter, and 8.176 to 8.177, summer). **CH05** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and discounted on the basis that it is a location adjacent to the highway and would be a glimpse through a gap in roadside hedge. **CH06** - View visited and discounted. Transient view from road, not associated with a PRoW. Representative views from Lower Road selected as RPS VP22 and VP30 (Figures 8.74 to 8.75, winter, and 8.190 to 8.191, summer). A similar representative view is from footpath 238/5/20, RPS VP27 (Figures 8.68 to 8.69, winter, and 8.184 to 8.185, summer). **CH07** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA from bridleway 206/9/10 at intersection with Lower Road, RPS VP31 (Figures 8.76 to 8.77, winter, and 8.192 to 8.193, summer). **CH08** - Viewpoint visited and discounted. Transient view from road, not associated with PRoW. Similar representative viewpoints selected from footpath 238/5/20 as RPS VP26 and VP27 (refer to Figures 8.66 to 8.69, winter, and 8.182 to 8.185, summer).
Wootton Parish Council	
Wootton Parish Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **WP1** (Footpath 416/24/10); **WP2** (View from highway B4027); **WP3** (Oxfordshire Way Footpath 379/1/10); **WP4** (View from highway B4027).	**WP1** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP8 (Figures 8.30 to 8.31, winter, and 8.146 and 8.147, summer). **WP2** - Viewpoint visited and discounted. No safe location for photography. Transient view from road by people in cars. Visibility restricted by roadside vegetation and glimpse through gap available. **WP3** - Viewpoint visited, photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP9 (Figures 8.32 to 8.33, winter, and 8.148 to 8.149, summer). **WP4** - Viewpoint visited and discounted. No safe location for photography. Transient view from road by people in cars. Visibility restricted by roadside vegetation and glimpse through gap available. Representative view from B4027 is selected as RPS VP11 (Figures 8.36 to 8.37, winter, and 8.152 to 8.153, summer).
Cumnor Parish Council	
Cumnor Parish Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **CP4** (Beacon Hill); **CP23** (The Singing Way); **CP20** (Farmoor Reservoir); **CP31** (Smith Hill Copse); and, **CP24** (The Bird Hide, Denman's Lane.	**CP4** - No public access to trig point found to be available. View south from Wytham Hill discounted. View north represented by RPS VP43 (Figures 8.102 to 8.103, winter, and 8.218 to 8.219, summer). **CP23** - Route of Singing Way is through woodland of Wytham Wood. Permit holders are not permitted to deviate from paths. No open view from Singing Way was identified as within woodland. A representative viewpoint was selected at the edge of Wytham Wood

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
	near Ellen's gate, RPS VP44 (Figures 8.104 to 8.105, winter, and 8.220 to 8.221, summer). **CP20 -** Viewpoint visited (footpath 184/48/10), photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP45 (Figures 8.106 to 8.107, winter, and 8.222 to 8.223, summer). **CP31 –** Viewpoint visited (footpath 184/29/10), photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP51 (Figures 8.118 to 8.119, winter, and 8.234 to 8.235, summer). **CP24 –** Viewpoint visited (footpath 184/18/20), photographed and selected for LVIA, RPS VP 55 (Figures 8.126 to 8.127, winter, and 8.242 to 8.243).
Cherwell District Council	
Cherwell District Council requested that the following viewpoints be added to or considered for inclusion within the LVIA: **CDC8** (View from A44 looking east); **CDC6 and CDC7** (Alternatives to RPS viewpoint 32); and, **CDC4 and CDC5** (View from footpath west of Begbroke).	**CDC8** - Agreed in email 18 May 2023. **CDC6 and CDC7** - Only one viewpoint required north of Begbroke. **CDC4 and CDC5** - Agreed to use one location in email 18 May 2023.
Vale of White Horse District Council	
The range of viewpoints are limited, such as views from the road users of Eynsham Road, the wider footpath network such as to the north and east of the site and the residential properties especially those along both Eynsham Road and Cumnor Road. GLVIA expects the identification of the people within the area who will be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity including residents.	We have included viewpoints 46 and 47 which are from footpaths immediately adjacent to Cumnor Road and Eynsham Road. Viewpoint 46 is representative of views from residential properties along Eynsham Road and road users. There are a relatively limited number of residential properties along this section of Eynsham Road.
There should be additional viewpoints to represent residential properties and footpaths. This includes views from Eynsham Road, including near Farmoor village and north of viewpoint 49 (which could represent the footpath route and Eynsham Road). There should also be a viewpoint from the footpath to the east towards Tudor Court and Hill End. Although Hill End is not publicly accessible it has been used for over 100 years for outdoor education and there are extensive views from the middle and top of that site southwards.	Viewpoint 46 is representative of views from the footpath to the north of the southern section and residential properties and road users. Viewpoints can only be taken from publicly accessible locations. ZTV indicates very limited intervisibility with Hill End.
It is noted no view is proposed from Cumnor Hill, however the ZTV indicates that there is a view from this location. As it is an important view in the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan, with a 360 view and potential cumulative impact effects with the Cumnor Solar Farm (P23/V0306/SCR) should be included as a viewpoint.	The ZTV indicates very limited intervisibility to Cumnor Hill and not from the publicly accessible point, i.e. the footpath.
It is further noted there is also the Red House Farm solar farm proposal (P22/V2581/SCO) which abuts	The Red House Farm scheme has been withdrawn.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
the Botley West Solar Farm redline and this site should be considered during the selection of viewpoints and the cumulative impact effects, there may also be other cumulative impacts sites which will impact where viewpoints are needed.	
Viewpoints should include the extent of the Solar Farm in the view. It is not clear that this is the case, such as viewpoint 48 is looking southwards but there are also likely views to the east and west.	Viewpoint have been completed in accordance to LI TGN 06/19, 90 degree field of view, on an A1 sheet. Due to the locations of many of the views it is not possible to include the whole extents with the view.
Oxfordshire County Council	
The viewpoint plan is not accompanied by a list of the receptor/receptor groups the viewpoints seek to represent. Notwithstanding that there has not been an opportunity to check viewpoints on site, only a limited number of viewpoints seem to be selected in the middle section, e,g, nr Eynsham, B4044. The viewpoint selection does also not seem to include views from the Thames National Trail.	The 55 no. Representative Viewpoints are considered to be proportionate to the scale of the Project. Eynsham prevents some intervisibility. Representative Viewpoints 29 and 31 are included in proximity to the north of Eynsham.

8.3.3 Following consultation on the Scoping Report and specific consultation in respect of LVIA Representative Viewpoints, as detailed above, a second phase consultation process was undertaken. Statutory under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008, where statutory and prescribed consultees, land interests, and the local community were consulted in parallel. This included matters related to Landscape and Visual Resources.

8.3.4 The Statutory Consultation, including consultation on the PEIR, was carried out between 30th November 2023 and 8th February 2024.

8.3.5 This Statutory Consultation included a further series of nine in-person public information events, held in Bladon, Woodstock (twice), Begbroke, Long Hanborough, Cassington, Cumnor, Botley and Eynsham, and a community webinar.

8.3.6 Further details regarding the consultation process and responses can be found at Chapter 3: Consenting and Consultation, of this ES.

8.3.7 Responses and representations to this consultation are presented, alongside the Applicant's responses having regard to feedback received, in the Consultation Report **[EN010147/AAP/5.2]**.

8.3.8 A summary of the key issues raised, from host Local Authorities, during consultation activities undertaken to date is presented in **Table 8.6**, together with how these issues have been considered in the production of this ES chapter. For a detailed summary of key issues raised during consultation, including members of the public and key consultees, please refer to DCO Report / Statement 5.1: Consultation Report.

Table 8.6: Summary of consultation relevant to this chapter

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
6th February 2024	Vale of White Horse District Council (response by letter, dated 6th February 2024)	*"The methodology section of the PEIR refers to the relevant Methodology in the Guidance Documents such as GLVIA 3, Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations and Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals. However, there is still limited detail on how some of these Guidance Documents are applied to the Botley West proposal."*	Detailed methodology in accordance with GLVIA3 given within LVIA chapter and supplied separately to Vale of White Horse and OCC as part of the Statement of Common Ground consultations. Assessment follows methodology. Photomontage methodology given at Appendix 8.4 **[EN010147/APP/6.5]** accompanying the Landscape Resources Chapter. Photomontages have been done in accordance with LI TGN 06/19 and are classed as Type 3.
		"The Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan, Landscape Character Assessment, December 2018 is also not referenced in the report, especially regarding the Landscape Character Section. Reference to the Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan Important View Report (CNPIVR), February 2021 is limited and the viewpoints in this report need to be included in the EIA."	Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan Important Views (Feb. 2021) has been reviewed. Many of the important views are not focused towards Botley West and have therefore been discounted. A number of Representative Viewpoints included within the LVIA are equivalent to or as near to (at publicly accessible locations) published important views. Final Representative Viewpoints were consulted on and agreed to with all host authorities (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources).
		"Technical guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals classifies EIA as a Category A report where the appropriate visualisation types would be either Type 2 3D wireline/ model: Type 3 photomontage/ photo wire: or Type 4 photomontage/ photo wire (survey/scale verifiable). It is not clear what Type of visualisation is proposed for the EIA. Due to the scale and public interest of the project, VWHDC would expect all viewpoint plans to be	Photomontage methodology is detailed at Appendix 8.4 **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**. Photomontages completed in accordance with LI TGN 06/19 and are Type 3 visualisations.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		annotated with key features and have Photo wires to highlight the areas of the proposed solar arrays (but not necessarily full modelling of the arrays) so areas and extent of the proposal can be easily understood by all. The Visualisations should be photomontages. A map extract to indicate the location of the view is also useful and recommended by guidance."	
		"Some of the viewpoints and visualisations do not cover the whole extents of the view of the solar farm from that viewpoint for example VP48."	Views are in accordance with LI TGN 06/19, in respect of the width of the view at A1. Not possible to show full extent of the Project within close views. Representative Viewpoints have been consulted on and agreed with host authorities.
		"Clarification of representative viewpoints is required, as it is usual to have both summer and winter views, so the worst case is illustrated. Only year 15 summer assessment is mentioned but winter 15 year should also be provided."	Representative Viewpoint photographs Have been completed for winter and summer from all 55 Representative Viewpoints and included within the ES.
		"It is difficult to pick up the extra features in the visualisations such as the proposed 156 number Power Converter stations and the 4 to 6 number HV transformer secondary substation. Clarity is required on whether these elements form part of the Visualisation modelling."	All main elements with the Project have been modelled as part of the photomontages.
		"The range of viewpoints are still limited, such as views from the road users of Eynsham Road, the wider footpath network such as to the north and east of the site and the residential properties especially those along both Eynsham Road and Cumnor Road. GLVIA expects the identification of the people within the area who will be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity including residents many of the	All Representative Viewpoints have been consulted on an agreed with the host authorities (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**).

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		views from the footpaths could also be used to represent views for the residents."	
		"There are several places where views have not been taken, including those highlighted in the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan such as Viewpoint 5b, 12, 23, 7, 12 and 17. These are highlighted on the plan extract below along with additional Prow, roads, and the Wytham permitted path network. Additional viewpoints are requested from these locations. Once the Substation ZVT is undertaken there may also be additional viewpoints that need to be included."	All Representative Viewpoints have been consulted on an agreed with the host authorities. Any suggested additional / alternative views were considered and either recorded and added or discounted. Detail given within consultation table in LVIA (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources) **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
		"Furthermore, the scale of the mitigation is not at the similar scale of the proposed solar farm to help mitigate the impacts. Only small-scale landscaping interventions are proposed, such as the planting of a hedgerow to screen views of the solar panels, but this not at a scale to break up the mass of the panels in other views, such as linking areas of ancient woodlands."	Mitigation includes new lengths of hedgerows, new trees, gapping up of existing hedgerows and areas of woodland to be planted which will help to link areas of existing ancient woodland as part of the GI. Mitigation has evolved since the PEIR, as part of the ongoing iterative design process through the EIA.
		"It is considered the PEIR underplays both the Landscape and Visual Effects of the proposal, especially regarding the Magnitude of impact criteria."	This has been noted. It should be understood that LVIA is a subjective process. Difference of opinion is commonplace.
		"There is also concern about the assessment of views, for example Representative Viewpoint 48: View looking south from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way, section 8.9.1.119. This footpath will pass through an area of solar panels, with areas of panels to the west, south and west. However, this is assessed as having a Low magnitude of impact at completion, which results in a Moderate adverse significance of effect at completion, which would not be	Although the LVIA assesses the individual Representative Viewpoints. It is acknowledged that effects are not isolated and would be present along lengths of PRoW for example. Where this is the case, it has been acknowledged throughout the text of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		significant. This is an example to indicate our concern about the assessments submitted in the PIER especially if it is pulled through in a similar form to the EIA."	
8th February 2024	Oxfordshire County Council (response by letter, dated 8th February 2024)	Paragraph 1.4 *"Comments to the scoping opinion appear to have been partially taken into account, for example the PEIR includes a Strategic Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement in appendix 8.3. However, it should be noted that engagement with the County Council's landscape officer on methodology, ZTV (Zone of Theoretical Visibility), viewpoint locations and visualisations (method, type, number, locations) as stated in para 8.4.4.2 has not taken place."*	All Representative Viewpoints have been consulted on an agreed with the host authorities (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources) **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
		Paragraph 1.11 *"Table 8.4 (summary of local planning policy relevant to this paper) sets out the relevant local planning policies applicable to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). This should also include:* • *WODC Local Plan 2031 Policy EH4: Public realm and green infrastructure* • *VoWH Local Plan 2031 policy 45: Green Infrastructure* • *Cherwell Local Plan 2031 policy ESD 17: Green Infrastructure."*	Reference to these local policies have been added where relevant to Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**. BNG, in respect of GI, is dealt with at Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
		Paragraph 1.12 *"In addition, Green Belt policies of District Local Plans will need to be addressed either in the ES or in other supporting information."*	The Green Belt is not specifically a matter for the LVIA. Please refer to the Planning Support Statement.
		Paragraph 1.13 *"District Local Plan policies relating to the character of the built and historic*	Heritage (including conservation areas) are covered within Chapter 7: Historic Environment.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		environment might also be relevant to this chapter when considering the impact on conservation areas and their settings."	
		Paragraph 1.14 *"Only two Neighbourhood Plans (Cumnor and Eynsham) have been listed in the document but Neighbourhood Plans also exist for Woodstock and Cassington, and the one for Wootton by Woodstock is in development. Whilst these might not include policies specific to landscape character and views, they often include descriptions of the parishes and their valued landscape qualities that should be taken into account in the ES."*	All neighbourhood Plans have been reviewed. Only matters of relevance to Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]** have been included. A further review of the neighbourhood plans will be completed before final submission, to ensure all relevant information has been captured.
		Paragraph 1.15 *"The PEIR does not include an assessment against Local Plan policies but this will need to be provided in the ES."*	Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]** does not give a specific assessment against planning policy. This is covered within the Planning Support Statement.
		Paragraph 1.16 *"The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) require the scope of assessment to be appropriate, and that methodology, scope, ZTV and viewpoints to be agreed with relevant authority. As outlined above, the methodology and scope of the assessment was not agreed with the County Council landscape officer."*	All Representative Viewpoints have been consulted on and agreed with the host authorities (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**). The LVIA methodology is in accordance with GLVIA3 and was detailed and agreed to at Scoping.
		Paragraph 1.17 *"1.17 The methodology states "… any effects with a significance level of Moderate or less are not considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations. (para 8.1.8.10)". The methodology should also recognise that this can only be a guide and that multiple moderate effects could also amount to being significant when considered together. For example, this is recognised in relation to*	Assessment considers effects from individual Representative Viewpoints. But it is acknowledged within the LVIA that effects may be present along lengths of PRoW or roads for example.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		viewpoints 37, 38, 39 where is states "… where Moderate significance of effect has been identified at multiple points along the same PRoW, sequentially these Moderate adverse effects could be considered significant." (para 8.9.1.70). This approach is also relevant to the scheme as a whole."	
		Paragraph 1.18 *"The assessment is considered to understate the impacts of the development on landscape character and views. One of the main reasons for this is the underestimation of the magnitude of impacts (mostly assessed as being negligible, low or medium) of the development on the landscape and views."*	This is noted. It should be acknowledged that LVIA is a subjective process and as such, difference of opinion is inevitable. Magnitude of impact will differ from one viewpoint to the other given the nature of the landscape.
		Paragraph 1.22 *"With regard to visual receptors GLVIA3 states that not only users and places should be identified but also an approximate number of people affected should be given. This is relevant as understanding the impact is not only about the significant impacts but also about the number of people experiencing adverse effects. Further detail should be provided in the ES."*	Number of people affected, such as PRoW users, is included in Chapter 15 / 16 of the ES (Socio Economic and Human Health) **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
		Paragraph 1.23 *"1.23 The Representative Viewpoints plans indicate the location of 55 viewpoints, which is a rather limited number for a project of this extent and scale. Often only one viewpoint is chosen to assess the impact of a large area of solar, and it only assesses the impact of the scheme from one direction. Further viewpoints should be considered, e.g. from travelling in both directions on Public Rights of Way (PRoW), near settlements, and at key PRoW junctions to allow a better understanding of the scale impact. Suggestions*	Representative Viewpoints were consulted on and agreed with host authorities (ref. Table 8.5 of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**). The number of viewpoints is considered proportionate to the Project.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		for additional viewpoints from the District councils, parish councils and stakeholder groups should also be taken into account."	
		Paragraph 1.24 *"Representative viewpoints should be selected to represent the experience of visual receptors, e.g. on a PRoW (GLVIA3). As such it is important that the LVIA does not base its judgement on a PRoW on one viewpoint but assesses the experience of the receptors travelling through the landscape, which the viewpoint represents. As mentioned above the visual assessment often considers only one direction of view from a particular viewpoint and does not take sufficient account of the surrounding context, e.g. a footpath users might be travelling through fields of solar panels for long periods of time."*	Assessment of effects is of the individual viewpoint locations. However, it is acknowledged that effects would be experienced along the lengths of PRoW and roads for example. Where this is the case it has been acknowledged within the text of Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Resources **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
		Paragraph 1.25 *"Some of the viewpoints on the same PRoW have been grouped and assessed together. However, some of these appear to have different contexts raising the question whether the impact on these points is really the same. For example, viewpoints 37a, 37b, 38 and 39 have been assessed as having the same sensitivity (high) and impact (no greater than medium) despite vp38 and vp39 being completely surrounded by solar panels and vp37 being located at the River Evenlode with views of solar development on either side of the river. The ES will need to provide a greater level of detail to make the judgements understandable for all, i.e. viewpoints should be assessed individually before being grouped. All viewpoints should also be accompanied by visualisations in line the Technical Guidance*	A number of viewpoints are located in the same location but looking in different directions. As such, they have been assessed separately. Sensitivity would be the same as they are located in the same location. 31 of the Representative Viewpoints have been visualised (photomontages) in winter and summer. Consulted and agreed with viewpoints. 31 is considered proportionate to the Project. Not all viewpoints would be appropriate to show as a photomontage due to the distance and / or proportion of the Project visible within the view.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (TN 06/19).	
		Paragraph 1.26 *"The PEIR does not include any viewpoints along the cabling routes. This is of concern, as the impact of cabling is not sufficiently understood. There are likely impacts during construction, but it is not clear whether the cabling also requires above ground structures such as cabinets or areas of fencing, which could affect views from PRoWs including the Thames Path during operation and after decommissioning."*	A number of the Representative Viewpoints are located in areas where the cable route passes. Effects of the cable route, where present, have been included during construction. Further detail on cable routes tbc. and included within the chapter.
		Paragraph 1.27 *"Impacts on conservation areas don't appear to have been assessed on the basis that development is not proposed within the conservation area boundary."*	Conservation Areas not specifically covered by LVIA. Refer to Chapter 7: Historic Environment **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.
	West Oxfordshire District Council	*"Development locations to the north east of Woodstock are predominantly located within Cherwell district. It is noted that the applicant has identified the potential for significant negative impacts arising from development east of Banbury Road, primarily related to the scale of the proposed substation and proximity to the public rights of way network. From a West Oxfordshire perspective, development in this location would be sufficiently distant and screened to avoid significant detrimental impacts on heritage assets, although there would be significant negative impacts on sensitive receptors such as users of the PROW network."*	Noted.
		"It is noted that there are residential properties in close proximity to the project area in the Northern Site. Serious consideration should be	Minimum 25m buffer from residential properties has been adopted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		given as to whether a minimum buffer distance between development and residential properties would be appropriate to minimise impacts on residents."	
		"WODC suggest that removal of development areas from the visually exposed and prominent valley sides to the west of Lower Road and valley sides of the River Evenlode could minimise negative impacts of the proposal. This will reduce potential for negative landscape character impacts by restricting development in visually prominent and exposed locations and minimise impacts on the setting of Church Hanborough Conservation Area."	Noted.
		"WODC also suggest that development be restricted from land to the north of Cassington. Although the masterplan indicates that development would be set back from the edge of the settlement in this location, land rises steeply to the north of the settlement making any development in this location prominent and visually exposed. This area is also within the Green Belt, which performs particularly well in this location in terms of protecting the historic character of settlements and safeguarding the countryside from encroachment."	Noted.
		"It is noted from the masterplan that there is a proposed buffer zone to the south of Bladon to mitigate against potential landscape and visual impacts. There are a number of key sensitivities in this location including proximity of residential properties, proximity to the Bladon Conservation Area and the setting of the Blenheim World Heritage Site. WODC consider that the proposed buffer area should be substantially	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		increased to minimise impacts on sensitive receptors in this location."	
		"Proposed buffers adjacent to Ancient Woodlands and Public Rights of Way should be increased in this area to reduce impacts on the PROW network and provide opportunities for further woodland creation. The applicant is proposing a 15m buffer around Ancient Woodlands in accordance with Natural England guidance. WODC understand that proposed buffer distances are designed to protect the root structure of trees rather than protecting the visual importance and sensitivity in the landscape of those woodlands and presenting real enhancement opportunities. Opportunities should be sought to increase woodland cover in the area where possible. There are two public rights of way along the eastern side of Bladon Heath. Stepping development away from these would mitigate the impacts on sensitive users of the public rights of way network and reduce the corridor effect of moving through large areas of solar panels over large distances."	Noted.
		"Further consideration of the constraints and opportunities and site topography in relation to the project area, should guide further revisions to the design and layout of the proposed development. Such revisions could result in a reduced scale of project, but would help to minimise the magnitude and significance of effects on a sensitive environment. The fact that the cable run routes appear to be flexible means that less sensitive sites could potentially be swapped in to compensate for reduced development in sensitive areas."	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		"Map 1 below illustrates a number of key constraints within and in close proximity to the Applicant's proposed areas for solar panel development. Although the design and layout of the proposed solar farm has been somewhat shaped by the environmental sensitivities and the topography of the land to date, WODC consider that there is still potential for significant adverse impacts as a result of the development."	Noted.
		"WODC wish to emphasise that due to the huge scale of the proposal (890 Ha of development) the nature of the proposal (a Nationally Significant solar energy generating station) the sensitivity of the landscape (attractive, largely unspoilt rural landscape) and the extent of the proposed development within the Green Belt, that landscape and visual impacts are key to the assessment of the suitability of this proposal."	Noted.
		"It is recognised that the applicant has undertaken some landscape and visual impact assessment to date, but an assessment has not been undertaken for each of the representative viewpoints. Photomontages and visualisations are only available for 18 of the 57 representative viewpoints at this time, which presents a serious degree of uncertainty in assessing the landscape and visual impacts, both positive and negative as a result of development."	Photomontages have been completed from 31 of the 55 (not 57) Representative Viewpoints for winter and summer.
		"The LVIA makes no reference to tranquillity of the landscape. WODC feel that this should be a consideration in assessing the impacts of the	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		proposal on the landscape character, due to the noise impacts of the 156 Power Converter Stations distributed throughout the development site."	
		"WODC consider that the Landscape and Visual Resources chapter of the PEIR identifies the relevant landscape character evidence relevant to establishing the baseline landscape character for the development site. Appendix 8.1 of the PEIR provides comprehensive details of the relevant landscape character areas and types at national, regional and local level that are relevant to the project area."	Noted.
		"Appendix 8.2 of the PEIR sets out factors relating to landscape quality, including a range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value. In our view there are omissions from this assessment that contribute to the misunderstanding of landscape quality across the development site, particularly in terms of cultural heritage. Regard should be had to the following plans and evidence in further refining development proposals; • *There is a draft Nature Recovery Network for Oxfordshire2 which covers significant areas of the project area. Opportunities should be sought to improve ecological connectivity within the Nature Recovery Network and avoid fragmentation of habitats.* • *There is a Catchment Management Plan in place for the River Evenlode3. Consideration should be given to how compatible the development plans are with*	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		the vision and objectives of the Even lode Catchment Management Plan • *There is a comprehensive assessment of natural capital and ecosystem service provision available for the whole project site. Regard should be had to how habitats perform in the provision of ecosystem services within the development site.* • *The Wychwood Project Area covers a significant area of the site. Regard should be had to the aims of the Wychwood Project area, particularly in terms of restoring the landscape character and mix of habitats associated with the Royal Hunting Forest of Wychwood.* • *The Bladon Conservation Area is covered by a Conservation Area Character Appraisal which identifies important views out of the village to the south towards the development site.* • *Blenheim WHS Management Plan 2017 – Appendix 3 : Setting Study – Provides useful information on the setting of Blenheim Palace WHS, key views into and out of the park and potential forces for change."*	
		"WODC considers that much of the proposed development area is within a highly valued and high quality landscape with limited capacity to accommodate significant change, particularly at the scale currently proposed. The council have suggested measures to reduce the impacts and mitigate the potential harms of the proposal. Further detailed assessment of a refined project design will be necessary to understand whether	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		the benefits of utility scale solar development in West Oxfordshire would outweigh the harms."	
		"The Non Technical Summary of the PEIR (Para 6.3.11) confirms that a number of potential impacts upon landscape and visual resources associated with the construction, operational and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project, were identified. In terms of landscape, effects would be limited."	Noted.
		"The applicant asserts that when considering the landscape character of the Project site and landscape character areas / types of the wider study area, significant landscape characterisation effects are unlikely. WODC questions this assertion and considers that the project would result in very significant landscape characterisation effects, both s a result of the project itself and cumulatively with other proposed developments in proximity to the site."	Noted.
	Cherwell District Council	"This is one of *the* key issues in considering these proposals."	Noted.
		"Policy ESD 13 states that *proposals* will not be permitted if they would: • *Cause undue visual intrusion into the open countryside* • *Cause undue harm to important natural landscape features and topography* • *Be inconsistent with local character* • *Impact on areas judged to have a high level of tranquility*	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		• *Harm the setting of settlements, buildings, structures or other landmark features, or* • *Harm the historic value of the landscape."*	
		"Our in-house Landscape Architect has previously made recommendations for the inclusion of a number of additional representative viewpoints in the LVIA which are specific to Cherwell district. These were passed on to Jane Betts at RPS who was overseeing the LVIA. It appears that two of CDC's suggested and agreed viewpoints (CD8 (looking east from A44 at Begbroke and either CD4 or CD5 looking west from Public Footpath 124/3/10 at Begbroke which were agreed by an email dated 24 May 2023) have been omitted from the PEIR? These should be included in the assessment."	All 55 Representative Viewpoints were consulted on and agreed with all host authorities. This has been detailed at Table 8.4 of Chapter 8 giving details of any additions m changes or omissions. Refer to Table 8.5 above).
		"CDC are of the view that, given the topography of the land within the vicinity of the proposals, harm may be difficult to mitigate."	Noted.
		"The following comments have been provided by our in-house Landscape Architect: *North* *13, I agree with visual description. I note from the Illustrated Masterplan that a Project Substation is proposed near to this View, the Project Substation is included in the visualisation. The visual harm is such a degree as to warrant planting of trees and hedgerow along the section of operations boundary fence to mitigate visual harm along with supporting written narrative. I note RPS response*	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		'Resulting in a Major adverse significance of effect, which is judged to be significant.' *14 I agree with pre-development visual description* *15 Arrow directed north on RV Fig 8.9, not northeast, otherwise agree with description of current view* *Central* *16 I agree with pre-development visual description. The northwestern site boundary between A4095 and VP 17 requires more substantial landscape mitigation planting than a hedgerow and Trees. I recommend a belt of woodland and understory planting* *17 I agree with pre-development visual description. The visual harm will required a woodland belt – refer to above response for 16. This would enhance Green Infrastructure linking up Mature Woodland/Scrub associated with Rowell Brook with the Mature Woodand adjacent to A4095* *32 I agree with visual description* *34 I agree with pre-development visual description/ The transmission line contributes towards visual harm and a visualisation based on VP34 is required to explain the significant of effect along with the written narrative of analysis.* *35 Note that there is a discrepancy between Representative Viewpoints Figure 1 where VP 35 is in a different location to the one referred to in the text: in respect of PEIR 8.5.5.21 'Footpath 184/50/20 (Greenbelt Way) (Representative Viewpoint 35) and 184/30/40 run in a generally*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		east to west direction to the northwest of the Southern site of the Project, adjacent to Farmoor Reservoir and along an unnamed road adjacent to the northern boundary. Located within fields 3.1 / 3.3 the Project substation site and NGET substation site adjacent to the northern Project Site boundary. Initially views of solar panels, security fencing and substation would be obtained from these footpaths and other within the local area. Views of pylons and overhead powerlines are currently possible from these footpaths.' Actually VP 35 is located on Downs Lane path, west of Yarnton, according to RV Fig 1. However the VRG visual description (pre-development) and location appear to be correct. *36 I agree with pre-development visual description."*	
		"Operational Phase Visual Effects Visual Receptor Groups PRoW: Omissions *The following visual analysis does not appear to be in the PEIR (I feel that these must be addressed specifically and not lost within a generic response):* *North* *VP14 &15* *Central* *VP 16, 32, 34, 35 and 36"*	ES includes assessment from all Representative Viewpoints. Refer to Section 8.9.
		"PEIR 8.5.5.2 The proposed ZTV is based on the development of solar panel heights up to 2.5 m high. The ZTV, (Volume 2, Figure 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11) indicates that the ZTV for all fields (northern, central and southern) is	Noted. Maximum height of panels is 2.3m.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		generally kept to the spine of the Project Site with potential highest visibility confined to within 3 km of the Project Site boundary."	
		"The extent of the ZTV to include not only the Solar panels, but the '2 x HV Transformers (secondary substations) which are considerable structures of circa 5m/6m high, 15m long and 8m wide, numerous power convertor stations which would be circa 3m/2.89m high, 12.2m wide and 2.2m deep and extensive security fencing of up to 2.1m high'. In the PEIR the Landscape mitigation should be appropriately and clearly justified in respect of part of the LVIA: clear explanation of the nature and scale of landscape mitigation for the lifespan/operation of this development."	Noted.
		"2 x HV Transformers (secondary substations), numerous power convertor stations and extensive security fencing *The landscape consultant is to be fully informed of the detail of the above project elements which are to be clearly and fully explained through drawings of industry standard scale indicating measurements (height above ground level, width etc), cross sections and elevations. Specific site location plans to clearly indicate the position of the 2 x HV Transformers (secondary substations), numerous power convertor stations and the extensive security fencing. The most relevant viewpoints are to be included on plans. This would ensure that the wireframe and visualizations in respect of viewpoints cane be cross-checked against the detail information provided. This is to ensure that these elements are not lost within a*	Noted.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues Raised	How and where considered in the ES
		'representative' assessment of the solar arrays, but judged in respect of their visual harm significance of effect, and also cumulative harm."	
		"*Recreation* *The current recreational value for visual receptors, along with visual receptor sensitivity to change must be addressed in the LVIA . There is potential harm on various PRoW and these are to be individually assessed in respect of this development."*	Noted.

8.4 Assessment Methodology

8.4.1 This Landscape and Visual Effects assessment has been based on the methodology in GLVIA3, which is the fully revised edition of the industry standard for work on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and presents an authoritative statement of the principles of assessment. In order to undertake a complete assessment, several clear stages were identified and addressed with reference to the guidance in GLVIA3. In summary, the stages were as follows:

- establishment of the Study Area;
- desk studies;
- field surveys and Representative Viewpoint photography undertaken in Winter 2022/2023 and Summer 2023;
- consultation;
- iterative design; and
- assessment of impacts and evaluation of the likely significance of effects.

Relevant Guidance

8.4.2 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) reported within this chapter has been undertaken with reference to published best practice guidance, including the following:

- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3).
- Countryside Agency in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland.
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (06/19) Visual Representation of Development Proposals (September 2019).
- Landscape Institute (2021) Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations.

Scope of the Assessment

8.4.3 The scope of this ES has been developed in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees as detailed in **Table 8.5** and **Table 8.6**.

8.4.4 Considering the scoping and consultation process, **Table 8.7** summarises the issues considered as part of this assessment.

Table 8.7: Issues considered within this assessment

Activity	Potential effects scoped into the assessment
Construction Phase	
• Total developable area for solar arrays – Northern site is approximately 247.3 hectares. • Total Developable area for solar array – Central site is approximately 545.2 hectares; • Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern site is approximately 46 hectares (with NGET substation), 50 hectares (without NGET substation); • Maximum number of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules – approximately 2,200,000; • creation of construction compounds for each site • Height range (at higher edge) of solar PV modules (AGL) is 2.2 m to 2.3 m • Minimum distance between site boundary and table areas (m) is 7 m • Indicative Number Power Converter Stations (PCS) is 156. • Number of HV Transformer (Secondary substation) is 6 no. • Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Secondary Substation) is a height of 4 to 6 m (including isolator) • NGET substation maximum height assumed to be 12 to 12.5 m. • Electrical cabling including DC Cables from Solar PV Modules to Inverters; AC Cables from Transformers to Secondary Substation (HV Transformer) (33/275kV) and NGET substation to be installed underground in trenches within roadways, fields or footpath verges.	Direct and indirect temporary effects on landscape character during the day. Direct temporary effects on visual amenity of receptors during the day.
Operation and Maintenance	
• Total developable area for solar arrays – Northern site is approximately 247.3 hectares; • Total Developable area for solar array – Central site is approximately 545.2 hectares; • Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern site is approximately 46 hectares (with NGET substation), 50 hectares (without NGET substation; • Maximum number of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules – approximately 2,200,000 • Height range (at higher edge) of solar PV modules (AGL) is 2.2 m to 2.3 m; • Minimum distance between site boundary and table areas (m) is 7 m;	Direct and indirect temporary effects on landscape character during the day. Direct temporary effects on visual amenity of receptors during the day

Activity	Potential effects scoped into the assessment
• Indicative Number Power Converter Stations (PCS) is 156; • Number of HV Transformer (Secondary substation) is 6 ; • Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Secondary Substation) is a height of 4 to 6 m (including isolator); • NGET substation maximum height assumed to be 12 to 12.5 m.	

8.4.5 Effects which are not considered likely to be significant have been scoped out of the assessment. A summary of the effects scoped out is presented in **Table 8.8**.

Table 8.8: Issues scoped out of the assessment

Issue	Justification
Effects on landscape character outside of the 5 km radius Project Study Area.	Significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity are highly unlikely.
Effects on visual resources outside of the 5 km radius Project Study Area.	Significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity are highly unlikely.

Study area

8.4.6 The Study Area for the assessment of landscape and visual effects in the ES chapter ('the Landscape and Visual Study Area') has been informed by the design of the Project, incorporating up to 2.3 m high solar arrays, power converter station locations, project substation location and the cable route corridor. The Study Area has also been developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

8.4.7 This considers the findings of analysis of the ZTV of the solar farm assets (including any construction working areas) and the identification of Representative Viewpoints. Once the location of the assets were identified, and the ZTV produced, Representative Viewpoints were agreed with relevant stakeholders, including Local Authorities.

8.4.8 The maximum 2.3 m high solar arrays of the Botley West Solar Farm (The Project), and dimensions of converter stations and project substation, form the basis of the landscape and visual resources Study Area. The extent of the Study Area has been determined by the findings of the ZTV and refined where necessary. Considering the assets of the Botley West Solar Farm, the Study Area extends to a 5 km buffer from the outer edges of the Project Site in all directions.

8.4.9 There are a number of cable route options throughout the Project Study Area. Within these areas it is proposed that horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will take place to lay lengths of cable, as detailed in Table 8.7 above. The cable routes would require individual construction compounds and plant material,

such as drill rigs, in order to lay the cable. The HDD of cable routes will be completed during the temporary construction phase of the Project.

8.4.10 Details of the cable route corridor options are illustrated on Figures 5.1 (Overview Plan); 5.2 (Northern Site, Option A); 5.2 (Northern Site, Option B); 5.3A to D (Northern to Central Site transition area); 5.4A to C (Central Site) and 5.5A to H (Southern Site at Swinford Bridge crossing).

Limitations and Assumptions

8.4.11 The visual assessment is based on analysis of OS mapping of the Project Site and surrounding area, and on field survey and analysis of views towards the site from publicly accessible viewpoints in the surrounding landscape. Although every effort has been made to include viewpoints in sensitive locations from which the development would be most visible, not all public locations from which the Project would potentially be seen have necessarily been included in the assessment. Where impacts to residential and other private views (e.g. commercial occupiers) are noted, these have necessarily been estimated.

8.4.12 The fieldwork and visual assessment were carried out during winter 2022/2023 when deciduous trees were without leaf, and summer 2023 when deciduous vegetation was in full leaf. The winter photography has allowed an accurate projection of the 'worst case' scenario, i.e. where foliage screening of the Project is limited, which allows for more visible conditions. However, visibility on winter days can be more limited due to weather conditions.

8.4.13 The information provided in this assessment is considered sufficient to allow a robust assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the Project to be made.

8.5 Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance

Overview

8.5.1 As a matter of best practice, this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken based on the relevant guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) described in the following documents:

- Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002);
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014);
- Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019); and
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, May 2021).

Distinction Between Landscape and Visual Effects

8.5.2 As set out in the GLVIA3, paragraph 2.21, landscape and visual effects are assessed separately, although the procedure for assessing each is closely linked. A clear distinction has been drawn between landscape and visual effects as described below:

- Landscape effects relate to the effects of the Project on the physical and other characteristics of the landscape and its resulting character and quality.
- Visual effects relate to the effects on views experienced by visual receptors (e.g. footpath users, road users, people in their places of work etc) and on the change in views experienced by those visual receptors.

Assessment Criteria and Assignment of Significance of Effects

8.5.3 GLVIA3 sets out broad guidelines rather than detailed prescriptive methodologies. The methodologies tailored for the assessment of this development is based on GLVIA3 guidance, which recommends that an assessment 'concentrates on principles and process' and 'does not provide a detailed or formulaic recipe' to assess effects, it being the 'responsibility of the professional to ensure that the approach and methodology are appropriate to the task in hand' (preface to GLVIA3). The effects on the landscape resources or visual receptors (people) are assessed by considering the proposed change in the baseline conditions (the impact of the proposal) against the type of landscape resource or visual receptor (including the importance and sensitivity of that resource or receptor). The methodology is set out in detail below and summarised in Diagram 1. These factors are determined through a combination of quantitative (objective) and qualitative (subjective) assessment using professional judgement.

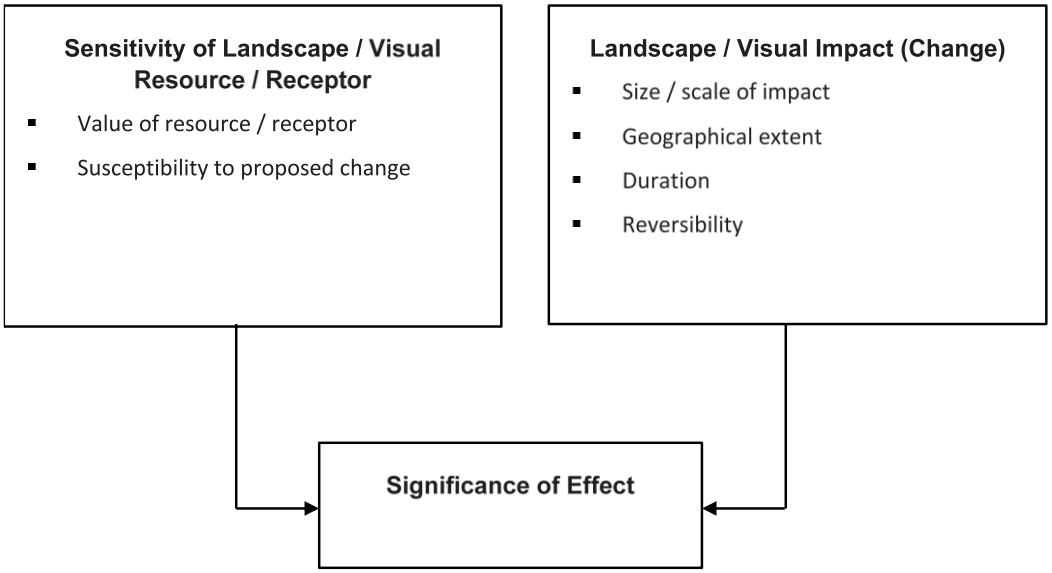

Diagram 1: Assessment Methodology Summary

Receptor sensitivity/value

8.5.4 The sensitivity of a landscape receptor is a combination of 'judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape' (GLVIA, para 5.39). For the purpose of this assessment, susceptibility and value of landscape receptors are defined as follows:

- Landscape susceptibility: *"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 proposed change without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies"* (GLVIA, para 5.40).
- Value of the landscape receptor: *"The value of the Landscape Character Types or Areas that may be affected, based on review of designations at both national and local levels, and, where there are no designations, judgements based on criteria that can be used to establish landscape value; and, the value of individual contributors to landscape character, especially the key characteristics, which may include individual elements of the landscape, particularly landscape features, notable aesthetic, perceptual or experiential qualities, and combinations of these contributors"* (GLVIA, para 5.44).

8.5.5 Sensitivity is not readily graded into bands. However, descriptions of landscape susceptibility and value are set out in Table 8.9: Definitions of Landscape Sensitivity below.

Table 8.9: Definitions of Landscape Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors Landscape Resource/Receptor Susceptibility	Landscape Resource/Receptor Value
Very High	Exceptional landscape quality, no or limited potential for substitution. Key elements / features well known to the wider public.	Nationally/internationally designated/valued landscape, or key elements or features of nationally/internationally designated landscapes.
High	Strong/distinctive landscape character; absence of landscape detractors.	Regionally/nationally designated/valued countryside and landscape features.
Medium	Some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors.	Locally/regionally designated/valued countryside and landscape features.
Low	Absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors.	Undesignated countryside and landscape features.

Negligible	Absence of positive landscape characteristics. Significant presence of landscape detractors.	Undesignated countryside and landscape features.

Sensitivity of visual receptors

8.5.6 Visual receptors are always people. The sensitivity of each visual receptor (the particular person or group of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint) 'should be assessed in terms of both their susceptibility to change and in views and visual amenity and also the value attached to particular views' (GLVIA, para 6.31). For the purpose of this assessment, susceptibility and value of visual receptors are defined as follows:

- Visual susceptibility: *"The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of: The occupation or activity of people experiencing views at the particular locations; and the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations"* (GLVIA, para 6.32).
- Value of views: Judgements made about the value of views should take account of: *"recognition of the value attached to particular views, 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, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (such as parking places, sign boards or interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art…"* (GLVIA, para 6.37).

8.5.7 Sensitivity is not readily graded in bands and GLVIA notes, with regards to visual sensitivity, that the division of who may or may not be sensitive to a particular change "is not black and white and in reality, there will be a gradation in susceptibility to change" (GLVIA, para 6.35). In order to provide both consistency and transparency to the assessment process, however, Table 8.10, below defines the criteria which have guided the judgement as to the intrinsic susceptibility and value of the resource/receptor and subsequent sensitivity to the proposed development.

Table 8.10: Definitions of Landscape Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors Visual Receptor Susceptibility	Value of View
Very High	Observers, drawn to a particular view, including those who have travelled from around Britain and overseas to experience the views.	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above
High	Observers on the public rights of way network in the countryside are more sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above
Medium	Observers enjoying the countryside from vehicles on quiet/promoted routes or pedestrians on less scenic/urban rights of	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above

	way are moderately sensitive to visual change.	
Low	Observers in vehicles or people involved in outdoor activities where attention is not focused on landscape are less sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above
Negligible	Observers in vehicles or people involved in frequent or frequently repeated activities are less sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above

Magnitude of impact on Landscape Resources and Receptors

8.5.8 The magnitude of impact or change affecting landscape receptors depends on the size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. These factors are described below:

- *Size or scale: "The extent of the existing landscape elements that will be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape…; the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones…" and, "whether the effect [impact] changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character" (GLVIA, para 5.49).*
- *Geographical extent: Distinct from scale or size, this factor considers the geographical area over which the landscape impacts will be felt, it might, for example, be a moderate loss of landscape receptors or character over a large area, or a large loss of receptors or character over a very localised area. At para 5.50 GLVIA3 notes that "in general effects [impacts] may have an influence at the following scales, although this will vary according to the nature of the project and not all may be relevant on every occasion: 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; and, on a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas".* For the purposes of this LVIA, the assessment considers the impact of the Project on the published landscape character areas, both at local and national level, i.e. the third and fourth landscape scales.

8.5.9 Duration and reversibility: Duration is categorised as short, medium or long-term. GLVIA explains that as there are no standard lengths of time within these categories, the appraisal must state what these are and why these have been chosen (GLVIA, para 5.51). Reversibility is described as "a judgement about the prospects and practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation" (GLVIA, para 5.52). Projects can be considered to be permanent (irreversible), partly reversible or fully reversible. For the purposes of this assessment the Project is considered to be fully reversible.

Magnitude of impact on visual receptors

8.5.10 As with the magnitude of landscape impacts, the magnitude of impact or change affecting visual receptors depends on the size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. These factors are described below:

- *Size or scale: Judgements need to take account of: "the scale of the change [impact] 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 proposed development; the degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with 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 proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses" (GLVIA, para 6.39).*
- *Geographical extent: This will vary from viewpoint to viewpoint and will reflect: "the angle [orientation] of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor; the distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development; and the extent of the area over which the changes [impacts] would be visible" (GLVIA, para 6.40).*

8.5.11 Duration and reversibility of visual effects: As with landscape impacts, duration should be categorised as short, medium or long-term and projects considered to be permanent (irreversible), partially reversible or fully reversible (GLVIA, para 6.41). For the purposes of this assessment the impacts on views of the Project are considered to be fully reversible.

8.5.12 The magnitude of the predicted impact has been described using criteria outlined above and Diagram 1 and detailed in methodology below. Magnitude of impact has been classified on a four-point scale (High, Medium, Low and Negligible). The definitions of terms relating to the magnitude of impact are set out in Table 8.11: Impact magnitude criteria below.

Table 8.11: Impact magnitude criteria

Magnitude of impact	Typical Descriptors Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
High	Total loss or addition or/very substantial loss or addition of key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of dominant, uncharacteristic elements with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	Complete or very substantial change in view, dominant involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of baseline, e.g., through removal of key elements.
Medium	Partial loss or addition of or moderate alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent	Moderate change in view: which may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of baseline, i.e. pre-development view, through the introduction of

Magnitude of impact	Typical Descriptors Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
	but may not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	new elements or removal of existing elements. Change may be prominent but would not substantially alter scale and character of the surroundings and the wider setting. Composition of the views would alter. View character may be partially changed through the introduction of features which, though uncharacteristic, may not necessarily be visually discordant.
Low	Minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape.	Minor change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view, – change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst composition and character would be similar to the pre-change circumstances.
Negligible	Very minor loss or addition of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline i.e., pre-development landscape and/or introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape approximating to a 'no-change' situation.	Very slight change in baseline, i.e. pre-development view, – change barely distinguishable from the surroundings. Composition and character of view substantially unaltered.
No change	No loss or alteration of characteristics, features or elements; no observable impact.	

Significance of effect

8.5.13 It is recognised that new development will lead to some landscape and visual effects. However, it should be stressed that not all landscape and visual effects arising will be significant.

8.5.14 GLVIA3 explains, at paragraph 5.55, that a staged approach can be adopted when assessing landscape significance *"susceptibility to change and value can be combined into an assessment of sensitivity for each receptor, and size/scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility can be combined into an assessment of magnitude for each effect. Magnitude and sensitivity can then be combined to assess overall significance".*

8.5.15 Within this assessment, the assessment of significance has taken the following into account (as appropriate):

- reference to regulations or standards;
- reference to best practice guidance;

- reference to policy objectives;
- reference to criteria, for example designations or protection status;
- outcomes of consultation to date; and
- professional judgement based on local / regional / specialist experience.

8.5.16 Significance varies depending on the receptor's sensitivity and the magnitude of impact of the project. The distance to the development can be a major factor in determining the magnitude of the impact. Those resources or receptors closer to the project are likely to experience a greater significance of effects than those further away.

8.5.17 A significant effect would not necessarily mean that the effect is unacceptable in planning terms. What is important is that the likely effects of any proposal are transparently assessed and understood in order that the determining authority can bring a balanced and well-informed judgement to bear when making any decision. This judgement should be based upon weighing up the benefits of the proposal against the anticipated effects, both positive and negative.

8.5.18 The matrix, at Table 8.12: Assessment matrix, has been used to guide the assessment of effects. Where the matrix provides a choice of level of effects, e.g., Minor to Moderate, the assessor has exercised professional judgement in determining which of the levels is more appropriate.

8.5.19 In all cases, the evaluation of receptor sensitivity, impact magnitude and significance of effect has been informed by professional judgement and is underpinned by narrative to explain the conclusions reached.

Table 8.12: Assessment matrix

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

8.5.20 The significance of effect on landscape, views and visual amenity has been described according to the five-point scale shown in the above matrix (Substantial, Major, Medium, Minor, Negligible or Neutral). A description of these terms is provided in **Table 8.13**, below.

8.5.21 Where the magnitude of impact is ‘no change’, no effect would arise.

Table 8.13: Definitions of Significance of Effects Matrix

Significance	Typical Descriptors Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
Substantial	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a landscape of exceptional landscape quality (e.g., internationally designated landscapes), or key elements known to the wider public of nationally designated landscapes (where there is no or limited potential for substitution nationally).	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a view of remarkable scenic quality, within internationally designated landscapes or key features or elements of nationally designated landscapes that are well known to the wider public.
Major	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued aspect of (or a high quality) landscape.	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued view or a view of high scenic quality.
Moderate	Where proposed changes would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views would be noticeably out of scale or at odds with the existing view.
Minor	Where proposed changes would be at slight variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views, although discernible, would only be at slight variance with the existing view.
Negligible	Where proposed changes would have an indiscernible effect on the character of an area.	Where proposed changes would have a barely noticeable effect on views/visual amenity.
Neutral	Where there is a balance of proposed changes, both negative and positive, which leave the character of an area effectively unaltered.	Where there is a balance of proposed changes, both negative and positive, which leave the visual amenity of an area effectively unaltered.

8.5.22 For the purpose of this assessment, any effects with a significance level of Moderate or less are not considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations.

Assumptions and limitations of the assessment

8.5.23 The visual assessment is based on analysis of OS mapping of the Project Site and surrounding area, and on field survey and analysis of views towards the Project Site (Representative Viewpoints) from publicly accessible locations in the surrounding landscape. Although every effort has been made to include Representative Viewpoints in sensitive locations and locations from which the Project would be most visible, not all publicly accessible locations, from where the Project would potentially be visible, have necessarily been included in the assessment. Where impacts to residential and other private views (e.g. commercial occupiers) are noted, these have necessarily been estimated.

8.5.24 The fieldwork and visual appraisal were carried out in Winter 2022/23 and Summer 2023, in winter and summer months when deciduous trees were devoid of leaf (winter) and in leaf (summer). As such, the winter photography in the assessment is presenting the ‘worst case’ scenario. It is noted, however, that visibility on winter days can be more limited due to weather conditions.

8.5.25 The information provided in this assessment is considered to allow for a robust assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the Project to be made.

8.6 Baseline Studies Environment Conditions

Desk studies

8.6.1 Information of relevance to the LVIA within the Study Area was collected through a detailed review of existing studies and datasets. These are summarised at **Table 8.14**. Baseline information on trees is provided in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3: Strategic Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**.

Table 8.14: Summary of desk study sources used

Title	Source	Year	Author
National Character Area Profiles	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles (accessed June 2023)	2014	Natural England
Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS)	https://owls.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/OWLS/Home/ (accessed June 2023)	2004	Oxfordshire County Council
Cotswolds [National Landscape] Landscape Character Assessment	https://www.cotswoldsNational Landscape.org.uk/our-landscape/landscape-strategy-guidelines/ (accessed June 2023)	2002	Cotswolds National Landscape Partnership
Cherwell Valley Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment	https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/388/landscape-character-sensitivity-and-capacity-assessment-june-2017-part-1 (accessed June 2023)	June 2017	White Young Green for Cherwell District Council
A Character Assessment of Oxford in its Landscape Setting	https://www.oxford.gov.uk/downloads/download/972/landscape_character_assessment (accessed June 2023)	March 2002	Land Use Consultants for Oxford City Council
Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment	https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/wildlife-trees-and-landscape/landscape/ (accessed June 2023)	2017	HAD for Vale of White Horse District Council
West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment	https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/cpqn2fj0/west-oxfordshire-landscape-assessment-1998.pdf (accessed June 2023)	1998	West Oxfordshire District Council

Landscape Character

8.6.2 The European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, ratified 2006) (ELC) requires that each signatory "establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning…" through the adoption of specific measures (Article 5). Landscape Protection is defined in Article 1d as "actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity". The specific measures set out at Article 6 require, amongst other matters, each party to undertake an analysis of the characteristics and the forces and pressures on its landscapes (Article 6C, 1a (ii)) and "to assess the landscapes identified taking into account the specific values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned" (Article 6C, 1b).

8.6.3 The following section summarises the relevant landscape character areas (LCA) and / landscape character types (LCT), which have been defined by published landscape characters assessments / studies, as detailed in Table 8.9 above. These landscape character assessments / studies have been reviewed as part of the LVIA to identify key landscape characteristics of relevance to the Project and 5 km Study Area. Detailed descriptions of these LCA / LCT can be found at Appendix 8.1 of the ES.

Published Landscape Character Assessments and related studies.

8.6.4 Published landscape character assessments / studies are used by Local Planning Authorities (LPA) as part of their evidence base for their respective Local Development Frameworks (LDF), including Local Plans. These landscape character assessments will often detail specific details on guidance and recommendations for the management of landscape change within the Local Plan area.

8.6.5 National, Regional, County and District studies, of relevance to this LVIA, have been reviewed in order to identify key characteristics and landscape features within the Project Site and 5 km Study Area. This baseline information has been used to inform the Project design and assess the likely landscape effects as a result of the Project.

National Landscape Caracter Areas (NCA)

8.6.6 National Landscape Character Areas (NCA), are broad scale landscape character areas, published by Natural. They provide context for more detailed landscape character studies at a local level.

8.6.7 Figure 8.128 identifies the NCA within which the different areas of the Project and 5 km radius Study Area are located. The northern section of the Project falls entirely within NCA 107: Cotswolds. The central (largest) section of the Project falls entirely within NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales. While the southern (smallest) section of the Project falls entirely within NCA 109: Midvale Ridge. However, while each section of the Project is located within a different NCA, resulting in direct landscape characterising effects, a small part of each

section is in close proximity to the neighbouring National Character Area, resulting in indirect perceptual effects.

Regional Landscape Character

Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) (2004)

8.6.8 The Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) is a county-wide study that explores the interrelationship between landscape character and biodiversity. It identifies nine Regional Character Areas (RCA's) that are part of the National Joint Character Areas which fall within Oxfordshire. Three Regional Character Areas are located within the Study Area, covering the Project Site and are of relevance to this assessment. They are illustrated on Figure 8.129 and listed below:

- Cotswolds;
- Midvale Ridge; and
- Upper Thames Vale.

8.6.9 The study identifies 24 landscape types (LT) within the County that are made up of individual landscape description units. Information relating to the LT of relevance to landscape character includes the: Key Characteristics, Local Character Areas, Forces For Change, Landscape Strategy, Guidelines and Key Recommendations and this is used within this assessment. Information relating to Forces For Change, Landscape Strategy, Guidelines and Key Recommendations will be utilised to inform the landscape proposals for this Project.

8.6.10 There are eight LT located within the Project Site and within the Study Area that are of relevance to this assessment. These are listed below, with their locations are illustrated on Figure 8.131: District Character Areas with ZTV.

- LT 1: Alluvial Lowlands;
- LT 4: Estate Farmlands;
- LT 8: Lowland Village Farmlands;
- LT 10: River Meadowlands;
- LT 12: Rolling Farmland;
- LT 17: Vale Farmland;
- LT 19: Wooded Estatelands; and
- LT 24: Wooded Pasture Valleys and Slopes.

8.6.11 Relevant information regarding the Key Characteristics, Forces For Change and Landscape Strategy guidelines are detailed in Appendix 8.1 for the eight Landscape Types to be considered within this assessment.

8.6.12 The section should read in conjunction with to Figure 8.128 National Landscape Character Areas, Figure 8.129 Regional Character Areas and Figure 8.130 Local Character Areas.

District Landscape Character Assessments

Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment (2002)

8.6.13 *"The Cotswolds was designated as a National Landscape in 1966 (previously known as AONB), in recognition of its special landscape character. The outstanding natural beauty of the area is derived from its remarkable visual unity, and yet scenic diversity. The unifying factor is, of course, the underlying geology".*

8.6.14 The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership together with the Countryside Agency appointed Landscape Design Associates (LDA) in 2002 to carry out a Landscape Character Assessment of the ANOB. The Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment draws from existing Partnership Authorities assessments and *"where LCAs are adopted as SPG, or form part of an Adopted Development Plan, these will take precedent over the broader findings of the Cotswolds LCA in respect of the determination of planning and development control matters and decisions, and other detailed considerations. Nevertheless, the Cotswolds National Landscape LCA will remain as an essential reference document in any decisions to provide a further perspective on the implications of any development, and its effect on the National Landscape".*

8.6.15 The study consists of:

- The Cotswolds AONB Landscape Character Assessment (2002); and,
- The Cotswolds Landscape Strategy and Guidelines (2016).

8.6.16 The assessment is based on a refinement of the National Typology, and *"through detailed desk and field study has identified landscape character types based on a more detailed refinement of the National Types. Theses equate to 'local authority scale' of assessment".*

8.6.17 The study identifies 19 LCT's and 68 LCA's. No LCT or LCA fall within the Project Site, however two LCT's and LCA's are located within the Study Area, in close proximity to the west of fields 2.33 / 2.34 and are of relevance to this assessment, as there would be the potential for indirect perceptual effects, due to the potential intervisibility from small parts of these LCA. There locations are illustrated on Figure 8.130 and are as follows:

- LCA 11B: Stonesfield Lowlands; and,
- LCA 16B: Lower Evenlode Valley.

Cherwell Valley Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2017)

8.6.18 It is noted that the Cherwell Valley Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2017) has used Landscape Types, as defined in the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study, as the basis for the study.

A Character Assessment of Oxford in its Landscape Setting (2002)

8.6.19 Oxford City Council have produced A Character Assessment of Oxford in the Landscape Setting (2002) and the following LCTs are located within the Study Area:

- LCT 1: Lowland Clay Vales;
- LCT 2: Pastoral Floodplains; and
- LCT 3: Settled and Open River Terraces.

8.6.20 It is noted that these LCTs are located some distance from the Project, it is considered they have little potential to be significantly affected by the Project and are therefore not considered any further within this LVIA.

Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment (2017)

8.6.21 The Vale of White Horse District Council have produced the Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment (2017). The assessment identifies 12 Landscape Types (LT) which cover the District and includes descriptions of specific Character Areas (CA) within each LT.

8.6.22 The following LT's and CA's cover the Project Site and have the potential to be affected by the Project:

- Landscape Type RF: River Floodplain;
- Landscape Type LM: Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland;
- Character Area LM19: Whitley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland CA; and,
- Character Area LM20: Farmoor to Botley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland CA.

8.6.23 For each LT and CA the assessment identifies Key Characteristics, these are detailed in Appendix 8.1 of this ES.

West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (1998)

8.6.24 West Oxfordshire District Council commissioned Atlantic Consultants to produce the West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (WOLA) (1998). The assessment identifies 14 Landscape Character Areas (LCA) and six Landscape Types (LT) (that are divided into sub-types that reflect degrees of character variation within the main types) and describes landscape character *"together with appropriate guidelines for landscape enhancement and built development".*

8.6.25 The study identifies variations in landscape quality and condition and provides Landscape Guidelines that identify enhancement priorities and Development Sensitivities.

8.6.26 The following LCAs fall within the Project Site and would be directly affected by the Project:

- LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys; and,

- LCA 11: Eynsham Vale.

Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas / Types

8.6.27 **Table 8.15** below summarises the sensitivity of the landscape character areas and types, identified above, within which the Project Site falls or is in proximity to it. It also details the relationship of the landscape character areas / types to the of the Project Site. I.e. whether the LCA / LCT, or any part of it, falls within the Project Site itself. Resulting in a direct landscape characterising effect.

8.6.28 The sensitivity of the landscape character areas (LCA) / types (LCT) to the Project have been derived using a combination of reference to corresponding published Landscape Character Assessment, where available, landscape planning designations present within the LCA / LCT (refer to Figures 8.4 to 8.6 Landscape Resources Plan), the Landscape Value (refer to Appendix 8.2) and professional judgement.

Table 8.15: Sensitivity of Landscape Character Areas and Types

LCA / LCT name	Approximate Distance to the Project Site (nearest point) or within the Project Site	Sensitivity
Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) (2004)		
LT 1: Alluvial Lowlands	A small part, fields 2.92 (part) and 2.111 to 2.112 of the central section of the Project falls within this landscape type.	High
LT 4: Estate Farmlands	A small part, fields 1.17 to 1.18 and 1.15 (part) of the northern section of the Project falls within this landscape type. A small part, fields 2.1 to 2.4, 2.9 to 2.10 (part) and 2.16 to 2.19 of the central section of the Project falls within this landscape type.	Medium to High
LT 8: Lowland Village Farmlands	Part of the central section of the Project falls within this landscape type.	Medium to High
LT 10: River Meadowlands	Part of the central section of the Project falls within this landscape type.	High
LT 19: Wooded Estatelands	The majority of the northern section of the Project falls within this landscape type. A large part of the central section of the Project falls within this landscape type.	Medium to High
Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment (2002)		
LCA 11B: Stonesfield Lowlands	Approximately 1.5 km to the northwest of field 2.34.	High (within Nationally designated landscape, National Landscape)
LCA 16B: Lower Evenlode Valley	Approximately 281 m to the northwest of field 2.34.	High (within Nationally designated landscape, National Landscape)

LCA / LCT name	Approximate Distance to the Project Site (nearest point) or within the Project Site	Sensitivity
Cherwell Valley Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (2017)		
As above detail for the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study (OWLS) (2004)		
Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment (2017)		
Character Area LM19: Whitley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland CA	The majority of the southern section of the Project is located within this local landscape character area (LLCA).	Medium to High
Character Area LM20: Farmoor to Botley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland CA	Field 3.11, within the southern section of the Project, is located within this LLCA.	Medium to High
West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (1998)		
LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys CA	The majority of the northern section of the Project falls within this LLCA. Fields 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.20 to 2.25 and 2.27 to 2.30, within the central section of the Project also fall within this LLCA.	High
LCA 11: Eynsham Vale	The majority of the central section of the Project falls within this LLCA.	Medium to High

Identification of designated sites

8.6.29 All designated sites, of relevance to the LVIA, within the Study Area and qualifying interest features that could be affected by the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project are set out in **Table 8.16.** They are illustrated on Figures 8.4 to 8.6.

Table 8.16: Designated sites and relevant qualifying interests

Designated site	Distance to the Project (nearest point)	Relevant qualifying interest
Cotswolds National Landscape (previously Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, AONB)	Less than 300 metres to the west at its nearest point.	Designated site of High sensitivity. Corresponds with recreational users and PRoW users of High sensitivity.
Definitive Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Throughout the Study Area, at varying distances to the Project, and in some cases passing through the site.	PRoW users are considered to be of High sensitivity.
Countryside Rights of Way Act (CRoW) Access Land	Various. Less than 500 m at its nearest point to Tackley Heath.	Recreational users throughout Access Land, often corresponding with PRoW routes used by High sensitivity receptors.
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	Various. Less than 10 m at the nearest point to Blenheim Palace Registered Park and Garden.	Recreational users and often tourist destinations. Corresponds with a number of PRoW routes for users of High sensitivity.

Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW)	Various. Immediately adjacent to the Project Site in some cases.	Recreational users. Corresponds with a number of PRoW routes and areas of CRoW Access Land, for users of High sensitivity.

8.6.30 It is acknowledged that there are many other environmental related designations throughout the 5 km Study Area and within the Project Site itself. Where relevant, these have been assessed as part of other technical chapters within the ES. For example, but not limited to, Chapter 7: Historic Environment and Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation.

Designated Landscapes

8.6.31 The Project Site does not lie within a nationally or locally designated landscape.

8.6.32 The ELC requires that account should be taken of all landscapes, designated or not. GLVIA Box 5.1 and the complimentary Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (26 May 2021) (TGN). Table 1 of the TGN, set out a range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes. An analysis of TGN Table 1 is at Appendix 8.2: Landscape Value, to this ES **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**.

8.6.33 Fieldwork indicates that the landscape of the Project Site is a series of small to medium size predominantly arable fields with several mature scattered trees bounded by largely intact hedgerows with trees. The landscape is one of generally good quality and has some landscape attributes (e.g. designations, scenic qualities, special interests or uses) in common to that of the Cotswolds National Landscape, to the west, which would confer a higher value for much of the Project Site.

8.6.34 Overall, it is considered that the Project Site is of good quality and typical of the landscape within the wider Study Area. It is considered that the Project Site is of medium to high landscape value.

Visual Baseline

8.6.35 Areas from which views of the Project Site would theoretically be possible were determined by means of the ZTV analysis. Selected visual receptors located within the ZTV and likely to experience visual change were identified through field work, and their sensitivity established in accordance with best practice guidance.

8.6.36 The ZTV is based on the development of solar panel heights up to 2.3 m high; PCS heights of 3.5 m; NGET substation height of 12.5 m; main Project substation height of 11 m and secondary Project substation height of 6 m. The ZTV is based on a viewer height of 2 m.

8.6.37 The ZTV shown on figure 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11 **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** has been developed based on visual barriers for significant blocks of woodland, at a height of 12 m, and existing settlement, at an indicative height of 9 m. However, the ZTV does not account for visual barriers such as garden vegetation, hedgerows or individual trees. Therefore, the potential intervisibility

with the Project would be less in places. This has been assessed through fieldwork.

8.6.38 The ZTV shown on Figure 8.8a **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** shows a 'bare earth' scenario, with only existing settlement barriers and local topography (i.e. no woodland).

8.6.39 The ZTV, (Volume 2, Figure 8.7, 8.8, 8.8a, 8.9, 8.10 and 8.11) **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** indicates that the ZTV for all fields within the northern, central and southern site generally follows the principal development areas of the Project Site, with potential highest visibility confined to within 3 km of the Project Site boundary. The ZTV takes into consideration significant blocks of woodland and built form but does not consider the screening effect of all vegetation. While the ZTV is a good representation of what might be seen, as it does not take account of smaller blocks of woodland, hedgerows, individual tree cover or garden vegetation, which add to the amount of screening provided by existing vegetation; the ZTV is therefore a worst-case scenario of theoretical visibility. The ZTV extends to small areas to the north, and west of the Project Site, beyond the Project site boundary, and the northern fields are constrained by topography and influence of woodland blocks such as Tackley Wood and woodland blocks associated with Blenheim Great Park that prevent the ZTV spreading east and west. The central fields are constrained to the north by Pinsley Wood, Burleigh Wood and Bladon Heath and to the south by Wytham Great Wood, which also prevents views north of the southern fields. The ZTV covers largely open agricultural land, the fringes of Wootton and Woodstock in the north, Bladon, Long Hanborough, Freeland, Church Hanborough, Begbroke, Eynsham and Cassington in the central area. The ZTV does not extend to the settlement edge of Cumnor.

8.6.40 Very limited overlap of the ZTV for the northern, central and southern fields occurs indicating that intervisibility of the three Project Sites is highly unlikely to happen from any location apart from an elevated location southwest of Bletchington, that indicates potential visibility of northern and central fields.

8.6.41 The ZTV has not considered the cable corridors throughout the Project. The cables are to be below ground and there would be no permanent built element above ground in these areas. The effects of the cable corridors would therefore be limited to the Construction Phase of the Project.

8.6.42 Winter photographs were taken in January and February 2023 when visibility was good. Optimum visibility was afforded as deciduous vegetation was without leaf. Summer photographs were completed in late summer 2023 (September) when the weather and visibility was similarly good.

8.6.43 The photographs were taken with a digital camera with a 50 mm lens (equivalent focal length) at approximately 1.7 metres high. Representative viewpoint locations are shown on Figure 8.9 to 8.11 and photographs are presented on Figures 8.12 to 8.127 (winter) and 8.128 to 8.243 (summer).

Visual Receptor Groups

8.6.44 Visual receptors include the public and community at large, residents and visitors to the area. Representative viewpoints looking towards the Project Site

have been selected and are described in **Table 8.17** below. Other potential visual receptor groups are summarised below.

Views from Public Rights of Way and Access Land

8.6.45 Reference to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping and web based definitive interactive map for Oxfordshire[1] has confirmed the extent and status of public rights of way in the immediate vicinity of the Project Site. These are illustrated on Figure 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6.

8.6.46 The following Public Rights of Way (PRoW) located mainly within about 2.0 km of the Project Site, have potential to be affected by the Project. The remaining PRoWs in the Study Area have been scoped out of the assessment due to lack of potential visibility of the proposals.

8.6.47 There is no Access Land in the Study Area likely to be affected by the Project.

Northern Site

8.6.48 Public rights of Way pass through the Project Site itself. These include those within the parish of Wootton: bridleway 416/11 that has north to south route (Representative Viewpoint 5a) and is intersected by footpath 416/5 (Representative Viewpoints 5b and 5c) and bridleway 416/21, and footpath 416/24 (Representative Viewpoint 8) near Hordley Farm Within the parish of Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp: bridleway 342/1 (Representative Viewpoint 13).

8.6.49 PRoW along a boundary of the Project Site include within the parish of Woodstock: bridleway 413/5. Within the parish of Tackley: footpath 379/1 (Oxfordshire Way) (Representative Viewpoint 9) and bridleway 379/1 (Representative Viewpoint 11).

8.6.50 Open views of the Project Site are obtained from those PRoW that have a route across arable fields within the Project Site. Those PRoW adjacent to the Project Site boundary are generally defined by hedgerows which screen or filter views, occasional glimpse views are obtained through gaps in vegetation.

8.6.51 Other Representative Viewpoints from PRoW, directed towards the Northern Site are distant from the Project and include distant open views, channelled views or contained views with the influence of intervening topography and vegetation across the views.

Central Site

8.6.52 Public rights of way pass through the Project Site itself. These include those in the parish of Bladon: footpath 132/1, footpath 132/2, footpath 132/3 (Representative Viewpoint 18), footpath 132/4, bridleway 132/5, footpath 132/10, footpath 132/6. Kidlington: footpath 265/25, footpath 265/26, footpath 265/24 (Representative Viewpoint 17) and footpath 265/34. Begbroke:

[1] https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/public-rights-way-online

footpath 124/5 (Representative Viewpoint 32). Cassington: footpath 152/7 (Representative Viewpoint 33), footpath 152/6 (Representative Viewpoint 37a, 37b, 38 and 39). Yarnton: footpath 420/14 (Representative Viewpoint 34), footpath 420/15. Hanborough: footpath 238/1 (Representative Viewpoint 21), footpath 238/2 (Representative Viewpoint 23), footpath 238/5 (Representative Viewpoint 25 and 25). Eynsham: bridleway 206/11 (Representative Viewpoint 30)

8.6.53 PRoW along a boundary of the Project Site include within the Parish of Kidlington: footpath 265/24. Eynsham 206/9 (Representative Viewpoint 31).

8.6.54 Open views of the Project Site are obtained from those PRoW that have a route across arable fields within the Project Site. Those PRoW adjacent to the Project Site boundary are generally defined by hedgerows which screen or filter views, occasional glimpse views are obtained through gaps in vegetation.

8.6.55 Other Representative Viewpoints from PRoW, directed towards the Central site are distant from the Project and include open views.

Southern Site

8.6.56 Public rights of way pass through the Project Site itself. These include those in the parish of Cumnor: footpath 184/29 (Representative Viewpoint 51), footpath 184/15 (Representative Viewpoint 48 and 53) and footpath 184/16 (Representative Viewpoint 54).

8.6.57 PRoW along a boundary of the Project Site include within the parish of Cumnor: footpath 184/30, footpath 184/22 (Representative Viewpoint 49 and footpath 184/17 (Representative Viewpoint 55).

8.6.58 Open views of the Project Site are obtained from those PRoW that have a route across arable fields within the Project Site. Those PRoW adjacent to the Project Site boundary are generally defined by hedgerows which screen or filter views, occasional glimpse views are obtained through gaps in vegetation.

8.6.59 Other Representative Viewpoints from PRoW, directed towards the Southern site are distant and from elevated locations and include open views of the surrounding landscape.

Substation Site

8.6.60 Footpath 184/50/20 (Greenbelt Way) (Representative Viewpoint 35) and 184/30/40 run in a generally east to west direction to the northwest of the Southern site of the Project, adjacent to Farmoor Reservoir and along an unnamed road adjacent to the northern boundary. Located within fields 3.1 / 3.3 the Project substation site and NGET substation site adjacent to the northern Project Site boundary. Initially views of solar panels, security fencing and substation would be obtained from these footpaths and other within the local area. Views of pylons and overhead powerlines are currently possible from these footpaths.

8.6.61 The sensitivity of the people using the local PRoW network for informal recreation is considered to be High because appreciation of the surrounding environment is a primary concern.

Views from the Surrounding Roads Network

8.6.62 There are several local roads which pass immediately adjacent to the Project Site, or in proximity to it. The ZTV (Figures 8.7 to 8.11), has indicated there would be potential intervisibility form small sections of many of these roads towards the Project. Depending on direction of travel, views would be oblique and transient in nature. As such, it is anticipated that there would be no significant effect upon users of the local road network, including car users of Low sensitivity and cyclists of Medium sensitivity. Where PRoWs are located adjacent to or along roads, users of these PRoWs are considered to be of Medium sensitivity.

Northern Site

8.6.63 There are a number of local roads in proximity to the northern section of the Project. Including, the A4260 (Representative Viewpoint 14) to the east, a small section of which passes immediately adjacent to the easternmost boundary of the Project. The B4027 (Representative Viewpoint 11) passes through the southern parts of the northern section, with parts of the Project Site immediately adjacent to the Project Site. There are also a number of smaller roads and lanes, such as Stratford Lane, which pass through of adjacent to the northern section of the Project.

Central Site

8.6.64 The central site covers a larger area, there are consequently several local roads passing through or in proximity to the Project Site. The A44 (Representative Viewpoint 16) to the north of the central site traverses in a generally northwest to southeast direction. A small part of the easternmost part of the central site is immediately adjacent to the A44, with a small section passing through it. The A4095 (Representative Viewpoints 19 and 20), also to the north of the central site, traverses in a northeast to southwest, passing through a number of small settlements in between which small parts of the Project Site are immediately adjacent to it. There are a number of smaller road which pass through the central site, in a north to south direction, including Lower Road (Representative Viewpoints 22, 30 and 31) and Cassington Road (Representative Viewpoint 41), with parts of the central site to the east and west of the road with sections immediately adjacent to it. The A40 passes west to east to the south of the central site. A very small part of the Project Site is immediately adjacent to it.

Southern Site

8.6.65 The southern site is the smallest of the three parts of the Project. There are also fewer local roads in proximity to it. To the north of the southern site, the B4044 Eynsham Road traverses east to west some 0.5 km form the southern site. Accessed from the B4044, traversing north to south, the B4017 (Representative Viewpoints 47 and 52) passes through the westernmost part of the southern site with transient views possible to the east and west of a small section of it. In proximity to the east of the southern site, the A420 passes north to south in proximity to the site. However, the ZTV (Figures 8.7 to 8.11)

that there would be no intervisibility to the southern site of the Project from any part of this road.

Views from Outdoor Recreational Facilities

8.6.66 The following recreational resources have potential to be affected by the Project (approximate distance from Project Site in brackets):

8.6.67 Blenheim Palace Registered Park and Gardens (immediately to the north of the Central site of the Project at its nearest point).

8.6.68 People involved in sports and other formal recreational activities at a rural location are considered to have a Medium sensitivity to the Project. This is because the focus of their attention is generally on the activity in question (e.g. football); appreciation of the surrounding environment is secondary.

8.6.69 There is little potential for the proposed solar arrays and / or substation to visually affect the above resources in a significant way and therefore they have not been taken forward for detailed assessment.

Views from Commercial Property

8.6.70 Various farms / agri-businesses are located in the vicinity of, or within the Project Site, including (north to south), but not limited to: Upper Dornford Farm, Lower Dornford Farm, Weaveley Farm, Burleigh Farm, New Barn Farm, Red House Farm and Denman's Farm.

8.6.71 There are a number of schools within the 5 km Study Area, which variously fall within the ZTV to a degree. Including, Bladon C of E Primary School and the Marlborough C of E School, Woodstock.

8.6.72 The other main places of work include a number of business parks and industrial estates throughout the area. Along with several smaller businesses and individual shops.

8.6.73 People at their places of work are considered to have a Low sensitivity to the Project because the focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.

8.6.74 People involved in agriculture working at the various farms listed above are likely to experience views of the Project to varying degrees. However, given their Low sensitivity and in some cases their involvement and / or familiarity with the Project, they are not likely to experience the visual change as significant adverse. Regarding the other places of work / businesses based at farms there is negligible potential for people at these specific locations to experience significant visual change. Consequently, this receptor group is not taken forward for detailed impact assessment.

View from Railway Network

8.6.75 The Oxford to Evesham mainline railway passes through the approximate centre of the Central site of the Project. Parts of the central site are immediately adjacent or in proximity to a section of the railway, approximately 3.9 km between Worton and Hanborough.

8.6.76 Views of the Project, in either direction, from passing trains would be transitory, with track side vegetation and topographical variation likely to obscure the majority of the Project from view.

8.6.77 Due to the nature of any potential views being transitory and only of a small part of the Project, it is considered that passengers on train of Low to Medium sensitivity are unlikely to experience a significant visual effect as a result of the Project. Consequently, these visual receptors have not been taken forward to the assessment.

Private Views

8.6.78 While there is no legal "right to a view", the viewpoints from private properties have been considered in the design of the Project, and a range of mitigation measures (including a minimum 25 m offset from the outer edges of residential properties) have been proposed to soften viewpoints that will ensure the Project is appropriately responds and is respectful to the surrounding landscape. The Landscape Institute has provided guidance on residential visual amenity in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (LI TGN 2/19).

8.6.79 Due to the low level (no more than 2.3 m high) of the Project, in particular the solar arrays, it is anticipated that views of the Project would neither overwhelm existing properties within the Study Area, nor render these properties so unattractive a place to live that planning permission should be refused.

8.6.80 Due to the low level of the Project, particularly the solar arrays, and proposed mitigation, there is no potential for any private views to be adversely affected to an extent that would result in a level of harm of Substantial, which trigger the threshold for an RVAA being required. As such, private views are not considered further in this Chapter.

Representative Viewpoints

8.6.81 The visual assessment includes an assessment of 55 Representative Viewpoints described in **Table 8.17** and illustrated on Figures 8.12 to 8.127. The selection of these viewpoints within the ZTV was carried out in consultation with Cherwell Council, Vale of While Horse Council, West Oxfordshire Council and Oxford City Council. A response of consultation request was received requiring additional viewpoints, some were accepted and some discounted. Refer to Table 8.5 for details.

8.6.82 In addition to the ZTV, fieldwork has been used to identify and consider all of the main receptors in proximity to the Project Site, within the 5 km radius study area.

Table 8.17: Description of Views from Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
1 Bridleway 365/4/30 Figures 8.12 and 8.13 (winter) Figures 8.128 and 8.129 (summer)	2.2 km	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High	Distant open view looking south from bridleway north of the Project Site at approximately 125 m AOD. The view is over the River Dorn Valley. The bridleway track draws the eye to a distant ridge. The context of the view is gently sloping fields of arable farmland defined by clipped hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Occasional farm buildings are visible features separated by small woodland blocks.
2 Bridleway 416/11/10 NCN Route 5 Figures 8.14 and 8.15 (winter) Figures 8.130 and 8.131 (summer)	544 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High	Middle distance channelled view looking south from bridleway to Project Site at approximately 117 m AOD. The macadam track leads the eye to a group of trees at Upper Dornford Cottages. Wide grass verges flank both sides of the track which is defined by clipped hedgerow that prevents views out to the wider landscape.
3 Footpath 416/10/60 Figures 8.16 and 8.17 (winter) Figures 8.132 and 8.133 (summer)	756 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance open view looking east from footpath near Woottondown Farm at approximately 115 m AOD. The view is over the River Dorn Valley to the west facing slopes of the valley. The sloping arable field in the foreground extends across the view and the top of the trees that demark the river are visible and visually link to vegetation associated Upper Dornford Farm and Lower Dornford Farm visible at elevated locations along the valley side. Hedgerows and linear tree belts including evergreen species are features forming a vegetated horizon of the view.
4 Footpath 416/22/20 Figures 8.18 and 8.19 (winter) Figures 8.134 and 8.135 (summer)	3 m	Walkers: High	Close view from footpath at the Project Site boundary looking east from a location near Lower Dornford Farm, at approximately 105 m AOD. The view is short over gently rising land that forms a horizon ridge. The view is cluttered with metal gates, wooden posts, upstanding pallets and post and wire fencing within and across the view. Remnant hedgerows define a central field boundary, and poles and powerlines are features across the view that intrude the skyline.
5a Bridleway 416/11/20	0 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High	Close channelled view looking south from bridleway at the Project Site boundary at approximately 105 m AOD. The worn track leads the eye between good hedgerow vegetation flanking both sides of the path. The dense vegetation prevents views to adjacent fields with only

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Claude Duval Way / NCN Route 5 Figures 8.20 and 8.21 (winter) Figures 8.136 and 8.137 (summer)			heavily filtered glimpses available of the ground beyond the vegetation.
5b Footpath 416/5/20 Figures 8.22 and 8.23 (winter) Figures 8.138 and 8.139 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking east from footpath at Project Site boundary at approximately 104 m AOD. The view is over gently undulating arable field to distant hedgerow along the A4260. The open view is punctuated by individual trees, woodland belts and woodland blocks that form a horizon in the middle distance. A roadside cottage and traffic are visible on the A4260.
5c Footpath 416/5/10 Figures 8.24 and 8.25 (winter) Figures 8.140 and 8.141 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath at Project Site boundary at approximately 105 m AOD. The view is over a level arable field to distant woodland belt and hedgerow that define the field boundary and create a visual edge that prevents distant views beyond.
6 Footpath 379/7/20 Figures 8.26 and 8.27 (winter) Figures 8.142 and 8.143 (summer)	507 m	Walkers: High	Middle distant open view looking west from footpath west of Tackley at approximately 110 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field to hedgerow boundary with the A4260. The ground level of more distant fields is generally restricted by the layering effect of intervening hedgerows and trees creating a wooded landscape that extends in the distance to higher land.
7 Footpath 416/17/20 Figures 8.28 and 8.29 (winter) Figures 8.144 and 8.145 (summer)	659 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance enclosed view looking southeast from footpath south of Wootton at approximately 102 m AOD. The view is along sloping grassland across the River Dorn Valley to the rising arable valley side beyond. The distant field boundary is defined by hedgerow along a ridgeline and the horizon is interrupted by woodland blocks, individual trees and woodland belts across the view. Deer fencing around recently planted woodland is in the foreground. A stone house is visible on the valley side close to the viewpoint.

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
8 Footpath 416/24/10 Figures 8.30 and 8.31 (winter) Figures 8.146 and 8.147 (summer)	30 m	Walkers: High	Close view looking southeast from footpath near Hordley House at approximately 92 m AOD. The short view is over rising grassland field that forms a near ridgeline. The worn path draws the eye to cluster of visible stone buildings in the centre of the view. Hedgerow is visible as a more distant horizon including hedgerow trees and an infield tree. Poles and powerlines are prominent features that extend across the view.
9 Footpath 379/1/10 Oxfordshire Way Figures 8.32 and 8.33 (winter) Figures 8.148 and 8.149 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking north from footpath near Sansom's Cottage at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is over a gently rising, large arable field defined by roadside hedgerow to the left of the view. A tree belt that defines the north field boundary is visible across the view and forms a visual edge. Roadside field hedgerows, trees and vegetation associated with the buildings at Hordley Farm are features in a simple view.
10 Footpath 379/1/20 Oxfordshire Way Figures 8.34 and 8.35 (winter) Figures 8.150 and 8.151 (summer)	221 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath, west of Sturdy's Castle at approximately 103 m AOD. The view is over a gently sloping arable field to a wider undulating agricultural landscape. The large fields are defined by clipped hedgerows and linear belts of woodland in the middle distance. Deer fencing and recent woodland planting is a feature to the right of the view. In the distance woodland extends across the view and creates a treed character. The top of the Column of Victory is visible above distant vegetation. Poles and powerlines break the skyline drawing the eye along the path in the centre of the view.
11 Bridleway 379/19/20 Claude Duval Way Road B4027 Figures 8.36 and 8.37 (winter) Figures 8.152 and 8.153 (summer)	7 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High Vehicle travellers: Low	Close open view looking west from bridleway, close to B4027 at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is over a small flat grassland field in the foreground. This field is defined by a gappy hedgerow with trees that extends across the view in the middle ground. Beyond the hedgerow a large arable field rises to form a horizon with is interrupted in places by individual trees and small woodland blocks including evergreen species. The buildings at Sansom's Farm are visible surrounded by vegetation to the right of the view.
12 Footpath	479	Walkers: High	Close open view looking northeast from footpath, north of Woodstock at approximately 105 m AOD. The view is across a gently sloping grassland field over the River

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
413/1/10 Figures 8.38 and 8.39 (winter) Figures 8.154 and 8.155 (summer)			Glyme Valley to the wider agricultural landscape beyond. The gently undulating landscape is a field pattern defined by hedgerows that is interrupted by tree groups and small blocks of woodland including evergreen species. The layering effect of vegetation across the view screens and breaks up the field pattern. Stratford Lane is visible rising up the valley side to the left of the view and poles and powerlines are features extending down the valley.
13 Bridleway 342/1/10 Near Banbury Road Figures 8.40 and 8.41 (winter) Figures 8.156 and 8.157 (summer)	0 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High Vehicle travellers: Low	Close contained view looking northeast from footpath at Project Site boundary, near Banbury Road at approximately 95 m AOD. The view is over a level arable field contained by boundary hedgerow with trees. The field boundary vegetation provides the visual edge to the view and forms a relatively close horizon.
14 Bridleway 342/1/30, near A4260 Figures 8.42 and 8.43 (winter) Figures 8.158 and 8.159 (summer)	297 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High Vehicle travellers: Low	Close open view looking west from bridleway at gated access off A4260 at approximately 95 m AOD. This view represents the glimpse view through a gateway gap obtained by vehicle travellers using the A4260. The view is over a level to slightly undulating arable farmland that is includes hedgerows and small copses. The focus of the view is along the access track to a horizon formed by intervening horizonal hedge with trees field boundaries, beyond which the woodland belts that surround and contain Blenheim Park provide a distant backdrop to the view. Poles and powerlines are features across the view and break the skyline.
15 Footpath 342/6/10 Figures 8.44 and 8.45 (winter) Figures 8.160 and 8.161 (summer)	300 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking northeast from footpath near Hensington at approximately 97 m AOD. The view is over gently undulating fields towards a woodland belt associated with Shipton Slade Farm together with intervening hedgerow and distant boundary hedgerows. In the foreground is an area of recently planting woodland. Poles and powerlines are features in the view that break the skyline.
16 Road A44 Figures 8.46 and 8.47 (winter)	341 m	Pedestrians and cyclists: Medium Vehicle travellers: Low	Close open view looking south from pavement/cycleway beside A44 near Bladon, at approximately 80 m AOD. The view is over a limestone boundary wall to a flat pasture field in the foreground. Intervening hedgerows and trees define the field pattern in the middle ground before the land rises to the wooded hill of Bladon Heath. The small woodland block of Withy Clump is visible right

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.162 and 8.163 (summer)			of centre and residential properties of Bladon are visible interspersed by intervening vegetation that becomes a denser block of vegetation associated with Bladon Pit.
17 Footpath 265/24/20 Figures 8.48 and 8.49 (winter) Figures 8.164 and 8.165 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close contained view looking west from footpath, at Project Site boundary at approximately 80 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field contained by boundary hedgerow and trees. A hardcore farm track follows the hedgerow/tree boundary to the right of the view. The woodland associated with Bladon Pits and Withy Clump are features int eh view and provided a vegetation edge and backdrop to the view.
18 Footpath 132/3/10 Figures 8.50 and 8.51 (winter) Figures 8.166 and 8.167 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking north from footpath near Bladon at approximately 95 m AOD. The view is over a gently sloping field down towards a lower level pattern of arable and pasture fields defined by hedgerows with trees that extend across the view. The woodland of Withy Clump is visible to the left and woodland associated with Rowel Brook near Begbroke interrupts the openness of the view to the right. In the middle ground the control tower of London Oxford Airport is visible. The ridge that rises from the River Cherwell Valley forms the horizon in the distance.
19 Road A4095 Figures 8.52 and 8.53 (winter) Figures 8.168 and 8.169 (summer)	12 m	Pedestrians and cyclists: Medium Vehicle travellers: Low	Close open view looking southeast from pavement beside A4095 near Bladon, at approximately 70 m AOD. The view is over the road and roadside stone wall in the foreground. A timber post and rail fence is at the top of the wall and is the edge of a gently rising large arable field. To the left of the view properties of Bladon a visible between breaks in vegetation at the edge of the village that links to the woodland of Bladon Heath that extends to the centre of the view. Poles and powerlines are features across the view and break the skyline in the foreground.
20 Footpath 238/1/10 Figures 8.54 and 8.55 (winter) Figures 8.170 and 8.171 (summer)	733 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance open view looking southeast from footpath near Long Hanborough, at approximately 95 m AOD. The view is over gently undulating pasture fields defined by hedgerow with trees and including groups of in-field trees in the foreground. Timber post and rail fence and gates define garden boundaries with the foreground field. Recent residential development is prominent in the view in front of a backdrop of Burleigh Wood. In the middle ground the intervening ridge of Purwell Farm with a regular field pattern of arable fields defined by hedgerow is central in the view with Wytham Great Wood forming a visible horizon beyond. Wytham Great Wood visually connects with Pinsley Wood in the middle ground to the right of the view.

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
21 Footpath 238/1/10 Figures 8.56 and 8.57 (winter) Figures 8.172 and 8.173 (summer)	134 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking southeast from footpath, near Pinsley Wood at approximately 73 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field defined by clipped boundary hedgerow. Vehicles are visible in gaps or filtered by hedgerow along Lower Road. The wooded hill of Burleigh Wood is prominent central in the view and draws the eye. Various rows of poles and powerlines are features at different directions across the view.
22 Footpath 238/2/20 near Lower Road Figures 8.58 and 8.59 (winter) Figures 8.174 and 8.175 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: Medium. Vehicle travellers: Low	Close partly interrupted view from footpath at edge of Lower Road, at approximately 72 m AOD. The view is over the road to a gappy roadside hedgerow beyond which is a flat arable field. The hill for Burleigh Wood rises as a feature in the middle ground. Buildings at Mill Farm are visible beyond intervening hedgerow.
23 Footpath 238/2/20 Figures 8.60 and 8.61 (winter) Figures 8.176 and 8.177 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking east from footpath near Pinsley Wood, at approximately 74 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field to a hedgerow boundary along Lower Road and across the lowland of the River Evenlode valley. The hill of Burleigh Wood is prominent in the middle ground extending to a slight ridge for arable farmland defined by field boundaries and interspersed by trees across the view. The buildings at Burleigh Farm are visible on the ridge with a backdrop of Bladon Heath woodland. Poles and powerlines are lines in two directions across the view and are vertical features in the foreground.
24 Footpath 238/5/20 Figures 8.62 and 8.63 (winter) Figures 8.178 and 8.179 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close glimpse view looking east from footpath near Church Hanborough, at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is through a gap in the hedgerow over a gently sloping arable field across the River Evenlode valley. The regular field pattern of the agricultural landscape consisting of mainly arable fields defined by hedgerows extends across the view. The more heavily treed roadside boundary vegetation of Lower Road is visible in the middle ground. Beyond vegetation associated with the River Evenlode the land rises to a ridge and the buildings of Purwell Farm are visible on the ridge together with small copses. The higher ground of Burleigh Wood and Bladon Heath are features in the view with occasional groups of farm buildings.
25	0 m	Walkers:	Close open view looking south from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Footpath 238/5/20 Figures 8.64 and 8.65 (winter) Figures 8.180 and 8.181 (summer)		High	over a gently sloping arable field to the wooded Wytham Hill in the distance. A regular field pattern of arable fields defined by clipped hedgerows is across flat lowland in the middle ground. The layering effect of individual trees, woodland belts and small copses create a well vegetated landscape. Buildings are visible at intervals within the view surrounded by vegetation. Poles and powerlines are features across the view.
26 Footpath 238/5/20 Figures 8.66 and 8.67 (winter) Figures 8.182 and 8.183 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close short view looking north from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 72 m AOD. The view is over one gently rising arable field. The field is defined by clipped hedgerow boundaries. A row of trees is prominent at the high point and buildings are visible filtered behind them.
27 Footpath 238/5/20 Figures 8.68 and 8.69 (winter) Figures 8.184 and 8.185 (summer)	187 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking north from footpath near City Farm, at approximately 67 m AOD. The view is over flat rough grassland bounded by a timber post and wire fence in the foreground to higher land at Burleigh Wood and fields below Purwell Farm in the distance. The buildings of New Barn Farm and Purwell Farm are visible. Lower Road is defined by hedgerow across part of the middle ground of the view.
28 Footpath 216/4/10 Figures 8.70 and 8.71 (winter) Figures 8.186 and 8.187 (summer)	970 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance open view looking east from footpath near Elm Farm, at approximately 102 m AOD. The view is over a gently undulating grassland field defined by clipped hedgerow. The view features the layering effect of the intervening field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow and infield trees, and blocks of woodland that interrupt the field pattern and create a treed landscape. A group of prominent trees and buildings are visible on an intervening ridge/spur of higher land beyond which the view is across the lowland of the River Evenlode Valley to the arable fields on land rising to Purwell Farm, Spring Hill and the wooded slopes of Wytham Hill. The ridge of the Chiltern Hills is visible in the distance.
29 Footpath 206/12/10 Figures 8.72 and 8.73 (winter)	781 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance open view looking northeast from footpath at Acre Hill, at approximately 80 m AOD. The view is over a gently down sloping arable field to a clipped field boundary and prominent groups of mature trees in the middle ground. The field pattern of lower land of the River Evenlode Valley is defined by a strong pattern of boundary hedgerows with trees. Parts of the rising arable land at Purwell farm are visible with the farm

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.188 and 8.189 (summer)			buildings a feature on the distant ridge with the woodland of Bladon Heath beyond. The spire of Church Hanborough church is visible to the left of the view.
30 Bridleway 206/11/30 near Lower Road Figures 8.74 and 8.75 (winter) Figures 8.190 and 8.191 (summer)	12 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High Vehicle travellers: Low	Close short view looking northeast from bridleway at roadside of Lower Road, at approximately 64 m AOD. The view is along and over the road corridor, clipped roadside hedgerow and culvert fence to flat arable fields divided by a drainage ditch. The view is foreshortened in the middle ground by a belt of intervening woodland. A glimpse to a longer view and filtered glimpse of buildings at Purwell Farm are visible as a small part of the view. A row of poles and powerlines and bridleway finger post are features in the view.
31 Bridleway 206/9/10 near Lower Road Figures 8.76 and 8.77 (winter) Figures 8.192 and 8.193 (summer)	30 m	Walkers, cyclists and equestrians: High Vehicle travellers: Low	Close view looking north from bridleway at roadside with Lower Road, at approximately 64 m AOD. The view is along the road corridor that is bounded by clipped roadside hedgerows on both sides Lower Road. The buildings of roadside property, New Wintles Farm, are visible. The view is short apart from part of a flat arable field that is visible between a gap in the roadside hedgerow and the prominent white picket fence and five bar gate at the entrance to Eynsham Mill. Trees and vegetation are in the foreground and punctuate the entrance to Eynsham Mill.
32 Footpath 124/5/10 Figures 8.78 and 8.79 (winter) Figures 8.194 to 8.195 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking northwest from footpath at Project Site boundary near Begbroke, at approximately 73 m AOD. The view is over a slightly rising arable field bounded by bounded by clipped hedgerow with mature hedgerow trees, to a backdrop of woodland at Bladon Heath and other small woodland blocks. Only two small glimpses of ground level within adjacent fields are visible through gaps in the boundary hedgerow.
33 Footpath 152/7/10 Figures 8.80 and 8.81 (winter) Figures 8.196 and 8.197 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close channelled view looking southeast from footpath within Project Site boundary near Worton Heath, at approximately 85 m AOD. The view is over a slightly rising field to the woodland of Worton Heath to the left of the view. The field is bounded by clipped hedgerow to the right of the view. A prominent mature tree is a feature that draws the eye in the middle ground along a partly treed horizon and distant fields.
34	307 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath at Spring Hill, approximately 96 m AOD. The view is over a slightly

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Footpath 420/14/10 Shakespeare's Way Figures 8.82 and 8.83 (winter) Figures 8.198 and 8.199 (summer)			falling arable field bounded by clipped hedgerow with hedgerow trees. The agricultural field pattern of regular arable fields and boundary vegetation extends across the view in the middle ground to a distant wooded ridge. The drive rising to Purwell Farm is visible in the centre of the view and poles and powerlines are visible features to the left.
35 Footpath 420/14/20 Shakespeare's Way Figures 8.84 and 8.85 (winter) Figures 8.200 and 8.201 (summer)	345 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath at Project Site boundary, west of Yarnton, at approximately 96 m AOD. The view is over a slightly rising arable field to intervening vegetation in the close distance. The distant view is across the low land of the Thames Valley that appears as horizonal layering of intervening vegetation. To the left of the view wooded Wytham Hill is visible and to the right the regular filed pattern of rising land to the middle distant ridge of Purwell Farm. Poles and powerlines are feature within the view.
36 Footpath 237/1/10 Figures 8.86 and 8.87 (winter) Figures 8.202 and 8.203 (summer)	2.5 km	Walkers: High	Distant open view looking southwest from footpath near Bletchington, at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is over steep sloping valley sides across the River Cherwell. The irregular grassland and arable field pattern is punctuated by dense field boundaries, areas of scrub and small woodland blocks. The settlement of Shipton-on-Cherwell is visible set amongst vegetation in the centre of the view. The buildings, hangers and airstrip of Oxford Airport are visible against a backdrop of woodland at Bladon Heath.
37a Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.88 and 8.89 (winter) Figures 8.204 and 8.205 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking east from footpath at Project Site boundary on east bank of River Evenlode, near Goose Eye Farm, at approximately 65 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field contained by clipped hedgerow with hedgerow trees, to the regular arable field pattern on land rising to Purwell Farm.
37b Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.90 and 8.91 (winter)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking north from footpath at Project Site boundary on east bank of River Evenlode, near Goose Eye Farm, at approximately 65 m AOD. The view is over the flat arable flood plain of the River Evenlode with characteristic riparian vegetation, including trees and shrubs, that defines the river channel within the view. The wooded hill of Burleigh Wood is partly visible in the

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.206 and 8.207 (summer)			distance, filtered by foreground vegetation. A row of poles and powerlines are visible across the view.
38 Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.92 and 8.93 (winter) Figures 8.208 and 8.209 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath within Project Site boundary near Purwell Farm, at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is over sloping arable field and boundary hedgerow in the foreground. The open view is across the agricultural landscape of River Evenlode valley to rising land at Church Hanborough and the church spire that draws the eye. Pinsley Wood is on the slopes between the settlements of Church Hanborough and Long Hanborough in the distance. Medium to large arable fields are defined by clipped hedgerows forming a regular field pattern across the middle ground. Individual trees and areas of scrub are visible features along the route of the river. Other field boundary trees punctuate the view together with occasional isolated houses buildings. Poles are powerlines are features to the right of the view.
39 Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.94 and 8.95 (winter) Figures 8.210 and 8.211 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close view looking southeast from footpath within Project Site boundary near Purwell Farm, at approximately 93 m AOD. The view is over a large sloping arable field bounded by a farm track and clipped hedgerow. The view is to the settlement of Cassington and the church spire that draws the eye. The extended field pattern is interrupted by the network of clipped boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The wooded slopes of Wytham Hill are prominent in the middle ground with the Chiltern Hills visible in the distance beyond Oxford and the John Radcliffe Hospital.
40 Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.96 and 8.97 (winter) Figures 8.212 and 8.213 (summer)	148 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking northwest from footpath near Cassington, at approximately 65 m AOD. The view is over one large slightly rising field in the foreground bounded to the right by a farm track and unmanaged hedgerow. Poles and powerlines are in the foreground field, break the skyline and extend across the view. The middle ground field boundary consists of a mature belt of trees which heavily filters views of more distant fields in winter. A smaller proportion of the view is open to fields and clipped hedgerow rising in the distance. A small copse, south of Purwell Farm is prominent on the skyline.
41 Yarnton Road Figures 8.98 and 8.99 (winter) Figures 8.214 and 8.215 (summer)	10 m	Vehicle travellers: Low	Close open view looking west from Yarnton Road near Cassington, at approximately 65 m AOD. The view is over the road and gappy roadside hedgerow to a large rising arable field in the foreground. The agricultural landscape of large arable fields defined by clipped hedgerows in various states of repair forms a horizon of higher land punctuated by intervening hedgerow trees and the small copse south of Purwell Farm.

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
42 Footpath 419/1/10 Oxford Green Belt Way Figures 8.100 and 8.101 (winter) Figures 8.216 and 8.217 (summer)	1.9 km	Walkers: High	Long distance open view looking northwest from footpath near Wytham Wood, at approximately 75 m AOD. The view is from a track at the edge of Wytham Wood looking over rough grassland and sloping arable field to the River Thames. The river is in flood and meadows are holding water. The scrub and riverside trees accentuate the vegetated pattern of the river valley. The view is over the Thames Valley to a field pattern defined by clipped hedgerows on rinsing land beyond Cassington. The ridge of higher ground is punctuated with blocks of woodland including Burleigh Wood and Bladon Heath. Pylons and powerlines are visible across the view in the middle ground.
43 Permissive Path Wytham Wood Figures 8.102 and 8.103 (winter) Figures 8.218 and 8.219 (summer)	2.2 km	Walkers: High	Long distance open view looking northwest from permissive footpath near Wytham Wood, at approximately 100 m AOD. The view is from a track at the edge of Wytham Wood looking over rough grassland and clipped hedgerow to undulating fields and the River Thames. The view is channelled down a shallow valley, to the River Thames and the higher ground beyond. The river is in flood with meadows holding water in the middle ground. The church spires at both Cassington and Church Hanborough are visible in the view. The river valley is well vegetated, and the layering effect of trees creates a wooded landscape interspersed with buildings visible across the view. The agricultural field pattern defined by hedgerows and trees is characteristic of higher land beyond the river. The horizon is punctuated by woodland blocks including that Purwell Farm, Burleigh Wood and Bladon Heath. Pylons and powerlines are visible across the view in the middle ground.
44 Permissive Path Wytham Wood Figures 8.104 and 8.105 (winter) Figures 8.220 and 8.221 (summer)	1.7 km	Walkers: High	Long distance partially open view looking southwest from permissive footpath near Ellen's Gate, Wytham Wood, at approximately 143 m AOD. The view is over a rising arable field that forms an intervening ridge that restricts views to the Project Site. The top of Higgins Copse is visible above the foreground ridge in the centre of the view. To the right of the copse the fields and woodland at Tumbledown are visible with the Wessex Downs ridgeway forming the distant horizon. To the left of the copse the view is over the urban area of Cumnor and wooded Cumnor Hill. Pylons and powerlines are features within the view.
45 Footpath 184/48/10	1.4 km	Walkers: High	Distant open view looking southeast from footpath at the edge of Farmoor Reservoir, at approximately 65 m AOD. The view is over the concrete reservoir walls and across the contained water body of the reservoir. The water creates a very consistent and flat fore and middle ground. Beyond the reservoir the rising land of the Project Site

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.106 and 8.107 (winter) Figures 8.222 and 8.223 (summer)			and Cumnor is visible. The agricultural field pattern is interspersed by large blocks of woodland including Denman's Copse, Smith Hill Copse and Whitely Brake located along the slope. Pylons and powerlines break the skyline and are visible as a continuous row across the view.
46 Footpath 184/15/10 Near Eynsham Road Figure 8.108 and 8.109 (winter) Figures 8.224 and 8.225 (summer)	765 m	Walkers: High Vehicle travellers: Low Residents: High	Middle distance open view looking south from footpath, at approximately 70 m AOD. The view is over a flat arable field to clipped hedgerow field boundary with hedgerow trees. The layering effect of intervening hedgerows restrict views of the ground level of the lowland fields. Filtered and glimpse views are through gaps in hedgerow. The regular field pattern defined by clipped hedgerow is visible on rising land in the distance. The slopes are punctuated by the visually prominent woodland blocks of Saddle Copse, Denman's Copse, and Whitely Brake. The vertical features of poles, pylons and powerlines are visible as a double row extending across the view in the fore and middle ground. The poles and pylons break the skyline at regular intervals across the view. Farm buildings, including Denman's Farm and houses are visible at low level and on higher land set within a wooded agricultural landscape.
47 Footpath 184/22/10 Oxford Green Belt Way. Near B4017 Figures 8.110 and 8.111 (winter) Figures 8.226 and 8.227 (summer)	270 m	Walkers: High Road: Low Residents: High	Close partly open view looking southeast from footpath, at approximately 62 m AOD. The view is over a flat grassland field bounded by clipped roadside hedgerow with trees that restrict the view to the right. The house and farm buildings at Jumpers are visible in the middle ground and Lake View House is prominent on the distant ridge. The channelled view is over foreground lowland to rising arable fields defined by clipped hedgerows. Denman's Copse is visible to the left of the view and a row of coniferous trees feature on the ridge. Poles, pylons and powerlines are on the low middle ground. One pylon is prominent in the view, draws the eye and breaks the skyline.
48 Footpath 184/15/30 Oxford Green Belt Way Figures 8.112 and 8.113 (winter) Figures 8.228 and 8.229 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close interrupted view looking south from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 67 m AOD. The view is through gap in field hedgerow over slightly rising arable farmland. The view is restricted by prominent large blocks of woodland, Saddle Copse and Denman's Copse. The house and farm building of Denman's farm are visible at the heal of the slope and powerlines cross the top of the view.

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
49 Footpath 184/22/20 Figures 8.114 and 8.115 (winter) Figures 8.230 and 8.231 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking southwest from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 70 m AOD. The view is over a large flat arable field contained by clipped hedgerow. The house and farm buildings of Denman's Farm are visible at the heal of rising land. Large blocks of woodland are features of the slopes at regular intervals along the ridge with hedged fields visible between the woodland. A row of pylons and powerlines follow a line of the topography along the heal of the slope, break the skyline and draw the eye into the distance to the right of the view. Poles and powerlines perpendicular to the row of pylons follow Denman's Lane up the hill slope.
50 Footpath 184/50/20 Oxford Green Belt Way Figures 8.116 and 8.117 (winter) Figures 8.232 and 8.233 (summer)	60 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking southeast from footpath adjacent to Farmoor Reservoir, at approximately 63 m AOD. The view is over rough grassland and lane defined by post and rail fence, and intermittent hedgerow. Beyond the lane the undulating agricultural landscape of regular geometric field pattern defined by clipped hedgerow extends across the view on rising land. The woodland of Denman's Copse and Smith Hill Copse are visible on the upper slopes. A row of coniferous trees is distinctive on the ridge together with Lake View House within a group of trees. The roof of Jumpers is visible at lower level. A row of lowland pylons and powerlines break the skyline and extends across the view following the line of topography.
51 Footpath 184/29/10 Figures 8.118 and 8.119 (winter) Figures 8.234 and 8.235 (summer)	93 m	Walkers: High	Close partly open view looking northeast from footpath near Upper Whitely Farm, at approximately 80 m AOD. The view is over a sloping grassland field to a mature hedgerow boundary that links to Smith Hill Copse. The woodland block restricts long views to the right. The lowland agricultural field pattern extends through the middle ground and is defined by field hedgerow field boundaries. Buildings and houses are visible features of the lowland. The ground rises in the distance to the wooded slopes of Wytham Hill. A single pylon and powerlines are visible breaking the skyline and drawing the eye in the centre of the view.
52 B4017 Tumbledown Road Figures 8.120 and 8.121 (winter) Figures 8.236 and 8.237 (summer)	159 m	Vehicles users: Low	Close open view looking north from road near Tumbledowns, at approximately 100 m AOD. The view is over the downhill road and roadside hedgerow to the agricultural lowland. The arable farmland is defined by a regular field pattern divided by clipped hedgerows. Buildings and houses are features at intervals across the lowland. In the distance the land rises to the wooded slopes of Wytham Hill. A row of pylons and powerlines follows the topography at the heal of the slope across the view.

Viewpoint and Location	Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
53 Footpath 184/15/30 Oxford Green Belt Way Figures 8.122 and 8.123 (winter) Figures 8.238 and 8.239 (summer)	134 m	Walkers: High	Close open view looking north from footpath at approximately 110 m AOD. The view is over sloping arable fields and hedgerow to agricultural lowland. The regular field pattern of lowland arable fields defined by clipped hedgerow boundaries and few hedgerow trees. Denman's Copse is visible to the right of the view and Farmoor Reservoir to the left. The lowland of the middle ground is punctuated by buildings interspersed across the view. Two pylons are visible in the middle ground and powerlines are across view. Beyond Eynsham Road the land rises to the wooded slopes of Wytham Hill and some areas of open field. Distant to the reservoir the treed Thames Valley extends to the settlement of Eynsham and higher land beyond.
54 Footpath 184/16/20 Figures 8.124 and 8.125 (winter) Figures 8.240 and 8.241 (summer)	0 m	Walkers: High	Close channelled view looking north from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 95 m AOD. The view is down the sloping track contained between Denman's Copse and Saddle Copse. Either side of the track are gently undulating grassland fields that form a slight intervening ridge that restricts views of the near lowland and buildings of Denman's Farm, the roofs of which are visible. Two rows of poles and powerlines are downslope, one adjacent to the track associated with post and wire fence. A row of pylons and powerlines extends across the view and draws the eye to the right where the rising A420 is visible. Groups of buildings are visible at intervals within the low middle ground. The view is to the wooded slopes Wytham Hill will some field clearings. This is a busy view with many conflicting features.
55 Footpath 184/18/20 Figures 8.126 and 8.127 (winter) Figures 8.242 and 8.243 (summer)	543 m	Walkers: High	Middle distance view looking northwest from footpath, near Cumnor at approximately 120 m AOD. The view is over a large sloping arable field to intervening ridge punctuated by prominent tree groups and woodland. Farm buildings, masts, poles, pylons powerlines are visible and clutter the middle ground of the view. Farmoor Reservoir is partly visible or filtered by intervening trees. The intervening ridge restricts views of the Project Site and the lowland. The wooded slopes of Wytham Hill form the horizon and visually connect with the distant ridge beyond the reservoir.

Photomontages

8.6.83 To provide representative views of the Project, 31 Representative Viewpoint locations form the basis for the rendered photomontages (see Figures 8.248 to 8.371) **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** of the Project and were chosen in consultation with the three relevant local authorities: Cherwell District Council, Vale of White

Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. For the purposes of the ES these viewpoints have been selected to represent the Project in winter and summer. These viewpoints represent a range of views of the Project in the context of the surrounding landscape and provide illustrative examples of the potential visual impact. These photomontages illustrate the proposals at winter Year 1 (worst case scenario when deciduous vegetation is devoid of leaf and mitigation has not taken effect, along with summer Year 15, when mitigation is anticipated to have reached its full design intention.

Future baseline conditions

8.6.84 Having established the existing baseline character of the area it should be noted that landscapes are dynamic and subject to change.

8.6.85 There are additional planning proposals within the Study Area and other Projects within 5 km of the Project Site have been reviewed as part of the cumulative assessment of this chapter (see section 8.10 of this LVIA).

8.6.86 Considering the information identified in the baseline sections above, any future climatic changes are unlikely to change the landscape and visual assessment for the Project. If appropriate landscape treatment in the form of additional or alternative planting that is not part of the Project, including further management of the areas within the immediate local context of the Project Site, any landscape and visual effects are likely to be marginally less than the levels reported in this chapter.

Key receptors

8.6.87 **Table 8.18** identifies the receptors taken forward into the assessment.

Table 8.18: Key receptors taken forward to assessment.

Receptor	Description	Sensitivity/value
Walkers using Long Distance / Promoted Footpaths	Thames Path; Oxfordshire Way; Oxford Greenbelt Way;	High sensitivity
Walkers using public rights of way	Public footpaths within the LVIA Study Area	High sensitivity
Equestrians using public rights of way	Bridleways within the LVIA Study Area	High sensitivity
People using Access Land/open country (or public access equivalent)	Tackley Heath; Blenheim Palace Park and Gardens; Yarnton or West Mead; Pixey Mead.	High sensitivity
Cyclists using National Cycle Routes (NCR)	National Cycle Network route 5	Medium sensitivity

Occupiers of residential properties	Residential properties within the LVIA Study Area	High sensitivity

8.7 Key Parameters for Assessment

Maximum design scenario

8.7.1 The maximum design scenarios identified in **Table 8.19** have been selected as those having the potential to result in the greatest effect on an identified receptor or receptor group. These scenarios have been selected from the Project Design Envelope provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6: Project Description of the ES **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**. Any other development scenario is considered to have less significant effects, based on details within the Project Design Envelope (e.g. different infrastructure layout), to that assessed here being taken forward in the final design scheme.

Table 8.19: Maximum design scenario considered for the assessment of potential impacts

Potential Impact Phase	Phase C	Phase O	Phase D	Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
The impact of the Botley West Solar Farm assets on landscape character during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase. The impact of the Botley West Solar Farm assets on publicly accessible views during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase	✓	✓	×	**Construction:** • Total developable area for solar arrays – Northern site is approximately 247.3 hectares; • Total Developable area for solar array – Central site is approximately 545.2 hectares; • Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern site is approximately 46 hectares (with NGET substation), 50 hectares (without NGET substation); • Maximum number of solar photovoltaic (PV) Modules – approximately 2,200,000; • creation of construction compounds for each site; • Height range of solar PV modules (AGL) is 2.2 m to 2.3 m (at the highest edge); • Minimum distance between site boundary and table areas (m) is 7 m; • Indicative Number Power Converter Stations (PCS) is 156; • Indicative Number of HV Transformer (Secondary substation) is 6 no.; • Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Secondary Substation) is a height of 4 to 6 m (including isolator); • NGET substation maximum height assumed to be 12 to 12.5 m. • Electrical cabling including DC Cables from Solar PV Modules to Inverters; AC Cables from Transformers to Secondary Substation (HV Transformer) (33/275kV) and NGET substation to be installed underground in trenches within roadways, fields or footpath verges. **Operation and Maintenance phase:** • Total developable area for solar arrays – Northern site is approximately 247.3 hectares; • Total Developable area for solar array – Central site is approximately 545.2 hectares;	**Construction/ Decommissioning phase** The maximum developable area for solar arrays, convertor stations, transformers and substation buildings would result in the maximum construction/decommissioning activities/vessels with the potential to directly impact or influence landscape character or would result in the maximum visible construction / decommissioning activities The electrical cabling and open trench would result in the maximum construction/decommissioning activities/vessels with the potential to directly impact or influence landscape character or would result in the maximum visible construction / decommissioning activities. The creation of construcion compounds throughout the Project Site would result in temporary loss of landscape features. **Operation and maintenance phase** The maximum developable area for solar arrays, convertor stations, trnsformers and substation buildings would result in the maximum operation / maintenance activities with the potential to directly impact or influence landscape character or would result in the maximum visible operation and maitenance.

Potential Impact Phase	Phase C O D	Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
		• Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern site is approximately 46 hectares (with NGET substation), 50 hectares (without NGET substation); • Maximum number of solar photovoltaic (PV) Modules – approximately 2,200,000; • Height range of solar PV modules (AGL) is 2.2 m to 2.3 m (at the highest edge); • Minimum distance between site boundary and table areas (m) is 7 m; • Indicative Number Power Converter Stations (PCS) is 156; • Indicative Number of HV Transformer (Secondary substation) is 6 no.; • Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Secondary Substation) is a height of 4 to 6 m (including isolator); • NGET substation maximum height assumed to be 12 to 12.5 m. **Decommissioning phase:** Decommissioning would be undertaken in the reverse of construction using similar plant and techniques, therefore decommissioning activities will be less extensive.	The maximum height of solar arrays, and other associated infrastructure, including the Project substations and assumed location of the NGET substation would result in the maximum operation / maintenance activities with the potential to directly impact or influence landscape character or would result in the maximum visible operation and maitenance.

[a] C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

8.8 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures Adopted as Part of the Project

8.8.0 The design process for the Project has been heavily influenced by the findings of early environmental appraisals and the EIA process. The Project has had several measures incorporated into the design to avoid or minimise environmental impacts.

8.8.1 The key aspects where the design has evolved are described in ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Alternatives Considered **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**. These include measures required for legal compliance, as well as measures that implement the requirements of good practice guidance documents. The assessment has been undertaken on the basis that these measures are incorporated in the design and construction practices (i.e. they are 'embedded mitigation').

8.8.2 Embedded mitigation measures for the construction phase are set out in the ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: Project Description **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**, Appendix 6.1: Project Mitigation Measures and Commitments Schedule **[EN010147/APP/6.5]** and the various management plans outlined in this chapter **[EN010147/APP/7.6]**.

8.8.3 Implementation of embedded mitigation relied upon in the assessment will be secured in the DCO, including by ensuring the works described in Schedule 1 of the DCO are restricted to their corresponding works areas shown on the Works Plans **[EN010147/APP/2.3]**, a DCO requirement requiring compliance of detailed design of the Project to accord with the Outline Design Principles **[EN010147/APP/7.7]**, or through specific DCO requirements requiring compliance with a management strategy, plan, or other requirement document.

8.8.4 Consideration has been given to any ‘additional mitigation’ over and above the embedded mitigation that may be required and has the potential to mitigate any significant adverse effects identified following the assessment of the Project inclusive of its embedded mitigation. Where significant effects remain following the implementation of embedded mitigation and achievable further measures could lower the identified effect, the topic chapter identifies additional mitigation and explains how the additional mitigation is secured, for example via a specific DCO requirement, via a management plan, or document secured by a DCO requirement like the Project Mitigation Measures and Commitments Schedule **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**.

8.8.5 To the extent any likely significant effects are anticipated following the assessment of the Project after the implementation of embedded and additional mitigation, each topic chapter will report these as residual effects. Residual effects for all topics are summarised in Chapter 21: Summary of Significant Environmental Effects of the ES **[EN010147/APP/6.3]**.

8.8.6 Where relevant, measures have also been identified that may result in enhancement of environmental conditions. Enhancement measures are not required to mitigate significant effects of the Project and are not factored into the determination of residual effects. They are further measures which would have additional beneficial outcomes should they be implemented.

8.8.7 Both embedded and additional mitigation measures relevant to this chapter are summarised in **Table 8.20**.

Table 8.20: Mitigation measures intended to be adopted as part of the Project

Commitment number	Measure adopted	How the measure will be secured
8.1	The Illustrative Masterplans, Figures 2.1a to 2.4d **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** illustrates the landscape and ecological strategy for the Project. This includes: • Creation of woodland belts; • Reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows where required; • Planting of lengths of new hedgerows along lengths of PRoWs and where existing hedgerows require more extensive infilling; • Meadow grassland to perimeter of solar array areas and areas of enhancement; • Planting of individual trees where appropriate; • Areas within solar arrays left clear for Skylark plots. To minimise impact on landform and integrate development into landscape whilst providing spoil cut and fill balance. To ensure Project is successfully integrated into the landscape and to screen views gained by visual receptors. To create diversity within the landscape and visual interest To ensure long-term contribution to landscape features and integration with surrounding agricultural landscape. To reflect distinctive landscape character and enhance biodiversity. To restore and conserve distinctive landscape character.	These measures would be secured as a requirement of the DCO, committed via the oLEMP **[EN010147/APP/7.6.3]**.

8.9 Assessment of effects

8.9.1 The impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Project have been assessed. The potential impacts arising from the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Project are listed in Table 8.19: Maximum design scenario considered for the assessment of potential impacts above, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

8.9.2 A description of the potential effect on receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Construction Phase Landscape Effects

Landscape Sensitivity

8.9.3 The sensitivity of a landscape to a Project varies according to the nature of the existing resource and the nature of the Project. Within the baseline section of this LVIA, the landscape character has been described and judgements made as to the value, condition and quality of the Project Site and immediate surroundings. To enable a judgement to be made about the relative sensitivity of a landscape to a particular type of development, considerations of landscape value, integrity and capacity are relevant and inform the landscapes susceptibility to the change proposed.

8.9.4 For the purpose of this LVIA the Project consists of a solar farm with associated energy infrastructure, access road(s) and soft landscaping, which requires ground modelling, within an area of predominantly open farmland with scattered trees, woodland and largely intact field boundary hedgerows. Set within open countryside with scattered built development. Further details of the Project and baseline landscape environment are set out at Section 8.4 of this LVIA.

Magnitude of impact

8.9.5 Construction activities would, over the temporary construction period, introduce additional built form to the landscape, which has some settlement fringe characteristics. There would be direct effects upon those Character Areas / Types within which the construction activities are located. Overall, the presence of construction vehicles and plant/machinery used for the temporary (short term) construction works would cause a Small magnitude of impact to the character of the host Character Areas / Types.

8.9.6 The impact is predicted to be most noticeable at a local/regional spatial extent and of a short term duration. The magnitude of Impact is therefore considered to be Low.

Significance of the effect

8.9.7 Whilst the nature of the construction site and activities would contrast with the open countryside setting, this would be balanced by the short-term nature of

effects. The Project Site of a Medium to High sensitivity would experience a Medium magnitude of change at construction that would result in Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.8 The construction activities would be generally confined to the Project Site and within the Landscape Character Areas / Types it sits. The northern section of the Project Site is entirely located within LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys; the central section of the Project is predominantly located within LCA 11: Eynsham Vale with a small part also within LCA 4; while the southern section of the Project Site is within two small landscape character areas, LM19: Whitley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland and LM20: Farmoor to Botley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland.

8.9.9 Overall, when considering the landscape character areas as a whole, the magnitude of the impact is considered to be Low, and the sensitivity of the receptors is Medium to High. The effect will, therefore, be of Minor adverse significance, which is not significant.

Assessment of effects on the special qualities of national landscape designations – Cotswolds AONB

8.9.10 The ZTV, Figures 8.9 to 8.11 **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** indicates that there would be potential intervisibility to the Project from a very small part of the Cotswolds AONB. There would therefore be an indirect impact potentially arising during the construction phase on the special qualities of a very small part of the Cotswolds AONB in proximity to the Project, to the northwest of Bladon.

Magnitude of Impact

8.9.11 The influence of the Project components on the special qualities due to construction works and associated activities, such as vehicle movements, upon the Cotswolds AONB as a whole would be very limited.

8.9.12 Where there is a small part of the Cotswolds AONB, to the northwest of Bladon, in proximity to the Project, the indirect perceptual impact is predicted to be of local spatial extent, temporary in duration. It is predicted that the impact will affect the receptor indirectly. The magnitude of impact on the AONB's qualifying special qualities (tranquillity, and remoteness and wildness, space and freedom, expansive views/seascapes) is considered to be negligible at most during the construction phase.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

8.9.13 The Cotswolds AONB special qualities are deemed to be of high landscape value and high susceptibility to the Project. The sensitivity of the receptors is considered to be high.

Significance of Effect

8.9.14 Overall, the magnitude of the impact on the qualifying special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB during construction is negligible and the sensitivity of the receptor is high. The temporary effects will be negligible to minor adverse significance, which is not significant.

Cable Route Corridor Options

8.9.15 HDD of the cable route corridor(s) would take place during construction. Although separate from the main Project Sites, they would represent an isolated and contained area of work in proximity to the main Project Site(s). There would be no removal of existing vegetation as a result of the works. As such, the inherent characteristics and physical landscape features would be unaffected.

8.9.16 The cable route corridor, linking the Northern Site and Central Site (ref. Figure 5.2), is located within the same District Landscape Type, Wooded Farmland (OWLS), as the Northern Site, although located within Cherwell District as appose to West Oxfordshire. A small part of this Landscape Type would be directly affected by the construction of the cable route.

8.9.17 The cable route corridor option(s), linking the Northern and Central Project Site (ref. Figure 5.3), similarly located in Cherwell District, would directly affect the Estate Farmlands District Landscape Character Type (OWLS). The same as a small part of the Central Site located to the south of the A44 / A4095 near Bladon. Construction of the cable route corridor, although separate from the main construction site would predominantly take place along existing road corridors, including Upper Campsfield Road and Shipton Road. There would be no removal of exiting vegetation as a result of the temporary construction of the cable route.

8.9.18 The Cable route corridor(s), within the Central Site around Bladon Heath (ref. Figure 5.4), would take place within the same Landscape Character Areas (LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys and LCA 11: Eynsham Vale) as those of the Central Site. The construction of the cable corridor(s) would take place within the confines of the Project Site and the main construction activities. As such, it would be seen in the context of the overall construction site.

8.9.19 The cable route corridor options, linking the Central and Southern Site at the Swinford Bridge crossing (ref. Figure 5.5), would take place within LCA 12: Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fringes and Landscape Type LW: Wooded Corallian Limestone Ridge. Out of the main Project construction site, there would be a noticeable perceived affect upon a small, isolated part of these character areas during construction. There would be no removal of existing landscape features, so the inherent character of the area would be unchanged.

8.9.20 On balance, when considering the contained and isolated nature of the cable route corridor(s), with them being in proximity to or within the main Project construction site and the retention of existing landscape features, it is judged that the cable route option(s) would not give rise to a landscape effect greater than that identified for the main Project Site.

Construction Phase Visual Effects

Visual Receptor Groups

Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

8.9.21 Visual receptors on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) would obtain views of the temporary construction works from locations where there is no screening vegetation such as hedgerows or trees along the route and at breaks at field gates or gaps in vegetation cover. Views of the Project may be oblique to the Project Site and may only be gained by walkers on the approach to the Project Site or where the footpath runs alongside or within the Project Site.

8.9.22 The Project site as a whole is surrounded by and crisscrossed by numerous PRoW, included bridleways, footpaths and promoted routes such as the Oxfordshire Way (Representative Viewpoint 9 and 10), traversing the northern section of the Project, and the Oxfordshire Greenbelt Way / Thames Path (Representative Viewpoint 32 and 50) to the north and west of the southern section of the Project.

8.9.23 The ZTV (Figures 8.7 to 8.11) indicates that PRoW which pass through the Project Site and within approximately 2 to 3 km of the Project are the most likely to have views of it.

Northern Site

8.9.24 People using PRoW 416/22/20 passing in proximity to the west of the northern section of the Project, would experience open views from section of the PRoW to the temporary construction works (Representative Viewpoint 4). The predicted magnitude of impact from sections of this PRoW during construction would be Medium for users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect which is not significant. Due the local topographical variation, it is anticipated that there would be no appreciation of the construction site as a whole, with those parts of the construction site closed to the PRoW also obscuring views to wider parts of the construction site.

8.9.25 People using sections of bridleway 416/11/20 passing through the northern section of the Project, would have varying views (depending on the distance, orientation, influence of topography and existing vegetation) of the temporary construction phase of the Project. Where there are gaps in vegetation, at field gates for example, would have open views east and west from the PRoW (Representative Viewpoint 5a). This bridleway is intersected by footpath 416/5 (Representative Viewpoints 5b and 5c), bridleway 416/21, and footpath 416/24 (Representative Viewpoint 8) and bridleway 342/1 (Representative Viewpoint 13). Where views are available from sections of these PRoW, the predicted magnitude of impact would be Medium for these high sensitivity receptors. During construction effects would be Moderate adverse which is not significant for the duration of the construction works.

8.9.26 Users of PRoWs 413/5 and 379/1/20, which forms part of the Oxfordshire Way, passing in proximity to or through the northern and central sections of the Project would have varying views, depending on the direction of travel, to parts of the construction works (Representative Viewpoint 9 and 10). Where views

are available, they would be generally open and short. Although transient, the predicted magnitude of impact would be Medium, with a Moderate adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase.

8.9.27 Where open views are available from other PRoW, within the 5 km Study Area surrounding the northern site of the Project, there would be a magnitude of impact of Low to Medium depending on the relative distance to the Project. This would result in a significance of effect of Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant. Similarly, to other PRoW identified above, the topographical variation in the local landscape and vegetative cover is such that views of the construction site as a whole from other parts of the PRoW network would be unlikely.

Central Site

8.9.28 Being the largest of the three sections of the Project Site, there are multiple PRoW which pass through it or are in close proximity to it. These PRoW have been identified above and include footpath 265/24 (Representative Viewpoint 17) and footpath 152/6 (Representative Viewpoints 37a, 37b, 38 and 39). Where views are available from these and other PRoW, views would be generally open and short. Although transient, the predicted magnitude of impact would be no greater than Medium, with a no greater than Moderate adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase from the PRoW network in proximity to or passing through the central site. These effects are not significant.

8.9.29 Where open views are available from other PRoW towards the central site, within the 5 km Study Area surrounding the northern site of the Project, there would be a magnitude of impact of Low to Medium depending on the relative distance to the Project. This would result in a significance of effect of Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant. Similarly, to other PRoW identified above, the topographical variation in the local landscape and vegetative cover is such that views of the construction site as a whole from other parts of the PRoW network would be unlikely.

Southern Site

8.9.30 People using PRoW 184/29 (Representative Viewpoint 51, footpath 184/15 (Representative Viewpoints 48 and 53) and footpath 184/16 (Representative Viewpoint 54) would pass directly through the southern site. They would therefore have close views to the temporary construction site, where more open views are available. Where views are available from more open sections of these PRoW, the predicted magnitude of impact would be Medium from parts of the PRoW nearest the Project Site. This would result in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant, during the temporary construction phase.

8.9.31 People using those PRoW located along the boundary of the southern site would similarly have varied views to parts of the construction works. Users of footpath 184/17 (Representative Viewpoint 55) would have partially screened views looking west from sections of the footpath, before the Project Site is screened by intervening woodland.

8.9.32 Users of footpaths 184/30 and 184/22 would pass in proximity or directly along the northern boundary of the southern site. These footpaths, part of the Greenbelt Way, have open views along sections of them across large arable fields. At the intersection of footpaths 184/30 and 184/22 (Representative Viewpoints 49) there would be open views into field 3.11. Where open views exist, in proximity to the Project Site there would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, for users of High sensitivity, which is not significant. With many of these PRoW extending beyond, east and west, the Project Site some open views would remain of the construction works with similarly Moderate adverse effects along much of their length, particularly where footpath 184/30 passes the Project Substation site. Effects upon PRoW users would diminish further from the Project Site it.

Views from the Surrounding Road Network

Northern Site

8.9.33 Users of the A4260 (Representative Viewpoint 14), for much of its length between Kidlington and Hopcroft's Holt, would have glimpsed transient and often oblique views to small parts of the northern site of the Project. Roadside vegetation and field boundary hedgerows adjacent to the Project Site would screen much of the Project from view, with topographical variation further screening much of the Project. Where views are available, they would be transitory. During construction, glimpses of taller plant materials seen above the intervening hedgerows would be noticeable. There would be a Low magnitude of impact for users of Low sensitivity. Resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect during construction. This effect is not significant.

8.9.34 Users of the B4027 (Representative Viewpoint 11), would similarly have glimpsed oblique views to parts of the northern site. In particular, along a small section of the road, near Weaveley Farm, as it passes through a part of the site with parts of it either side of the road. Where available, views would be noticeable above roadside vegetation and be more obvious due to the slower nature of the road compared with the A4260. Where the B4027 passes through the site and approaching it from the east, there would be a Medium magnitude of impact for users of Low sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect during construction. This effect is not significant.

8.9.35 A number of other smaller roads within the local area would experience similar views to the northern site of the Project, including the A4260 Banbury Road and B4027. Where views are available, it is anticipated that there would be a magnitude of impact no greater than Medium for roads immediately adjacent to the Project Site and Low elsewhere. Resulting in a significance of effect no greater than Minor adverse for these Low sensitivity receptors, which is not significant.

8.9.36 It is likely that an increase in construction traffic on the local road network during the temporary construction phase would be noticeable, although seen in the context of existing vehicular movement and therefore not having a significant visual effect (ref. Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport).

Central Site

8.9.37 The A40, A44 and A4095 Are the three main road routes passing through or in proximity to the Central site. Users of Low to Medium (cyclists) sensitivity would have varying glimpsed views to parts of the Project Site at winter Year 1 (on completion). Users of the A44 (Representative Viewpoint 16) would have glimpsed transient views to small parts of the Project, seen over intervening arable fields and hedgerow boundaries on rising ground to the south. It is anticipated that the Project Site as a whole would not be discernible form any part of the A44. Where visible, there would be a Low to Medium magnitude of impact for parts of the A4. Resulting in a significance of effect no greater than Minor adverse, which is not significant.

8.9.38 Users of the A4095, travelling east to west, would have transitory views of a very small part of the central site. Often seen in the context of existing development along this road. Views would be most noticeable where the road is closest to the site (Representative Viewpoint 19). Views would only be for a short distance, but roadside vegetation is intermittent along much of the road offering limited screening. Where open views are available, it would only be on a small part of the overall site, but it would be a noticeable change along parts of the A4095. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, particularly as construction works get close to the road. This would result in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect for road users, including cyclists. These effects are not significant.

8.9.39 The A40 passes east to west, to the south of the central site. There is extensive roadside vegetation along the majority of this road, along with existing development. Where vegetation is not present, there would be glimpsed views to the wider landscape and Project Site therein. However, given the relieve speed of traffic using this road and the glimpsed nature of any views, it is anticipated that any view to the Project would likely go unnoticed. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact during construction, resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.40 Cassington Road and Lower Road pass generally north to south through the central site of the Project. Similarly, to the majority of the smaller roads throughout the 5 km Study Area, there is extensive roadside vegetation including trees and hedgerows adjacent to these routes. Where vegetation is not present or due to the road position relative to the surrounding topography, more open views would be available to parts of the construction site. It is anticipated that central site of the Project would not be visible in its entirety from any part of these routes. Where construction activities are visible, particular in those parts nearest the roads, it is considered that there would be a Low to Medium magnitude of impact upon users of Low to Medium sensitivity. During construction there would be a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant. Where construction works take place nearest the roads, this would further limit views to the wider construction works, helping to reduce it overall effects.

Southern Site

8.9.41 The B4044 Eynsham Road is a main road which passes in a generally east to westerly direction to the north of the southern site. The ZTV indicated potential intervisibility with a part of this road, particularly Farmoor and where it joins the A420. There is vegetation along the southern edge of this for much of its length which would limit views of the temporary construction works. Where more open views are available, intervening vegetation between the B4044, and Project Site would further screen views. Where construction activities are visible, it is anticipated that there would be a magnitude of impact no greater than Low. Resulting in a significance of effect during the temporary construction period of no greater than Minor adverse which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoints

Northern Site

Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south from bridleway 365/4/30

8.9.42 Within this distant view, the majority of the Project Site would be screened from view by intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation. With the bridleway drawing the eye to the south towards the Project Site, there would be glimpsed distant views to a very small part of the northern site. Seen between existing vegetation construction works would not break the skyline within the view and therefore not be a prominent feature within this panoramic view. At a distance of some 2.2 km, construction activities, although discernible in a small part of the view, would result in a Negligible magnitude of impact upon PRoW users of High sensitivity. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant. This panoramic view would largely remain unchanged as a result of the temporary construction works.

Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/10 part of NCN Route 5

8.9.43 Views from this middle distant view looking south towards the Project Site, ae channelled along the PRoW / local access road. On either side of the PRoW there are high existing hedgerows which heavily screen and limit available views to the wider countryside. Although there are number of gaps within the hedgerows, at field gates and other PRoW for example, these draw the viewers eye away from the Project Site. Within the background of the view, a small block of woodland / tree group further screens possible views to the Project Site. There would be no discernible view of the temporary construction works from this location. Resulting in no change and no effect for High sensitivity users of this part of the PRoW.

Representative Viewpoint 3: View southeast from footpath 416/10/60, near Woottondown Farm

8.9.44 The majority of the Project Site, located beyond intervening vegetation and topography, would be screened from view. Construction activities within a

small part of the northern side would be discernible on the ridgeline to the eastern part of the view, seen though a break in the vegetation. Views to remaining construction site would not be discernible from this location. The temporary construction phase would result in a Low magnitude of impact for PRoW users of High sensitivity, visible for users looking south. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 4: View east from footpath 416/22/20, near Lower Dornford Farm

8.9.45 Construction activity would occupy the majority of the foreground of this Representative Viewpoint located on the western boundary. Construction within the adjacent field to the southeast would be seen, although a pronounced ridgeline across the view would prevent views to much of the Northern site. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact during construction, with activities nearest the view gradually preventing views to the wider landscape. Considering the receptors High sensitivity this would result in a temporary Moderate adverse visual effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 5a: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/20 (Claude Duval Way) part of NCN Route 5

8.9.46 Mature hedgerows and trees either side of the bridleway, for the majority of its length, largely screen views to the Projects Sie. Where vegetation is thinnest and / or there are gaps due to adjoining PRoW and field access points, there would be brief views, generally open, to small parts of the Project Site during the temporary construction period. Although transitory, these views would be a noticeable feature within short distance views from bridleway 416/11/20, disrupting available views of the wider landscape. For much of the bridleway's length, there would be a Low magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Where more open views are available it is anticipated that the significance of effect would be greater, but views would remain transitory and only of small parts of the Project Site. There would be a temporary Minor adverse significance of effect during construction along the majority of the bridleway's length, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 5b: View looking east from footpath 416/5/20.

8.9.47 Construction activities within the northern site would occupy the foreground and much of this view seen on rising round to the east. Similarly, to viewpoint 4, a pronounced ridgeline across the view would prevent views to the wider construction site, with construction activity nearest the view further preventing views to the wider construction site. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact during construction, with activities nearest the view gradually curtailing views to the wider landscape. Resulting in a temporary Moderate adverse visual effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 5c: View looking west from footpath 416/5/10

8.9.48 Temporary construction activities within the northern parts of the Project Site, would be a feature within the foreground of this view. Parts of a line of trees, to the background of the view, would remain visible above and through construction works. However, the temporary construction works would curtail available views to the wider landscape from this location. Occupying the whole view as it is constructed. The temporary construction period would result in a Medium magnitude of impact for PRoW users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant, with the foreground and views to the wider landscape across the whole view being gradually curtailed as the construction activities progress.

Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking west from footpath 379/7/20

8.9.49 A slightly elevated view, looking west to the Project Sie. Due to intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation, the majority of the temporary construction works would not be discernible in views from this location. Seen above mature hedge line, adjacent to the A4260, and field boundary hedgerow and trees beyond it, as small part of the northern site would be visible. Seen as a slither across a small part of the view, broken up be intervening vegetation. Within this small part of the Project Site, construction activities would be visible. Higher ground to the west would remain visible, with the skyline not broken by the construction works. The overall composition of this panoramic view would remain unchanged. There would be a temporary Negligible magnitude of impact during construction. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant, upon PRoW users of High sensitivity.

Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking southeast from footpath 416/17/20

8.9.50 Elevated view to the west of the Project Site, looking southeast across a valley formation in the local landscape. Intervening vegetation and topographical variation would prevent views to the majority of the temporary construction activities throughout the Project Site from this location. Where construction activities take place at the easternmost edge of the northern site, small parts of it on the eastern slopes of a local ridge would be discernible from this location. Filtered by intervening vegetation, although visible it would not form a prominent feature within the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity where views are available, but obliquely to the PRoW direction. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of during the construction period, where only a small part of the overall Project Site would be visible. These effects are not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking southeast from footpath 416/24/10, near Hordley House

8.9.51 Rising ground to the east of the view would screen much of the construction site from view. Where construction activity occurs nearest the view it would occupy the middle distance of it across the whole view, with a break in the

panels allowing views to the roofline of Sansom's Farm. The solar panels would break the skyline and form a noticeable addition to the view adding to the pylons which can be seen across the view but would not be prominent. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during construction, with activities nearest the view gradually curtailing views to the wider landscape, although the immediate foreground would remain unaltered. Resulting in a temporary Minor adverse visual effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north from footpath 379/1/10 (Oxfordshire Way)

8.9.52 Seen from a relatively low position, rising ground to the north of the viewpoint, culminating at a ridgeline with trees, would prevent views to the majority of the temporary construction works from this location. To the east of the view, a hedgerow field boundary would further screen potential views. Within the middle ground of the view construction activities would be noticeable. Where this occurs, construction would take place across the view, approximately halfway up the sloping ground and above the view line of PRoW users. The immediate foreground of the view would remain unaltered. Construction activity would form a noticeable feature across much of the view, although the tree line, to the ridgetop, and hedgerow to the east would remain and be partially visible. Due to the location of construction work, relative to the viewpoint location, works would likely break the skyline in places. There would be a temporary Medium magnitude of impact. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking west from footpath 379/1/20 (Oxfordshire Way)

8.9.53 From this relatively elevated location the construction activity would occupy the middle distance view, across the whole view, beyond intervening hedgerow and tree boundaries. The works would be visible on rising ground to the west of the view and result in a temporary Low magnitude of impact. Taking account of the receptors High sensitivity this would result in temporary Minor adverse significance of visual effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking west from bridleway 379/19/20 (Claude Duval Way)

8.9.54 Construction activity, within field 1.15, would be located beyond the existing hedgerow with trees in the middle ground, on rising ground to the west, and be visible across the majority of the view, although only a small part of the overall site. Giving rise to a Low magnitude of temporary visual impact. Taking account of the receptors High sensitivity this would result in a temporary Minor adverse significance of effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking northeast from footpath 413/1/10

8.9.55 From this elevated view to the west of the Project Sites' northern site, the temporary construction work would occupy a slither of land across the whole

view. Intervening vegetation and landform would prevent views to much the construction work from this location. Those small parts of it that would be visible, at the eastern edge, would be partially screened by vegetation although parts of it would be seen above due to the undulating topography. During the temporary construction period there would be a Low magnitude of impact where small parts of the construction site would be visible in oblique views relative to the direction of travel along this PRoW. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking northeast from bridleway 342/1/10, near Banbury Road

8.9.56 Construction activity would occupy the foreground of the view in proximity to it. Existing hedgerow and tree vegetation would filter views to the east. Occupying the foreground of much of the view, where construction takes place in this area, including the substation, it would form an obvious feature within the view and screen views to the wider landscape. Topographical variation, combined with construction activity, would prevent views further north to the wider construction site. This would result in a temporary Medium magnitude of impact and Moderate adverse significance of effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking west from bridleway 342/1/30 near the A4260 main road

8.9.57 Construction activities would be located across the midground of the majority of the view. A tree / hedge line to the west northwest of the view would screen / filter views to parts of the northern site. Undulating topography and vegetation is such that the majority of the Project Site and therefore construction works would not be visible from this location, similarly with other views. Those parts of the construction work visible would be a discernible change to the available view seen on slightly rising ground to the west, though not prominent. The ridgeline and treeline to the background would likely remain visible above the construction work, which would only partially break the skyline in places with the use of any taller plant material. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact as a result of those parts of the construction works visible across much of the view. This would result in a temporary Minor adverse significance of effect upon PRoW users of High sensitivity. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from footpath 342/6/10

8.9.58 Similarly, to Representative Viewpoint 14, located in a slightly elevated position relative to the Project Site. To the north of the view, seen on rising ground, a small part of the construction site would be visible. Undulating topography and intervening layered vegetation would screen possible views to the majority of the Project Sites' construction activities. Where visible, temporary construction works would form a noticeable, though not prominent, part of this panoramic view to the middle / background of the view. With the land continuing to rise a little to the north it is unlikely that any part of the construction works would break the skyline. The overall composition of the

view would alter over time as a small part of it is occupied by the temporary construction works. As a result, there would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Central site

Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking south from A44, near Bladon

8.9.59 Construction activities would be located on rising ground beyond existing field boundary hedgerows and tree to the midground of the view. Due to topographical variation and intervening vegetation only a small section of the Central site would be discernible in transient views from this busy main road. At some 0.5 km or more from this part of the road, those parts of the temporary construction works discernible, would not be an obvious feature within views. There would be a temporary Negligible magnitude of impact, resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect for receptors of Low sensitivity. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking west from footpath 265/24/20

8.9.60 When taking place at this location, construction activities would occupy the immediate foreground of the view. Existing vegetation to the west and north of the view would partially screen construction works and remain visible above it. Occupying the foreground of much of the view, where construction takes place in this area, it would form an obvious feature within the view and screen views to the wider landscape. Topographical variation, combined with construction activity, would prevent views further north and south to the wider construction site. There would be a temporary Medium magnitude of impact and Moderate adverse significance of effect during construction, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 18: View looking northeast from footpath 132/3/10, near Bladon.

8.9.61 A small part of the construction site, within the Central site, would be visible above an existing mature field boundary hedgerow with trees. Topographical variation, intervening vegetation and the direction of the view is such that only a small part of the overall central site would be visible. Higher plant material would be noticeable above the hedgerow, particularly as construction activities take place in Field 2.8 nearest the Representative Viewpoint. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact during construction with some measurable change. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 19: View looking southeast from the A4095 local road

8.9.62 From this location, a small part of the Project Site would be visible in proximity to the A4095.Within the foreground of the view, above the road verge, a portion of the exiting agricultural field would remain as existing. Beyond this at the ridgeline to the middle ground, construction activities would be visible across

the view. The construction wok nearest the view, along with intervening topography and the settlement edge of Bladon, would prevent views to the wider construction site. Views to this small part of the temporary construction works would be from road users and roadside footway users. So views would be transient. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact upon users of Low to Medium sensitivity. Resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 20: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10, near Long Hanborough

8.9.63 A small part of the central site construction activities would be discernible on rising ground to the southeast of the view. With the majority of the construction site screened from view and not affected users of High sensitivity. During the temporary construction period there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact, resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 21: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10, near Pinsley Wood

8.9.64 The foreground of this view would remain unchanged during the construction phase. Towards the middle ground of the view, across much of it, a small part of the overall construction site would be visible across this flat agricultural field. Rising ground to the southeast of the view, beyond Lower Road, there would be glimpsed views to further parts of the construction site. Though screened by intervening vegetation, with topographical variation preventing views to much of the site. With no existing screening to the foreground, views to the construction works, although only a small part of the field, would be a noticeable feature within the view. Higher ground to the southeast would remain visible above maintaining the overall view to an extent. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result of the temporary construction work. Resulting in a temporary Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 22: View looking southeast from footpath 238/2/20 at the edge of Lower Road

8.9.65 A small part of the construction site, in proximity to Lower Road, would be visible from this location. A semi intact roadside hedgerow with intermittent trees would screen parts of it in transient views. Due to its' proximity to the view, parts of the temporary construction works would likely break the skyline in places. Although ground the east of Lower Road would remain visible. Similarly, to the majority of the Representative Viewpoints, intervening vegetation and particularly topography would prevent views to the majority of the construction site. With construction traffic directed internally, there would be no noticeable increase in construction type traffic using Lower Road. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact during construction, with a small part of the overall site visible and partially screened. This would result in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect for users of Low to High (PRoW users) sensitivity. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 23: View looking northeast from footpath 238/2/20, near Pinsley Wood

8.9.66 Located at the western boundary, in proximity to Field 2.62, construction activities would be a noticeable feature within the view. Similarly, to all views, topographical vegetation and intervening vegetation would screen the majority of the central site. Where visible, construction activities would occupy the whole view, with rising ground in the east still visible above. Construction nearest the view would further screen activity within the wider site. High sensitivity users of this PRoW would experience a Medium magnitude of impact. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 24: View looking east from footpath 238/5/20, near Church Hanborough

8.9.67 At the start of PRoW 238/5/20, heading south, a mature hedgerow to the east of the PRoW largely screens views to the wider landscape. Here there are gaps, at field access points and where the hedgerow is thinned out, such as Representative Viewpoint 24, there would be channelled views to a small part of the construction site in proximity to the viewpoint. Across the valley and on rising ground to the east, there would be further vies available to pats of the construction site. Broken up by intervening layered vegetation. The construction site as a whole would not be discernible from this location. Construction works nearest the view would, overtime, screen some available vies to the wider construction site. Though available views would be a noticeable feature within available channelled views obliques to the Pros direction of travel. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 25: View looking south from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.68 The construction activities, within a small part of the Project Site, would occupy much of this view. With parts in proximity to this elevated view. Higher ground to the south of the view would remain a feature of the view, seen above the construction site. As the construction takes place, views of it would be partially screened by those parts nearest the Representative Viewpoint. Construction activities would be a noticeable feature across much of the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result and Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant. Albeit that visual effects of the construction activities would increase over time, as construction progresses, occupying available views nearest the Representative Viewpoint. With effects becoming similar to those of the operational phase.

Representative Viewpoint 26: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.69 Construction works, within a small part of the overall Project Site would occupy the agricultural fields to the immediate north of the viewpoint. With a small part to the northeast visible through gaps in the field boundary hedgerow adjacent to PRoW 238/5/20 as it heads to the north towards Church Hanborough. With

construction woks gradually filling in the view it would be an obvious additional built feature within it. With the rising ground to the north, the construction work would not break the skyline across the whole view, with views of a distinctive treeline remaining visible above. However, those parts of it closest to the view would likely break the skyline in places foreshortening the available view. As the construction progresses there would be a Medium magnitude of impact, with a Moderate adverse significance of effect..

Representative Viewpoint 27: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.70 The Project Site sits across the entire view. However, due to undulating topography and intervening vegetation, only small parts of the site can be seen from this location. Including on rising ground towards Church Hanborough, north of the view (Representative Viewpoints 25 and 26), and on rising ground to the northeast near Purwell Farm. As the construction works progress, those parts of it nearest the view would likely be visible at the top of the ridgeline, across much of the view. Where visible, the construction would represent a noticeable feature within the view though it would not be a prominent feature within the panoramic view available. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 28: View looking east from footpath 216/4/10, near Elm Farm

8.9.71 Substantial layered vegetation and topographical variation prevents views to the majority of the construction site from this location. To the east of the view, looking along PRoW 216/4/10 and across much of the view there would be glimpses to small parts of the construction site. Although discernible, these mall parts of the construction site would not break the skyline and would not be a prominent feature within the view. Wit the overall panoramic composition of it remaining largely unaltered. There would be Negligible magnitude of impact upon PRoW users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, due to the distance to the construction site and glimpsed nature of views. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 29: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10, at Acre Hill

8.9.72 A small part of the central site construction activities would be discernible on rising ground to the northeast of the view. With the majority of the construction site screened from view and not affected users of High sensitivity. During the temporary construction period there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact, resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 30: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10 at Acre Hill

8.9.73 Similarly, to Representative Viewpoint 22, an intermittent hedgerow and open field boundary would allow transient views to a very small part of the overall

construction site. The route of the 275kv cable route follows the hedge line for a small length of the road, before joining the main part of the central site. Where this cable route is located, adjacent to the road, there would be glimpsed transient views of plant machinery while it is installed. The existing hedgerow and blocks of woodland along with the topographical variation would screen the majority of those parts of the construction site where panels are to be installed. Occupying a small part of the agricultural field adjacent to Lower Road, a small part of the construction site partially screened by the intermittent hedgerow would be visible to the north of the existing telecoms line. The remainder of the arable field to the east of the cable route would remain as existing. Beyond this field, on rising ground to the northeast, there would be heavily filtered views to other small parts of the construction site near Eynsham Mill. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of part of the view being affected. This would result in a Negligible adverse significance of effect for road users, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 31: View looking north from bridleway 206/9/10, near Lower Road

8.9.74 The majority of the construction site would not be discernible in views from this location. Vegetation nearest the view, at the entrance to Eynsham Mill, along with the undulating nature of the topography in the wider landscape is such that only a very small part of the construction site, within a small part of the agricultural field to the north of the view adjacent to Lower Road would be visible, though partially screened by the roadside hedgerow. This small part of the construction site would not be a prominent feature in transient views available. There would be Negligible magnitude of impact as a result and Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect upon road users and PRoW users at the intersection with Lower Road looking north, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 32: View looking northwest from footpath 124/5/10, near Begbroke

8.9.75 Similarly to all of the Representative Viewpoints, the construction site as a whole would not be discernible from this location. As construction progresses, the Project would occupy the field to the immediate foreground, with solar panels visible across the majority of the view. A large strip of the existing field, either side of PRoW 124/5/10, would remain. This would help to maintain available views o the northwest along the PRoW to the wider landscape. There would be Low magnitude of impact as a result and Minor adverse significance of effect upon PRoW users looking northwest. These effects would become more noticeable other time with significance of effect likely to increase to a level similar to that of winter Year 1. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 33: View looking southeast from footpath 152/7/10

8.9.76 Due to the existing hedgerow planting adjacent to the PRoW, to the southwest of the view, there would be limited views to the construction as a whole. A small part of it would occupy the agricultural field immediately to the southwest

of the view. As construction work fills this field, the available views would be noticeably changed being foreshortened with construction works in proximity to the Representative Viewpoint. As the construction progresses there would be a Medium magnitude of impact during the temporary construction phase, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 34: View looking west from footpath 420/14/10 (Shakespeare's Way)

8.9.77 Expansive panoramic elevated view across the Evenlode valley. The immediate foreground of the view would remain unchanged as a result of the temporary construction works. Within the middle of the view, with land falling away to the west, views of the construction works nearest the view would be limited. Across the valley, towards Purwell Farm to the southwest and Goose Eye Farm to the northwest, there would be views available to parts of the construction works within the central site. Partially filtered and broken up by intervening layered vegetation which would remain visible from this elevated position. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, with the overall composition of this panoramic view remaining unchanged. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effects for PRoW users of High sensitivity, This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 35: View looking west from footpath 420/14/20 (Shakespeare's Way)

8.9.78 Similarly, to Representative Viewpoint 34, in an elevated position from the Shakespeare Way looking generally west across the Evenlode Valley. The agricultural field to the foreground of the view, the southern parts of the same field in viewpoint 34, would remain unchanged during the temporary construction period. An existing tree / hedge line within the middle of the view marks the eastern edge of the central site. With land falling away, there would be limited views to the construction site in this part of the view. Above this, to the west and northwest across the valley towards Purwell Farm there would be glimpsed views of small parts of the construction site available. To the northwest of the view parts of the construction site nearest Representative Viewpoint 34 would be visible from this location owing to the undulating landform. Above this within the Evenlode Valley and on it western slopes near Purwell Farm, small parts of the construction site would be visible partially screened / broken up by the existing field boundary pattern. There would be a Low magnitude of impact upon users of this PRoW, at this particular location. With views available to the temporary construction works not forming a prominent feature within the view. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 36: View looking southwest from footpath 237/1/10, near Bletchington

8.9.79 At some 2.5 km to the east of the Project Site, clear views of the temporary construction works would be limited from this location. Intervening layered vegetation and built form would screen the majority of it from view. Where there are distant glimpsed views to small parts of the construction site, it is

considered that activities within the site would be barely discernible and therefore have no marked affect upon this view. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact, resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect. Which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 37a: View looking east from footpath 152/6/10, near Goose Eye Farm

8.9.80 Located at the edge of the River Evenlode at the base of the valley, views to the construction site as a whole would be limited from his location. The immediate foreground of the view would remain as existing, during construction. Beyond the field boundary vegetation and partially screening it, small parts of the construction site would be visible on rising ground looking east towards Purwell Farm, although not likely to break the skyline with views to vegetation at the ridgetop around Purwell Farm remaining visible. Seen within a slice of land across the whole view, the construction works as it progresses across the view would represent a noticeable feature within available views. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during construction with a Minor adverse significance of effect, increasing over time. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 37b: View looking north from footpath 152/6/10, near Goose Eye Farm

8.9.81 Views to the west from the same location as Representative Viewpoint 37a across the River Evenlode. On the west bank of the river within the agricultural fields, field boundary hedgerows and layered vegetation limit or partially screen available views to a small part of the construction site. Where work takes place nearest the river, there would be partially filtered views of the construction work. Seen through or above existing hedgerows, the layered vegetation would limit is overall effect. There would be no potential intervisibility to the wider construction site from this location. A Low magnitude of impact would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect during construction. Which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 38: View looking west from footpath 152/6/10, near Purwell Farm

8.9.82 Construction work would occupy the immediate foreground of the view to the west and north, with an existing hedgerow partially screening views to the north. Beyond the River Evenlode, on rising ground to the west up towards Church Hanborough, further parts of the temporary construction work would be visible across much of the view, partially screened by existing layered vegetation which would remain visible, breaking up the construction works, from this elevated view. As the work progresses, those parts nearest the view would ultimately screen views to much of the remaining construction site. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon PRoW users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 39: View looking southeast from footpath 152/6/10, near Purwell Farm

8.9.83 There would be open views to a small part of the construction site in the central site, near Cassington, from this location. Occupying the immediate foreground to the southeast of the Representative Viewpoint on ground sloping away from the view. Existing hedgerow and tree vegetation to the immediate southwest of the view would partially screen ground level construction activities to the southwest. As the construction works progress up the slope nearest the view, available glimpsed views to small parts of the Project Site to the north of Cassington would be screened. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon High sensitivity PRoW users. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 40: View looking northwest from footpath 152/6/10, near Cassington.

8.9.84 Construction works would be noticeable across much of this view, on rising ground beyond existing hedgerow and trees and in front of them the west of the view. Existing vegetation to the eastern side of the view, along with topographical variation would prevent views to the majority of the construction site. Where visible, movement of plant material and the gradual filling in of fields within the view would be noticeable but not define the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during construction resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 41: View looking west from Yarnton Road on the outskirts of Cassington

8.9.85 As construction works progress, they would become an obvious feature within transient views from this part of the road enroute to Cassington. Intermittent existing hedge planting at the roadside would have limited screening effects, with a part of the construction site occupying the field to the immediate northwest of the road. With further works occupying much of the view on rising ground to the northwest. Although transient in nature, with the majority of the construction site screened from view by the works closest to the road and topography. Those parts of the temporary construction works seen would be in close proximity to the road and therefore an obvious change to the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect for road users of varying sensitivity. These effects are not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 42: View looking northwest from footpath 419/1/10, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.86 Located some 1.9 km to the southeast of the central site, there would be generally open elevated views to a large part of the construction site. Seen on rising ground in the northwest. At this distance, while visible, elements of the construction site would not have a defining effect upon available views. Existing areas of open water to the mid ground of the view would further dilute the potential visual effects. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of

impact upon users of the PRoW looking northwest. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 43: View looking northwest from permissive path through Wytham Wood

8.9.87 Located some 2.2 km to the south of the central site, at its nearest point, views to the construction site although visible would not be a prominent feature within this elevated panoramic view. Seen as a slither of land across much of the view, parts of the construction site would be visible, though the majority of it would be screened by intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, with the composition of the view remaining largely the same although parts of the construction works would be distinguishable across much of the view. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Southern Site

Representative Viewpoint 44: View looking southwest from permissive path through Wytham Wood

8.9.88 From this elevated view to the northeast of the southern site, a distinctive ridgeline and existing woodland block would prevent views to the majority of the temporary construction site. Views to a small part of it, at its westernmost edge, would be discernible above the ridgeline. Surrounded by mature woodland on rising ground to the south of the construction site, works would not break the skyline. At some 1.7 km from the site, views to a small part of the construction site would not be a prominent feature, with the overall composition of this panoramic view maintained. The viewers eye would be generally drawn to the landscape further to the west. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact during the temporary construction phase. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect for user of High sensitivity. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 45: View looking southeast from footpath 184/48/10, at the edge of Farmoor Reservoir

8.9.89 Looking southeast across Farmoor Reservoir, existing mature trees on the southeastern edge of the reservoir screen views to much of the Project Site. Located on rising ground to the south, parts of the construction site would be visible above intervening vegetation. With the land continuing to rise south towards Cumnor, the temporary construction work would not break the skyline in any place. With the dark colour of the surrounding landscape, although visible, views of the construction works would not be immediately apparent. With the overall composition of the view remaining largely unchanged. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 46: View looking south from footpath 184/15/10 near Eynsham Road

8.9.90 Located some 1 km to the north of the southern site, construction activities would be discernible on rising ground beyond existing hedgerow and trees in the mid ground. It is anticipated that no part of the construction activities would beak the skyline, As such, the treed skyline would remain and the construction activities, although noticeable for a PRoW user travelling to the south, it would not substantially alter the overall composition of the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during the temporary construction phase. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 47: View looking southeast from footpath 184/22/10 (Oxfordshire Green Belt Way)

8.9.91 Located a short distance to the north of the Project's southern site, there would be generally open views across and arable field to a small part of the temporary construction works. A mature hedgerow at the field boundary adjacent to Cumnor Road, along with mature tree planting surrounding Jumpers Farm, would screen the westernmost parts of the southern site from view. With no discernible views to this part of the construction site when viewed from this particular location. Rising ground to the south is such that no part of the construction site visible would break the skyline, with views to properties on Tumbledown Hill remaining. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of views available to parts of the temporary construction site, though not prominent. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect. Which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 48: View looking south from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.92 Due to intervening vegetation and topographical variation, only a small part of the Project Site would be visible from this location. However, due to the proximity of it to the view, those parts which are visible would result in a noticeable change to views. As construction activities approach the view it would further screen views to the wider site. Although close to the view, only a small part of the construction works would be noticeable. During the temporary construction phase there would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a temporary Moderate adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 49: View looking southwest from footpath 184/22/20

8.9.93 During the temporary construction phase within the southern site, the immediate foreground of this view would remain as existing. Within the middle distance of the view and across the whole view, including behind Denman's Farm on rising ground, a large portion of the construction site would form an obvious feature within the view. Woodland block to the south of Denman's Farm would contain the construction works and still be visible above it. With no parts of the construction breaking the skyline. There would be a Medium magnitude of change and Moderate adverse significance of effect as a result

of the temporary construction works as it gradually occupies much of the view around Denman's Farm, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 50: View looking southeast from footpath 184/50/20, Oxford Green Belt Way adjacent Farmoor Reservoir

8.9.94 Similarly, to many other views, intervening topography and vegetation is such that only a small part of the southern site would be visible from this Representative Viewpoint. Construction activities would be noticeable beyond intervening hedgerows and tree along the lane off Cumnor Road to the mid ground of the view. As construction activities get closer to the view, particularly the substation sites, activities would become more noticeable and gradually screen parts of the view. During the temporary construction phase there would be a Medium magnitude of impact, upon users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a temporary Moderate adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 51: View looking northeast from footpath 184/29/10, near Upper Whitely Farm

8.9.95 Viewed in proximity to the south westernmost parts of the construction site, as small part of it would occupy parts of the view. Where existing hedgerows are at their lowest, or there are gaps, views to a very small part of the construction site would be noticeable within the view, though not dominate it. Existing hedgerows, woodland and other tress, along with the land falling away from the view, would screen the majority of the construction site. Taller plant material within the westernmost parts of the site would be discernible above the vegetation in places. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during the construction. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 52: View looking north from the B4017 Tumbledown Road

8.9.96 To the north of this elevated view, along the B4017 Tumbledown Hill, parts of the construction site within the southern site would be visible above the roadside hedgerow with channelled views along the road. Views to the construction site would generally be below the eyeline of road users and so not immediately apparent. The roadside hedgerow would screen large parts of the site from view, particularly in summer months depending on timing of the construction work and the maintenance of the hedgerow. Channelled views to parts of the construction site, near Jumpers Farm, would be a feature for much of the road's length travelling towards Farmoor Reservoir. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during construction, with a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 53: View looking north from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.97 From this elevated location, construction works within the southern site would be located within the mid ground of the view below the eyeline of PRoW users. Views to it would be open, with views available to much of the southern site

from this location. Due to the elevated nature of the view, construction activities would not break the skyline and would not be a dominant feature within this panoramic view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact during construction, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

Representative Viewpoint 54: View looking north from footpath 184/16/20

8.9.98 To the east and west of PRoW 184/16/20 within the immediate foreground of the view, construction work would form an obvious feature. With no existing vegetation along the PRoW generally open views to a part of the construction site to the south of Denman's Farm would occupy the foreground of the view. There would remain channelled views the wider landscape and in particular higher ground at Wytham Woods. Parts of the construction site to the immediate north of Denman's Farm, near to Representative Viewpoint 49, would be screened by the construction works as it makes its way south up the hill. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact during construction, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 55: View looking northwest from footpath 184/18/20, near Cumnor

8.9.99 Views of the construction works from this elevated position near to the norther edge of Cumnor would be very limited. With land falling away near to Denman's Copse and the construction site below this, this panoramic view would remain largely unchanged as a result. In between Denman's and Saddle Copse there would be potentially glimpsed views to higher plant material as the construction works progress up to the southernmost point. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of the limited potential intervisibility. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Operation and Maintenance Phase Landscape Effects

Sensitivity of Receptor

8.9.100 During the Operation and Maintenance phase, landscape value and susceptibility to the proposed type of development when combined give the landscape sensitivity judgement the same as assessed at the Construction phase above and are not repeated here.

8.9.101 The physical landscape characteristics which are attributed to these Character Areas would largely have been retained and protected during construction and enhanced as part of the Project. There would the loss of small areas of grassland habitat and hedgerows as the access track is completed and where the invertors, substation and other solar farm infrastructure is installed.

8.9.102 The Project Site is considered to have a Medium to High susceptibility to the development and has some capacity / flexibility to absorb the scale and this type of development. The baseline study identified the Project Site as having a Medium to High value, resulting in the Medium to High sensitivity.

Magnitude of impact

8.9.103 The effects of the Project upon the Landscape Character Areas would be fully reversible, but there would be direct operational effects with the introduction of solar panels which would occupy much of the Project Site, along with associated structures such as invertors, substation, access tracks, security perimeter fencing and CCTV. The completed Botley West Solar Farm would occupy a large area within the local landscape but be largely enclosed by retained hedgerow vegetation and woodland planting. Over time, proposed mitigation would further enclose the Project within the landscape. The northern, central and southern sections of the Project would be generally visually separated from one another. Although in combination views of more than one section would be possible.

8.9.104 The physical landscape characteristics, such as trees, hedgerows and woodland blocks, which are attributed to the Landscape Character Areas would have been retained and protected during construction. As such, the overall landscape structure of the site would remain largely unchanged. The Project responds positively to site-specific constraints and opportunities and the management objectives listed for LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys; LCA 11: Eynsham Vale; LCA LM19: Whiteley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland and LCA LM20: Farmoor to Botley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland. In particular; the proposal responds to the enhancement priorities to retain mature boundary and roadside trees; extending existing areas of woodland; plant new blocks and belts of broadleaved woodland (ref. LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys Landscape Guidelines).

8.9.105 Retained vegetation would be supplemented with new planting, including the gapping up of existing hedgerows, new hedgerow and tree planting and ecological enhancement focused on the species diversity of grassland within the Project Site. During operation, pasture grazing would be maintained within the solar panel fields where practicable. The sward would be managed to increase species richness. This would result in a long term beneficial effects at the Project Site level. Adverse effects, albeit reversible, would result from the loss, of small areas of grassland habitat and hedgerows would be due to the access tracks and where inverters and substation would be installed. It is also noted that, although the solar panels cover a large area, the supporting frames have a relatively small foundation construction footprint which would have minimal impact on existing retained grassland habitats.

8.9.106 There would be direct effects upon the Landscape Character Areas within which the completed Botley West Solar Farm is located. The addition of the Project to the landscape would cause a Low magnitude of impact, when considering the LCAs as a whole. At the Project Site scale the impact of change would be Medium.

Significance of effect

8.9.107 The Project would result in the loss of large areas of open countryside, with areas of hardstanding for the inverters and substation and the access track. These effects would be long term though fully reversible. The solar panels

would occupy large areas of the Project Site, though their physical impact on the landscape would be minimal, with the panels having a relatively small footprint. Due to the scale of the Project, it would nonetheless introduce a large amount of new built development to an area of largely open countryside with scattered development, with large villages in places and larger urban centres to the east, including the city of Oxford.

8.9.108 Existing woodland blocks, such as Burleigh Wood, and existing retained hedgerows and scattered trees would contain parts of the Project, having some limiting effects on the potential for it to influence the surrounding landscape. However, due to the scale of the Project there is the potential for large parts of it to be intervisible from the surrounding landscape.

8.9.109 With the retention, enhancement and management of existing characteristic landscape features during the lifetime of the Project, the overall structure of the landscape would remain. The Project would not result in any significant harm to the landscape value of the Project Site, with limited loss of important landscape characteristics. Following the construction phase, on completion, at winter Year 1, a Medium magnitude of direct impact upon the Project Site would result in a Moderate adverse significance of effect.

8.9.110 At summer Year 15, the establishment of proposed planting and the continued grassland management would help to integrate the Project into the landscape. On balance, there would be an overall magnitude of impact of Low, with a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.111 The Project would be located within LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys; LCA 11: Eynsham Vale; LCA LM19: Whiteley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland and LCA LM20: Farmoor to Botley Corallian Limestone Ridge with Woodland. The development of a large-scale solar farm within generally well contained farmland would cause a Low magnitude of impact upon the LCA as a whole, with any change in character confined to the Project Site of Medium to High sensitivity and result in Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.112 At summer Year 15, the establishment of proposed planting and the continued grassland management would help to integrate the Project into the landscape. When considering the scale of the development relative to the LCA as a whole, there would be remain a magnitude of impact of Low, with a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Assessment of effects on the special qualities of national landscape designations – Cotswolds AONB

8.9.113 The ZTV, Figures 8.9 to 8.11 **[EN010147/APP/6.4]** indicates that there would be potential intervisibility to the Project from a very small part of the Cotswolds AONB. There would therefore be an indirect impact potentially arising during the construction phase on the special qualities of a very small part of the Cotswolds AONB in proximity to the Project, to the northwest of Bladon.

Magnitude of Impact

8.9.114 The influence of the Project components on the special qualities due to construction works and associated activities, such as vehicle movements, upon the Cotswolds AONB as a whole would be very limited.

8.9.115 Where there is a small part of the Cotswolds AONB, to the northwest of Bladon, in proximity to the Project, the indirect perceptual impact is predicted to be of local spatial extent, with potential intervisibility to a very small part of the overall Project area. It is predicted that the impact will affect the receptor indirectly. The magnitude of impact on the AONB's qualifying special qualities (tranquillity, and remoteness and wildness, space and freedom, expansive views/seascapes) is considered to be negligible at most during the operation phase.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

8.9.116 The Cotswolds AONB special qualities are deemed to be of high landscape value and high susceptibility to the Project. The sensitivity of the receptors is considered to be high.

Significance of Effect

8.9.117 Overall, the magnitude of the impact on the qualifying special qualities of the Cotswolds AONB during construction is negligible and the sensitivity of the receptor is high. The effects, present for the duration of the Projects' operation, will be negligible to minor adverse, at both winter Year 1 and summer Year 15, which is not significant.

Operational Phase Visual Effects

8.9.118 The assessment of operational phase visual effects considers both winter (Year 1) and summer (Year 15) scenarios.

Visual Receptor Groups

Public Rights of Way

Northern Site

8.9.119 Following the construction phase (on completion), at winter Year 1, people using PRoW 416/22/20 (Representative Viewpoint 4), where it passes adjacent to the westernmost boundary of the northern site, would experience changes to available views. Any changes to the view(s) would vary depending on the topography, orientation of visibility and the amount of screening from existing vegetation. At winter Year 1 (on completion), proposed mitigation, although in place, would have limited screening effects. Topography is such that part of the northern site would be discernible, with those parts of the Project nearest the PRoW screening other parts of it. The magnitude of impact, for those parts of the PRoW where views are available, would be Medium, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect. Considering users' High sensitivity, reversibility of the solar farm and proposed mitigation, albeit not yet

having matured and reached its' intended design function. This effect is not significant.

8.9.120 By summer Year 15, proposed landscaping along the western boundary, including reinforcement to the existing hedgerow and scattered individual trees, would screen views to much of the solar farm. Taller elements, such as the perimeter fencing and the tops of solar panels nearest the boundary would likely remain visible above the hedgerow in places. Existing and proposed planting in full leaf, as well as topographical variation, would continue to screen views of the wider development from this PRoW. The magnitude of impact, for those parts of the PRoW where views to small parts of the solar farm remain, would be Low, resulting in a Minor adverse residual significance of effect. This effect is significant.

8.9.121 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, users of PRoW 416/11/20 which passes through the northern site and is intersected by several other PRoW, including 416/5, 416/21, 416/24 and 342/1 would continue to have a varied view of the completed solar far depending on the influence of existing vegetation, topographical variation and the orientation of the view. Although proposed landscape planting will also have been completed, at this stage it would have limited screening effects. Where these PRoW pass through or in proximity to the completed solar farm these changes would be obvious and, in many cases, occupy the whole view (Representative Viewpoints 5b) or much of it (Representative Viewpoint 8) at varying distance from the PRoW. The predicted magnitude of impact, where views are available from sections of the PRoW, is Medium. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect which is judged to be not significant. However, the sequential (or cumulative) effects of similar views from the PRoW as they pass through the solar farm could be considered as significant. A small part of PRoW 342/1/10, near Banbury Road (Representative Viewpoint 13), would have close views to the substation location. With limited screening effects at winter Year 1 (on completion) from the proposed planting, there would be a Medium magnitude of impact from this part of the PRoW in proximity to the substation. This would result in a Major adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.122 At summer Year 15, proposed hedgerow planting adjacent to either side of many of these PRoW, or reinforcement to existing hedgerows will have matured. Managed to a height of approximately 2-3 metres, they would screen the solar farm from views available from PRoW adjacent to and passing through the Project, while some taller elements of it would still be discernible above and through the planting. While these hedgerow and trees would likely screen some available views to the wider landscape, which would be a negative effect, there would be a positive effect of increasing the native species planting within the local landscape. There would be a Low to Medium magnitude of effect at summer Year 15 resulting in a Minor to Moderate adverse residual significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.123 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, users of PRoWs 43/5 and 379/1/20 would have varying views to the solar farm. Depending on the direction of travel, intervening topography and existing reinforced vegetation. Although proposed vegetation would have been

implemented at this stage it would have limited screening effects. Depending on the nature of views available and proximity to the solar farm, users would experience a magnitude of impact of no greater than Medium. Resulting in a significance of effect no greater than Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

8.9.124 At summer Year 15, proposed vegetation would have matured reaching its desired design function. Where reinforced or new hedgerow planting and trees are adjacent to PRoW which pass through the Project Site, it would largely screen available views. Where views are available from sections of the PRoW at a greater distance from the solar farm (e.g. Representative Viewpoint 10), proposed planting would help to break up the overall mas of the solar farm better integrating it into the landscape. There would be a Low magnitude of impact and Minor adverse residual significance of effect from these PRoW. With impacts reduced from those parts of the PRoW at a greater distance to the Project. These effects would not be significant.

Central site

8.9.125 Being the largest of the three sections of the Project Site, there are multiple PRoW which pass through it or are in close proximity to it. These PRoW have been identified at paragraphs above and include footpath 265/24 (Representative Viewpoint 17) and footpath 152/6 (Representative Viewpoints 37a, 37b, 38 and 39). Where views are available from these and other PRoW, views would be generally open and short. At winter Year 1, although transient, the predicted magnitude of impact would be no greater than Medium, with a no greater than Moderate adverse significance of effect during the temporary construction phase from the PRoW network in proximity to or passing through the central site. These effects are not judged to be significant. However, where Moderate significance of effect has been identified at multiple points along the same PRoW, sequentially these Moderate adverse effects could be considered significant.

8.9.126 At summer Year 15, proposed hedgerow planting and other interventions would have matured sufficiently to screen many available views. Although views to small parts of the solar farm would likely remain at summer Year 15, not least because of the topographical variation in the area, it is anticipated that the magnitude of impact would reduce to Low for much of the PRoW network. While remaining Medium in places. The resultant significance of effect would be no greater than Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Southern Site

8.9.127 Users of PRoW 184/50/20, traversing south from the Farmoor Reservoir nearest the southern section, would experience generally open views to the Project substation and NGET substation. With very limited screening from the newly implemented landscape scheme, here would be a High magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity at winter Year 1. This would result in a Major adverse significance of effect for a short length of this PRoW. These effects are not significant.

8.9.128 A summer Year 15, proposed woodland, hedgerow and tree planting adjacent to the substation(s) sites would have matured. Although the structures would not be entirely screened and so still visible from this PRoW when looking south, they would be sufficiently screened as to reduce their impact. At summer Yea 15 there would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect. This is not significant.

Views from the Surrounding Road Network

Northern Site

8.9.129 Users of the A4260 would have glimpsed views to the completed Project, at winter Year 1, from parts of the road to the east of the northern site. Intervening topography and existing retained field boundary hedgerows, woodland and trees would continue to screen much of the Project from view. Where views are available, they would be glimpsed oblique views to a small part. At winter Year 1, although implemented, landscape mitigation would have limited screening effects. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of glimpsed oblique views. Resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.130 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation would have matured further screening the Project from transient. Along with existing retained vegetation in full leaf, it is anticipated that the Project would be less noticeable. Due to the nature of the road and surrounding topography, there would be small parts of the Project that would remain visible though may go unnoticed. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact upon users of Low sensitivity. Resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect, with No Change in places. These effects are not significant.

8.9.131 Users of the B4027, particular where it passes through the Project, would have transient views of parts of the northern site. Where it is located nearest the road changes to views would be most pronounced. Intervening vegetation and landform would screen the northern site as a whole. Where views are available from a small section of the road there would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon users of Low sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.132 At summer Year 15, proposed mitigation would have matured and along with existing vegetation in full leaf would further limit views to the Project. Where it is nearest the road it is anticipated that views would remain available, though transient. There would be a Low magnitude of impact at summer Year 15. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.133 Of the remaining roads that would have views to the northern site, such as Banbury Road, where available would result in a magnitude of impact of no greater than Medium with a significance of effect no greater than Minor adverse, which is not significant. Where view remain available close to roads at Year 15, it is anticipated that there would be a residual significance of effect of Minor adverse from small sections of the remaining road network. This would not be significant.

Central site

8.9.134 The A44 is a busy dual carriageway to the northeast and east of the central site. Sections of this road would have close views to small parts of the Project where it is adjacent to the road. For example, near Wolsey Court at the end of the Oxford Airport runway. Where existing hedgerows have been supplemented, there would be limited screening effects at winter Year 1. Solar panels would be visible above roadside vegetation where it is closest to the road. Available views would be transient and of a small part of the Project. There would be a Low magnitude of impact at winter Year 1, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.135 Where supplemented hedgerows have matured and been managed to a height. Solar panels would be largely screened from views available along the A44. However, due to the nature of the local topography it is anticipated that views would remain available from small sections of the road. There remain a Low magnitude of impact, but the significance of effect would reduce to Negligible adverse for the majority of the road. It is anticipated that a Minor adverse significance of effect could remain where more open views are still available. These effects are not significant.

8.9.136 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, users of the A4095 would have glimpsed open views from small sections of the road where it passes immediately adjacent to the central site of the Project. Where these close views are available, they would be a noticeable change to available views. Although there would be no part of the road where views of the central site in its entirety would be available. Where views are available, they would be transient. Newly planted mitigation would not have established and so have limited screening effects upon road users. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, with a Minor adverse significance of effect at winter Year 1. These effects are not significant.

8.9.137 Where proposed mitigation planting has matured, at summer Year 15, and existing vegetation is also in full leaf, it is anticipated that the central site of the Project would be further screened/broken up within views available from the A4095. This would be particularly evident near Bladon where the site is closest to the road. Views available immediately nearest the road would be of meadow grassland with new hedgerow planting screening the solar panels. Although small parts of the Project may remain visible, it is considered that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect would reduce at summer Year 15. To Negligible and Negligible adverse respectively, which would not be significant.

8.9.138 Views from the A40 at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15 are considered to be unlikely due to the extensive vegetation along the roadside. Where it passes the Project Site, there may be very short lived glimpsed views of a very small part of the central site. Though these views, where available, would likely go unnoticed by road users whose attention would be primarily on the road. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact and Negligible adverse significance of effect at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15 from those small sections of the A40 where views may be available. These effects are not significant.

8.9.139 Of the remaining roads that would have views to the central site, such as Cassington Road and Lower Road, where available would result in a magnitude of impact of no greater than Medium with a significance of effect no greater than Moderate adverse, which is not significant. Where views remain available close to roads at summer Year 15, it is anticipated that there would be a residual significance of effect of no greater than Minor adverse from small sections of the remaining road network. This would not be significant.

Southern Site

8.9.140 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, users of the B4044 Eynsham Road to the north of the southern site would obtain glimpsed transient views across arable fields and over hedgerows to small parts the completed Project. Sen on rising ground to the south of the road much of it would be screened by intervening landform and vegetation, particularly along much of the road. Where more open views are available (Representative Viewpoint 46, albeit slightly to the south of the road), the Project would be visible but would not be prominent in glimpsed views and so may go unnoticed. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of glimpsed views to parts of the Project, with the substation(s) being the most noticeable part of it. For road users of Low sensitivity there would be a Minor adverse significance of effect as a result, which is not significant.

8.9.141 At summer Year 15, proposed planting within the Project southern site would have matured and break up the overall mas of it within available views from the B4044. Being on rising ground to the south it is anticipated that views of the Project would remain available. Particularly those parts of the road where views to the substation(s) would be available. Where views of the substation are available it is considered that a Low magnitude of impact and Minor adverse significance of effect would remain. However, for the majority of the road as it passes the site it is considered that this would reduce to Negligible and Negligible adverse respectively. These effects are not significant.

Representative Viewpoints

8.9.142 Panorama photographs for each Representative Viewpoint are illustrated in Figures 8.12 to 8.127 (winter) and Figures 8.128 to 8.243 (summer). Photomontages have been produced for 31 Representative Viewpoint locations to illustrate the solar farm at winter Year 1 (without mitigation) and summer Year 15, see Figures 8.248 to xxx. The 31 photomontages illustrate the worst case scenario in terms of seasonal visibility and represent viewpoints at different elevations, distances and orientation from the Project Site with the most open views.

Northern Site

Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south from bridleway 365/4/30

8.9.143 At winter Year 1, distant views to a very small part of the northern site would be available for High sensitivity PRoW users traversing the PRoW south towards Tittenford Bridge. Intervening layered vegetation and topographical variation would prevent any discernible view to the majority of the Project Site from this location. Any glimpsed distant views to a very small part of the northern site would be seen as a change in colour to the currently green / brown fields common to the area. At this distance there would not be a substantial change to available panoramic views with the completed Project Site going largely unnoticed. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of a very small part being discernible. Giving rise to a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.144 By Year 15, with intervening vegetation in full leaf. Along with the designed in mitigation having matured, it is anticipated that no part of the Projects northern site would be discernible in this distant view. There would also be no view to the central or southern sites from this particular PRoW for users traversing south. There would be a magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No Effect as result. With available panoramic views from this PRoW being the same as that of the baseline.

Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/10 part of NCN Route 5

8.9.145 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, and at summer Year 15, substantial mature hedgerows adjacent to the PRoW and woodland blocks are such that there would be no available views of the Project Site from this particular location. While glimpsed views are possible from limited parts of the PRoW, generally at field entrances, users' appreciation of the Project Site from this PRoW would be very limited. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact, where views are available, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant. For the majority of the PRoW length, views would be unavailable resulting in a Magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No Effect respectively, which would be the case for Representative Viewpoint 2.

Representative Viewpoint 3: View southeast from footpath 416/10/60, near Woottondown Farm

8.9.146 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, distant views beyond intervening fields with existing treed hedgerows would be obtained of a very small area of solar panels filtered by intervening existing vegetation. The solar farm would appear as a change in colour across a small part of the view within a previously green field. This would give rise to a Negligible

magnitude of visual impact. Given the receptors' High sensitivity this would result in a Minor adverse significance of visual effect, which is not significant.

8.9.147 By Year 15, the reinforced hedgerows and newly planted copse along the north-western boundary of the Project Site would have an influence on the view and provide additional vegetation screening of solar panels. From this distance the magnitude of impact of the solar farm would be Negligible particularly in summer with vegetation in full leaf. Given the receptors' High sensitivity the significance of effect would be reduced to Negligible adverse effects, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 4: View east from footpath 416/22/20, near Lower Dornford Farm

8.9.148 Following the construction phase (on completion), (winter Year 1), near distant views to a small part of the Project, predominantly solar panels in proximity to the viewpoint, would be obtained from this location. Topographical variation and existing retained vegetation would continue to screen the majority of the solar farm from view. Newly reinforced hedgerow and tree planting along the western Project Site boundary would have recently been planted but would provide limited screening of the perimeter fence and solar panels.

8.9.149 The perimeter fence and solar panels would be visible in the near distance of the view giving rise to a Low magnitude of visual impact. Given the receptors' High sensitivity this would result in Moderate adverse significance of effect at winter Year 1, which would not be significant.

8.9.150 At Year 15 the establishment of the newly reinforced hedgerow and tree planting adjacent to the PRoW, with the continued management of existing retained vegetation, would have matured and the height of the planting would result in the perimeter fence and a large proportion of the solar panels being screened. The newly reinforced hedgerow and managed vegetation would help to maintain the characteristics of the existing view. Albeit that less agricultural fields would be visible, with some taller elements of the Project remaining visible above the vegetation. The magnitude of impact would remain as Low, but the overall significance of effect would reduce to Minor adverse, for the duration of the operation which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 5a: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/20 (Claude Duval Way) part of NCN Route 5

8.9.151 Following the construction phase (on completion), extensive vegetation, hedgerows and trees, along both the east and west side of the PRoW would remain and screen potential views to the Project from views along the length of the PRoW. There are points here the vegetation is thinner and where there are gaps. This would allow glimpsed, heavily filtered views to small parts of the Project, in close proximity to the PRoW. This would be particularly during winter months with no leaves on the vegetation. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of glimpsed heavily filtered views from parts of the PRoW, including at Representative Viewpoint 5a. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect upon users of High sensitivity, which is not significant.

8.9.152 At summer Year 15, intervening vegetation in full leaf would prevent any discernible views to the Project Site from this location. Although in close proximity to it, for the majority of the PRoW there would be no appreciation of it. Resulting in a magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No Effect respectively.

Representative Viewpoint 5b: View looking east from footpath 416/5/20.

8.9.153 In contrast to much of PRoW 416/5/20, following the construction phase (on completion), walkers at this viewpoint would obtain near distance eastwards open views of the adjacent solar farm (Figure 8.22 to 8.23a). Solar panels would cover the majority of the view but would generally follow the landform allowing distant views to the ridgeline to the east. New hedgerow planting located adjacent to this PRoW through this part of the Project to the east of the view would have recently been planted and would not provide much screening of the adjacent solar farm at winter Year 1.

8.9.154 The Project would be visible in the foreground of this view giving rise to a Medium magnitude of visual impact. With solar panels obstructing some views to the wider landscape. Given the receptors' High sensitivity walkers would experience a Moderate to Major adverse significance of visual effect at winter Year 1, which would be significant. Significant effects would be limited to viewers looking east and continuing along the PRoW. When viewed from the PRoW, traversing north to south, views would be transient and not significant.

8.9.155 By year 15, the new hedgerow planted adjacent to footpath 416/5/20 to the east of this view would have matured screening parts of the Project Site from view. Due to the undulating nature of the topography, solar panels would remain a noticeable feature within the landscape, however. The character of the view would remain that of a developed solar farm, but the new planting will better integrate it into its' landscape setting and slightly diminish its overall effect. The magnitude of the impact would remain at Medium, but the resulting significance of effect would be reduced slightly to Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 5c: View looking west from footpath 416/5/10

8.9.156 Similarly, to Representative Viewpoint 5b, following the construction phase (on completion),PRoW users traversing southwest along this PRoW towards Dornfield Cottage would obtain open near distance views of a small part of the completed Project. Solar panels would be seen across the view, with the PRoW corridor remaining as a wide strip within the centre of the view. Solar panels nearest the view and existing vegetation visible above would prevent views to the wider Project Site, though those parts visible would form an obvious change to the character and appearance of available views. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result of solar panels being in close proximity to the view. Proposed hedgerow planting either side of the PRoW as it passes through the panels, although planted, would have limited screening effect. There would be a Major adverse significance of effect as a result of views available. This effect is judged to be significant. Significant effects would be limited to viewers looking west and continuing along the

PRoW. When viewed from the PRoW, traversing north to south, views would be transient and not significant.

8.9.157 By year 15, the new hedgerow planted adjacent to footpath 416/5/10 to the west of this view would have matured screening parts of the Project Site and creating a more defined PRoW route. Due to its close proximity to the view, however, solar panels and parts of the access tracks would remain a noticeable feature within the landscape,, with the new planting helping to better integrate it into its' landscape setting and slightly diminish its overall effect. The magnitude of the impact would remain at Medium, with the resulting significance of effect reducing to Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking west from footpath 379/7/20

8.9.158 At winter Year 1, a small part of the Project's northern site would be discernible above intervening hedgerow vegetation adjacent to the A4260 and to fields further to the west. The completed solar panels would be seen as a slightly darker colour to that of the existing fields. Although discernible they would not have a substantial effect upon uses of this PRoW traversing west towards the A4260. The majority of the Project would not be discernible from this location, although a slightly elevated position. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of a slight alteration in available views to a very small part of the Project. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity. This is not a significant effect.

8.9.159 At summer Year 15, intervening layered hedgerow vegetation, along with woodland blocks and individual trees would further screen available views. Along with the proposed landscape planting which would help to integrate the Project into the landscape, particularly when viewed from a distance. Due to the elevated nature of the view, however, views to a very small part of the Project would remain available from a part of tis PRoW when looking to the west. As such, it is considered that the level of effect identified at winter Year 1, i.e. Negligible magnitude of impact and Minor adverse significance of effect, would remain at summer Year 15. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking southeast from footpath 416/17/20

8.9.160 At winter Year 1, views to a small part of the completed Projects northern site would be available above intervening vegetation. Seen on higher parts of the westernmost parts of the northern site, solar panels would be noticeable within part of this elevated view. Intervening vegetation and topographical variation would prevent views to the majority of the Project Site from this location, even in winter. Views to solar panels would not dominate the view and with panels following the local contours, the overall composition of the view would be largely retained. Here would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of those parts which are visible. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect upon users of High sensitivity. This is not significant.

8.9.161 At summer Year 15, although intervening vegetation would be in full leaf, due to the elevated nature of the view and the location of the Project Site in relation

to it, it is anticipated that views to a small part of the northern site, available at winter Year 1, would remain at summer Year 15. Although the landscape planting implemented as part of the Project would have matured and would partially break up those parts of development visible. It is anticipated that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect identified at winter Year 1 would remain at Year 15 as a result. Albeit that this would not be significant.

Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking southeast from footpath 416/24/10, near Hordley House

8.9.162 At winter Year 1, a very small part of the northern site would be visible on top of the pronounced ridgeline across the view. Solar panels would appear as a single row over the ridge. Existing features such as pylons and partially screened views of Samson's Farm would remain. With solar panels following the topography of the local landscape, although a noticeable addition, they would not substantially alter the overall composition of the view. New hedgerow planting of the perimeter in this location would have limited screening effects on completion of the Project at winter Year 1. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result and Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.163 At summer Year 15, new hedgerow planting to the western perimeter would have matured and be managed to a suitable height. From this relatively low lying view, solar panels would largely be screened from view. View to some taller elements of the solar far, such as the CCTV masts, would remain visible above the hedgerow, though seen in the context of existing vertical elements within the view such as the pylons. There would be a residual Negligible magnitude of impact for users at this location and Negligible adverse significance of effect. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north from footpath 379/1/10 (Oxfordshire Way)

8.9.164 At winter Year 1, the immediate foreground of the view, nearest the PRoW, would be unchanged form that of the baseline situation. As the ground rises to the north of the view, the front elevation of solar panels would be visible across the whole view. Being viewed at a lower level and due to the nature of the topography, solar panels would screen the remaining parts of the Project Site at this location. With only a small part of the overall Project visible. Hedgerow planting, implemented as part of the Project would be present but have limited screening effects at this stage. A treeline to the local ridge, north of the view, would likely remain visible, albeit less of it, above the panels. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of the Project, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity as solar panels in the middle ground would occupy the whole view and be noticeably at odds with the baseline situation. This effect is not significant.

8.9.165 At summer Year 15, hedgerow planting implemented as part of the Project, appropriately managed, would have reached maturity. This would screen available views to much of this small part of the Project Site form transient oblique views along the PRoW. Due to the nature of the topography, rising to the north of the view, parts of the solar panels and those further to the north

would remain visible above the hedge line. The magnitude of impact would remain Low, with the significance of effect reducing to Minor adverse with solar panels still discernible above the hedge line. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking west from footpath 379/1/20 (Oxfordshire Way)

8.9.166 On completion, at winter Year 1, users of this PRoW travelling to the west towards the Project would have open elevated views to parts of it. Seen on rising ground beyond existing retained vegetation, the solar panels would not break the skyline and at this distance would generally appear as a darker shade across strips of fields across the majority of the view. Newly planted vegetation within the Project, although implemented, would have limited or no screening effects at this stage. A newly planted woodland to the east of the northern site would similarly have limited screening effects, although this would be dependent on timings of completion. For the purposes of this assessment it has been assumed the young woodland would have no screening effect (i.e. worst case). At this distance, although parts of the northern site would occupy the width of the view, there would be a Low magnitude of impact, with solar panels visible but not a defining character of this panoramic view. Due to the High sensitivity of the receptors, this would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.167 At summer Year 15, proposed vegetation within the Project Site would have reached maturity. Although this would break up parts of the development within the view, parts of it would remain visible due to the elevated nature of the view. The newly planted woodland to the east of the northern site, within the north of the view (Figure 8.34 to 8.35a) would similarly have matured. This would have a screening effect to parts of the northern site when viewed from sections of his PRoW. It is considered that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect would remain the same as that of Year 1. Low and Minor adverse respectively.

Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking west from bridleway 379/19/20 (Claude Duval Way)

8.9.168 At winter Year 1, High sensitivity users of this PRoW travelling west towards the Project Site would experience a noticeable change in views. Solar panels, within a small part of the overall northern site, would occupy rising ground to a ridgetop in the middle of the view. Although not substantially tall and following the existing contours, the solar panels would be an obvious addition to the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect. Although an obvious change, due to the low lying nature of the solar panels it would not be a dominant feature within the view and these effects are therefore not significant.

8.9.169 At summer Year 15, mitigation planting, including tree and hedgerow planting to the eastern limit of the solar arrays within the central parts of Field 1.15 and between the solar panels along the ridgeline, would have matured. This would help to break up those parts of the solar farm which are visible. Due to the rising ground on which the solar panels are located, parts of the solar farm would remain visible and be a noticeable feature in the view. There would be

a residual Low magnitude of impact and Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking northeast from footpath 413/1/10

8.9.170 Similarly, to Representative Viewpoint 7, elevated view to the west of the Project Site. At winter Year 1, there would be views to a small part of the Project Sites northern site. On sloping ground to the east of the view. Intervening vegetation and topography is such that there would be no available views to the majority of the Project Site from this location and much of the PRoWs length. Although there is extensive vegetative cover between the viewer and the Project Site, being in an elevated position views would be available to small parts of h northern site above intervening vegetation. Solar panels would appear as a noticeable darker colour to the surrounding agricultural fields but would not break the skyline. Following the contours of the existing landscape would ensure that the overall composition of views available would remain predominantly the same. Where visible in oblique transient views, the Project Site would have a Low magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.171 Due to the elevated nature of views, it is anticipated that those parts of the Project Site visible at winter Year 1 would remain visible at summer Year 15. Although proposed landscape mitigation, having matured, would help to break up the views. It is considered that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect identified at winter Year 1 would remain at summer Year 15.

Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking northeast from bridleway 342/1/10, near Banbury Road

8.9.172 At winter Year 1, users of this PRoW would experience close range views to a small part of the Project Site. Including views to solar panels and Project substation. This would obstruct views to the wider landscape. Existing retained vegetation would screen views to solar panels to the southeast of the view. Although glimpsed views would be available where vegetation is thinner, particularly in winter. Although only a small part of the overall Project Site, due to the scale of the substation and proximity to the view, it would be a prominent feature in the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon user of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

8.9.173 Proposed hedgerow planting adjacent to the PRoW, traversing east from the view would have matured. Due to the position of the view however, this would have very limited screening effects for this part of the PRoW. Tot the foreground meadow grassland would have some amenity value although no screening effect. Existing retained vegetation to the southeast would screen views of the wider solar farm. There would be a residual Medium magnitude of effect and Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking west from bridleway 342/1/30 near the A4260 main road

8.9.174 At winter Year 1, small parts of the Projects northern site would be discernible across the centre of much of the view. An existing field boundary hedgerow to the southwest of the view would screen views to the Project Site, though parts would be visible above and through what is a fairly gappy hedgerow. More open views to a small part of the northern site would be visible to the west of the view at the PRoW junctions where field boundary hedgerows are not present. No part of the Project Site would break the skyline and with only a small part of it visible, it would not represent a prominent feature within the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect upon users of High sensitivity traversing to the west towards the Project Site, which is not significant.

8.9.175 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape planting, in the form of reinforcement to the existing hedgerow, tree planting and new hedgerow planting at the eastern most boundaries nearest the view, would help to further screen the Project Site. Provided they are appropriately managed, it is anticipated that those small parts of the Project Site visible at winter Year 1, particularly in more open parts of the view, would be largely screened from view. Views to very small parts of the Project would remain, however the overall magnitude of impact would reduce to Negligible. Given the High sensitivity of PRoW users a Minor adverse significance of effect would remain, but the Project would be less discernible. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from footpath 342/6/10

8.9.176 At winter Year 1, a small part of the overall completed Project would be visible across approximately half of the view, to the north. The ground falls away to the middle ground before rising to the north. Solar panels would be visible on this rising ground occupying a field enclosed by existing woodland vegetation. The solar panels would not break the skyline, with existing vegetation remaining the predominant feature of the view. Although a small part would be visible, it would not dominate the view. With panels following the contours of the landscape the overall character, although partly changed in a small section of the overall view, would be fundamentally as existing. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result, with a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.177 Due to the elevated nature of available views, it is anticipated that designed in mitigation would have limited effects upon available views. Although the overall mass of the Project Sie visible in the view would likely be broken up in places. The magnitude of impact and significance of effect, identified at winter Year 1 would remain at Year 15. These effects are not significant.

Central site

Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking south from A44, near Bladon

8.9.178 At winter Year 1, a thin strip of the existing view would be occupied by solar panels, seen on sloping ground beyond existing field boundary hedgerows and trees within the middle ground. Where visible, depending on light conditions, solar panels would generally appear as a darker shading of existing fields and would not break the skyline at any point. Although visible in transient views from the A44, at a distance of some 0.5 km this small part of the Project Site would not be an obvious feature in view. There would be Negligible magnitude of impact upon users of Negligible to Medium sensitivity using the A44. Resulting in a Negligible significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.179 At summer Year 15, proposed landscaping implemented as part of the Project, including hedgerow and tree planting to the northern boundary and hedgerow planting within the solar panels, would break up the overall mass of it within the view. Due to the elevated position of this small part of the Project in relation to the A44, parts of the Project and solar panels would remain visible however at summer Year 15. There would be a residual Negligible magnitude of impact and Negligible significance of effect as a result. Which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking west from footpath 265/24/20

8.9.180 At winter Year, on completion, the solar panels within a small part of the Project Sies central site would occupy the immediate foreground of the view. To the northwest of the view an existing hedgerow and trees would partially screen views to further solar panels beyond. Mature trees to the west, around Bladon, would likely remain partially visible above the solar panels. Where solar panels and associated infrastructure located nearest the view, would obstruct views to the wider Project Site. Resulting in a limited appreciation of it as a whole. Solar panels visible, across the foreground of the view, would be an obvious change to the available view, resulting in a Medium magnitude of impact, giving rise to a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity. This effect is significant.

8.9.181 At summer Year 15, proposed hedgerow planting following the route of the PRoW, heading towards Bladon, would partially screen available views to the Project Site. The existing retained hedgerow would screen available views to solar panels northwest of the view. With an access point for the Project to be located at the junction of the PRoWs in the local area, there would remain channelled views to a very small part of the solar panels to the south of the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, with solar panels partially screened, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 18: View looking northeast from footpath 132/3/10, near Bladon.

8.9.182 In close proximity to the central site. However, due to the position of the view and intervening vegetation and landform, only a small part of the solar farm

would be noticeable at winter Year 1. Seen above an existing and retained hedgerow with trees to the middle of the view, the tops of solar panels would be seen as a noticeable addition to the landscape, extending north of the view. Due to the low lying nature of the solar panels they would not break the skyline with views to the wider landscape to the north remaining a feature of the view. By following the topography the addition of the solar panels to the view would not be a dominant feature and the overall composition of the view would remain. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result. Leading to a Minor adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity. This is not significant.

8.9.183 At summer Year 15, there would be limited landscape intervention at this location. Meadow grassland to the foreground would have some positive impacts on the outlook but not be substantially different to the existing grassland / pasture landscape. It is considered that the Low magnitude of impact and Minor adverse significance of effect would remain.

Representative Viewpoint 19: View looking southeast from the A4095 local road

8.9.184 At winter Year 1, a very small proportion of the overall Project Site would be visible from this location. Within the foreground of the view, above the road verge, a portion of the existing agricultural field would have been retained. Beyond this on rising ground to the southeast of the view, solar panels and perimeter fencing would be visible across the view. Due to the rising ground, in relation to views available from the view, it is anticipated that the Project Sie would largely obstruct available views to the existing tress to the south of Bladon. Conversely, solar panels nearest the view would also obstruct available views to the wider Project Site. Available views would be transient in nature for road users, with longer views available for pedestrian using the roadside footway and cyclists on the road. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of a small part of the Project being visible. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.185 At summer Year 15, hedgerow planting implemented as part of the Project at the northwestern boundary near the A4095, would have matured and be in full leaf. Due to the Project location relative to the road, provided it is appropriately manged, the new hedgerow would screen available views to much of the Project. Views to the tops of panels and the perimeter fence may still be discernible above but not form an obvious feature within transient views. Meadow grassland enhancements and management of the field in the foreground would further improve available views. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact, resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 20: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10, near Long Hanborough

8.9.186 At completion, distant views of solar panels on higher parts of the Project Site would be obtained above dense intervening vegetation (Figure 8.54 to 8.55a). This would give rise to Negligible magnitude of visual impact. Given the

receptors' High sensitivity this would result in walkers experiencing Minor adverse significance of effect in winter, which would not be significant.

8.9.187 By Year 15, existing hedgerow and trees in full leaf would help to break up the overall mass of the solar farm visible from this location. Located on rising ground parts would remain visible but have no substantial effect on the overall composition of the view. Views of the solar panels would be minimal above intervening vegetation, particularly in summer with deciduous vegetation in full leaf. The magnitude of impact would reduce to Negligible, and walkers would experience Negligible adverse significance of effect from the location during the operation and maintenance phase, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 21: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10, near Pinsley Wood

8.9.188 At winter Year 1, the immediate foreground and a large part of the existing agricultural field to the southeast of the view would remain. Across the southeastern parts of the field, solar panels would occupy the middle ground of the view. Above intervening vegetation along Lower Road and adjacent fields, rising ground to the southeast would be occupied by solar panels, of which there would be glimpsed views, heavily filtered by intervening vegetation. There would be no appreciation of much of the Project from this location. A newly planted hedgerow in front of hose parts of the Project Site visible would have limited screening effects at this stage. With only a small part of the Project visible, generally enclosed by existing vegetation visible above, there would be a Medium magnitude of impact for High sensitivity PRoW users. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.189 At summer Year 15, appropriately managed hedgerow planting to the boundary of the Project Site within the southern part of the view would generally screen available views to the solar panels. It is anticipated that the tops of the solar panels and perimeter fence would be visible above the hedgerow but not form an obvious feature within the view. Existing vegetation to the south of the view, along Lower Road, in full leaf would screen views to the Project Site further to the southeast of the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result and Minor adverse significance of effect would remain due to the High sensitivity of PRoW users. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 22: View looking southeast from footpath 238/2/20 at the edge of Lower Road

8.9.190 At winter Year 1, the many gaps within the exiting hedgerow adjacent to Lower Road and the field access gates, would allow partially screened views to a small part of the Project Site across the whole view. Although transient in nature for road users, views to this part of the Project, in proximity to Lower Road, would be a noticeable alteration. Particularly for PRoW users merging onto Lower Road from the west. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect for Low (road users) and High (PRoW users) sensitivity. Neither of which would be significant.

8.9.191 Views to the Project Site, although in proximity to Lower Road, would be substantially curtailed a summer Year 15. Intervening roadside vegetation in full leaf would screen available views. Where there would remain gaps in the hedgerows and at access points along the road, within the southeastern part of the view, there would remain glimpsed views to small parts of the Project Site. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of these glimpsed views remaining, resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 23: View looking northeast from footpath 238/2/20, near Pinsley Wood

8.9.192 At completion, winter Year 1, the immediate foreground of this view would remain largely the same. Beyond this, near distance views to solar panels across the whole view would be and obvious change to the view. With the solar panels being lo laying and a sizeable gap between groups of panels, treed higher ground to the east of the view would remain a feature of the overall view. With overhead transmission lines remaining the tallest feature within the view. The solar panels would follow the existing topography and so not be a dominant feature of the view. However, this obvious change to the view would result in a Medium magnitude of impact at inter Year 1 and Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.193 A proposed hedgerow along the perimeter fence would have matured by summer Year 15. This would sufficiently screen the lowest parts of the solar panels form view. Taller elements of the solar farm would still be visible above. However, above the proposed hedgerow the prominent feature would be that of a treed ridgeline to the east of the view. Elements of the Project would likely remain visible from this location, but the magnitude of impact would reduce to Low at summer Year 15. Due to the High sensitivity of receptors sing this PRoW in proximity to the Project a Minor adverse significance of effect is considered likely. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 24: View looking east from footpath 238/5/20, near Church Hanborough

8.9.194 Seen though a gap in the hedgerow adjacent to the PRoW, which is otherwise very well vegetated for its entire length to the south of Church Hanborough. There would be views in the immediate foreground and on rising ground across the Evenlode Valley of solar panels across majority of the view. At winter Year 1, although without leaf, existing layered vegetation would have limited screening effect due to the position of the view. Solar panels closest to the PRoW would screen views to parts of the wider Project Site. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact to this fleeting view resulting in a Moderate significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.195 At summer Year 15, gaps within the hedgerow along the PRoW would likely remain, allowing glimpsed views across the Evenlode to large parts of the Project Sites central site. Intervening layered vegetation, in full leaf, along with proposed planting would help to break up the overall mass of the Project. There would remain a Medium magnitude of impact as a result, but the

significance of effect would be reduced slightly to Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 25: View looking south from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.196 At winter Year 1, a part of the completed Project would occupy the majority of this elevated panoramic view. Solar panels in close proximity to the view, would form an obvious change to it. Within the wider view, existing vegetation would break up those parts of the Project visible, with topographical variation obstructing views to the majority of the Project. Those parts visible, particularly nearest the view, would result in a Medium magnitude of impact with a substantial change to the available view. Resulting in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity traversing southwards along the PRoW. This effect is significant.

8.9.197 At summer Year 15, hedgerow planting at the edge of the PRoW would have matured helping to screen parts of the Project Site from view. Particularly for PRoW users heading south. However, the Project Site would remain a visible feature within the view, albeit that the absolute mas of those parts visible would be partially screened / broken up by intervening vegetation. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which would not be significant.

Representative Viewpoint 26: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.198 At winter Year 1, a small part of the Operational Projects central site would be an obvious feature within the immediate foreground of the view. Continuing the slope north towards Church Hanborough. Those panels nearest the view would screen parts of it, with trees to the ridgeline near Church Hanborough remaining visible above. To the east of the view, where gaps in the existing hedgerows allows, there would be glimpsed views to a small part of the wider Project Site. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, with the majority of the view substantially altered as a result of the Project. Resulting in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect at winter Year 1, which is significant.

8.9.199 Proposed hedgerow vegetation along the PRoW would have matured at summer Year 15. This would partially screen available views to the Project Site. Due to the rising ground to the north, panels would remain visible above. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, with available views to the solar panels not dominating the view. This would result in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 27: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20

8.9.200 At winter Year 1, small parts of the Project Site would be visible to the north of the view, up towards Church Hanborough, and northeast towards Purwell Farm on rising ground. Across the majority of the view a ridgeline would screen the majority of the Project Site from view. Although the tops of panels and the perimeter fence may be discernible at parts nearest the view to the northeast. There would be a Low magnitude of impact for PRoW users of High sensitivity

when looking north along the PRoW. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.201 At summer Year 15, new hedgerow planting to the northeast, along with intervening meadow grassland would largely screen available views to the northeast and Purwell Farm. View to the Project Site near to Church Hanborough would remain though not be a dominant feature within the view. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result. However, due to the High sensitivity of receptors using the PRoW a Minor adverse significance of effect would remain, although not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 28: View looking east from footpath 216/4/10, near Elm Farm

8.9.202 At winter Year 1, parts of the completed Project would form a discernible feature within this view. On rising ground to the east, around Purwell Farm, parts of the Project would be discernible across much of this elevated view, seen as a dark slither within the middle of the view. Although discernible, it would not obviously alter the character of this panoramic view and not beak the skyline in any location. Intervening vegetation and topographical variation would prevent any discernible views to parts of the Project nearest the view. On the western slopes of the Evenlode Vally. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect with glimpsed views to small parts of the Project. This effect is not significant.

8.9.203 At summer Year 15, intervening layered vegetation would further screen available views to the Project. At its highest point, near to Purwell Farm, a very small part of the Project would likely remain visible over and in between mature tree and woodland vegetation. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact from this location with only glimpsed middle distance views to a very small part of the Project. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect due to the High sensitivity of PRoW users. This is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 29: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10, at Acre Hill

8.9.204 At completion, winter Year 1, users will obtain middle distance views to small parts of the central site. Seen above and though intervening vegetation. The majority of the central site will be screened rom view by intervening vegetation and topographical variation. Depending on atmospheric conditions, those parts of the solar panels visible would appear as a dark shading across arable fields with limited definition at this distance. There would be a Low magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Although visible the overall composition of this panoramic countryside view would remain, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect which is not significant.

8.9.205 At summer Year 15, with intervening vegetation in full leaf, those small parts of the Project visible at completion would likely be further screened from view with parts going largely unnoticed. The largest part, to the east of the view, located on rising ground although partly broken up by proposed hedgerows amongst solar panels would remain visible, albeit not a defining feature of the

view. There would be a negligible magnitude of residual impact resulting in a Negligible significance of effect which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 30: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10 at Acre Hill

8.9.206 At winter Year 1, roadside vegetation along Lower Road, which is gappy in places, would partially screen views to a very small part of the Project within the field to the northeast of the view. To the immediate foreground, beyond Lower Road, views to this part of the adjacent fields would remain the same. To the north, solar panels would be discernible through and adjacent to the hedgerow vegetation which would be devoid of leaf. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of views to a very small part of the Project from this location. Resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect for road users and walkers on those parts of PRoW nearest the road. This effect is not significant.

8.9.207 With existing hedgerow vegetation to this part of Lower Road in full leaf and having grown up in summer months, it is anticipated that no part of the Project would be visible from this location at summer Year 15, Resulting in a magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No effect respectively.

Representative Viewpoint 31: View looking north from bridleway 206/9/10, near Lower Road

8.9.208 At winter Year 1, extensive vegetative cover, particularly around Eynsham Mill, along with the topography of the local landscape will prevent views to the majority of the Project Site from this location. A gap between trees at the Eynsham Mill entrance and the hedgerow to the eastern side of Lower Road, would allow glimpsed transient views to a very small part of the Project at its southernmost point of the central site. A small area of solar panels located adjacent to Lower Road and the perimeter fence line, appearing in the gap of the vegetation, would be partially screened by the roadside hedgerow, with glimpsed views available to it. There would be a Low magnitude of impact upon road users of Low / Medium sensitivity, with occasional PRoW users of higher sensitivity who would have glimpsed views from the PRoW as it joins Lower Road. This would result in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.209 At summer Year 15, intervening vegetation, particularly the hedgerow along Lower Road, would be in full leaf and grown up. The small area of solar panels within the fields adjacent to the road would be screened from view. A smaller gap would remain between the hedgerow and entrance to Eynsham Mill. This would allow a glimpsed view to a very small section of the perimeter fence. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result of these glimpsed transient views to a very small part of the Project. Resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect remaining at Year 15. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 32: View looking northwest from footpath 124/5/10, near Begbroke

8.9.210 On completion, at winter Year 1, a small part of the overall Project Site will occupy the immediate foreground of this close view. Solar panels and the perimeter fence nearest the view would obstruct views to the wider development. The PRoW (124/5/10) would remain within the centre of the view, which would allow channelled views to the wider landscape and layered vegetation to the northwest of the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact with parts of the view obstructed by the Project Sie, although there would be no appreciation of the Project Site as a whole from this location with channelled views to the landscape remaining available. This would result in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect for PRoW users of High sensitivity traversing in a generally northerly direction from the village of Begbroke. This effect is significant.

8.9.211 At summer Year 15, the proposed hedgerow to either side of PRoW 124/5/10 would have matured. Appropriately managed, to a suitable height, this hedgerow would screen views to parts of the Project Site in proximity to the PRoW. Creating a more pleasant route through it and maintaining views to the wider landscape. However, where the hedgerow is not present, at the start of the PRoW, near distant views to a small part of the Project would remain an obvious feature within the view. There would remain a Medium magnitude of impact, but the overall visibility of the Project from this location would be slightly diminished as a result of the designed in landscape proposals. Resulting in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 33: View looking southeast from footpath 152/7/10

8.9.212 At winter Year 1, a very small part of the overall Project Site would form an obvious feature in proximity to the view. Seen across the whole view, solar panels and the perimeter fencing would partially obstruct available views to the wider landscape. To the south of the view, an existing mature field boundary hedgerow would screen views to other parts of the Project Site. Though in close proximity to the vie, they would be discernible. Tall trees within Worton Heath, long with an individual tree, would remain partially visible above the Project. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result of solar panels occupying much of the view, with landscape elements still visible and screening other parts. This would result in a Major adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

8.9.213 At summer Year 15, proposed hedgerow planting to the northern edge of PRoW 152/7/10 would have matured, creating a more pleasant viewing experience for the PRoW. In full leaf and having been maintained at a suitable height it will help to mitigate the effects of the Project in views from this location. However, those parts of it nearest the view would remain a noticeable feature within it. There would remain a Medium magnitude of impact, though the significance of effect would be reduced slightly to Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 34: View looking west from footpath 420/14/10 (Shakespeare's Way)

8.9.214 At winter Year 1, the immediate foreground of his view would remain unchanged. Beyond the local ridge line to the mid ground, A small part of the Project Site, to the south of Purwell Farm would be glimpse thought and above intervening vegetation, to the west of the view, on rising ground to the north of the access road to Purwell Farm, and further around to the northwest of the view within the local Evenlode Valley formation, further parts of the Project Site would be visible, though screened and / or broken by the existing layered vegetation. With the exception of those parts of the Project Site nearest Purwell Farm, available views to it would be below the eyeline of PRoW users in this location. The overall composition of this panoramic view would be largely maintained as a result, with views to higher ground to the west of the Evenlode remaining a characteristic feature of the view. Those parts of the Project Sie visible would result in a Low magnitude of impact with parts of the Project, though noticeable, partially screened and broken up by layered vegetation. This would result on a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.215 Due to the elevated nature of the view, although proposed mitigation would likely break the Project up further, it is considered that effects identified at Year 1 would remain at Year 15.

Representative Viewpoint 35: View looking west from footpath 420/14/20 (Shakespeare's Way)

8.9.216 Located along the same PRoW, slightly to the south of Representative Viewpoint 34, views available to the Project Site at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15 from this location would be similar. A small part of the Project would be visible on rising ground near Purwell Farm, with glimpses to a very small part of the Project Site to the south of Purwell Farm at the base of the Evenlode valley. Layered vegetation and topographical variation would prevent any discernible view to the majority of the Project Site from this location. The immediate foreground of the view would remain unchanged as a result of the Project. Those parts of the Project Site visible on rising ground near Purell Farm would be at a similarly eyeline to users of the PRoW. But the overall composition and character of this panoramic view would largely remain. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of those parts of Project within the same eyeline of High sensitivity users. At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation would help to break up these small parts of the Project. However, due to the elevated nature of the view it is considered that a Minor adverse significance of effect would result at both winter Year 1 and summer Year 15. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 36: View looking southwest from footpath 237/1/10, near Bletchington

8.9.217 At winter Year 1, distant views to a very small part of the central site would be available for High sensitivity PRoW users traversing the PRoW southwest from Bletchington. Seen near to the large building within the airport. Intervening

layered vegetation and topographical variation would prevent any discernible view to the majority of the Project Site from this location. Any glimpsed distant views to a very small part of the central site would be seen as a change in colour to the currently green / brown fields. At this distance there would not be a substantial change to available panoramic views with the completed Project Site going largely unnoticed. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of a very small part being discernible. Giving rise to a Minor adverse significance of effect, for High sensitivity PRoW users, which is not significant.

8.9.218 By summer Year 15, with intervening vegetation in full leaf. Along with the designed in mitigation having matured, it is anticipated that no part of the Projects central site would be discernible in this distant view. There would also be no view to the northern or southern sites from this particular location for PRoW users traversing southwest from Bletchington. There would be a magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No Effect as result. With available panoramic views from this PRoW being the same as that of the baseline.

Representative Viewpoint 37a: View looking east from footpath 152/6/10, near Goose Eye Farm

8.9.219 At winter Year 1, a part of the completed Project would be noticeable on rising ground to the east of the view. On rising ground towards Purwell Farm. The immediate foreground of the view would remain the same. With the ground continuing to rise, it is anticipated that the Project would not break the skyline in available views. The majority of the Project Site would not be discernible from this location, although those parts which are visible would occupy much of the view and represent a moderate change to it. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.220 With land rising away from the view, it is anticipated that effects identified at winter Year 1, would remain at summer Year 15. Designed in mitigation would have limited screening effects due to the nature of the view, with the solar panels remaining a noticeable feature on rising ground above the view.

Representative Viewpoint 37b: View looking north from footpath 152/6/10, near Goose Eye Farm

8.9.221 Viewed across part of the Evenlode, a very small part of the Project Site's central site would be discernible at completion (winter Year 1). Intervening layered vegetation, including near the view, is such that those parts of the Project discernible would be broken up and / or heavily filtered within the view. It is anticipated that, at some 2.05m high the solar panels would not break the skyline in any part of the view. As such, he inherent characteristic of this view would remain largely unaffected. Views to higher ground and the tee lined horizon to the northwest of the view would remain. There would be a Low magnitude of impact upon viewers of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.222 At summer Year 15, designed in landscape mitigation, including a block of woodland and hedgerow planting, would further screen available views to a

small part of the Project Site. It is considered that there would be no discernible view of the Project Site from this location as a result at Year 15. There would be a magnitude of impact and significance of effect of No Change and No Effect respectively.

Representative Viewpoint 38: View looking west from footpath 152/6/10, near Purwell Farm

8.9.223 At winter Year 1, immediate foreground of this elevated view would be occupied by a small part of the Project Site. Beyond this, and on rising ground towards Church Hanborough, further parts of the view would be occupied by the Project Site. The inherent structure and field pattern, a distinctive characteristic of the view would remain intact, including a field to the immediate east of Church Hanborough being clear of solar panels, with proposed hedgerow vegetation to the south of PRoW 152/6/10 screening further views to the solar panels. Views would be channelled along PRoW towards Church Hanborough. As a result, this layered existing and proposed vegetation and vegetative structure within available views would break up the Project, so it does not dominate those parts of the view furthest from it. Solar panels nearest the view would obstruct parts of the view and Project Site within, though views above would remain, though also occupied by parts of the Project. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact with the Project resulting in a noticeable change in the character and composition of the view. This would result in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

8.9.224 At summer Year 15, designed in landscape mitigation, including hedgerow planting adjacent to PRoW 152/6/10 and a linear strip of woodland with the field to the immediate foreground, would help to screen parts of the Project Site within the view, breaking up its overall mass within the view. Due to the elevated nature of the view and rising ground to Church Hanborough, it is anticipated that this mitigation planting would have limited screening effect upon this particular part of the Project visible from this particular location. Those parts of it nearest the view would remain an obvious feature within it. There would remain a Medium magnitude of impact as a result, but designed in mitigation measures would break up the overall mass of the Project visible within the view, resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 39: View looking southeast from footpath 152/6/10, near Purwell Farm

8.9.225 Within the immediate foreground of the view, a small part of the Project Site would form an obvious feature within the view. To the south of the view, an existing field boundary hedgerow would heavily filter available views to other parts of the Project Site. The elevated nature of the view is such that views o Cassington would remain visible above the Project, with other small parts of it visible to the southeast, near Cassington. Views of higher ground to the southeast / south of Cassington would remain a feature of the view, still visible above those parts of the Project visible. Here would be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result of those parts of the Project, particularly nearest the view.

This would result in a Moderate to Major adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

8.9.226 At Year 15, hedgerow planting along PRoW 152/6/10, along with existing hedgerows, properly managed would screen available views to the Projects Site. Though those parts nearest the view would remain an obvious feature within it. The magnitude of impact would remain Medium, but the significance of effect would reduce slightly to Minor to Moderate adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 40: View looking northwest from footpath 152/6/10, near Cassington

8.9.227 Similarly, to many other Representative Viewpoints, intervening vegetation and topographical variation would screen the majority of the Projects central site, to the northwest, from view. Solar panels within part of the central site would be visible from this location, particularly those parts on rising ground. Existing and retained vegetation within the areas of panels would break up the overall visibility and screen other parts. Low lying solar panels, following the topography, would not break the skyline and the overall characteristics of the views would remain. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result of solar panels being visible but not prominent. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect for users of High sensitivity. This effect is not significant.

8.9.228 Proposed planting, including hedgerows and trees, to the south easternmost boundary nearest the view would be matured at Year 15. This would screen views to much of the solar panels visible at winter Year 1. Where solar panels are located on higher ground, they would remain visible though not a defining feature within the view. At summer Year 15 there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact as a result. Due to the High sensitivity of PRoW users, the significance of effect would remain as Minor adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 41: View looking west from Yarnton Road on the outskirts of Cassington

8.9.229 Seen above Yarnton Road and through a patchy field boundary hedgerow, a part of the Project Site would occupy the whole view. Including on rising ground to the north of the view. Views to the solar panels, partially screened or broken up by the roadside hedgerow, would form an obvious feature within transient views on approach to Cassington. Existing hedgerows and trees retained as part of the Project would remain visible above the solar panels on the higher ground and partially break up the overall mass of it. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact, particularly where parts of the Project are nearest to Yarnton Road. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect for road users of Low sensitivity. Although this would be higher and more noticeable for other road users such as cyclists and pedestrians, though not considered to be greater than Moderate adverse. Neither effect is significant.

8.9.230 At summer Year 15, designed in landscape, including hedgerow reinforcement adjacent to Yarnton Road, would screen available views to the majority of the Project Site. With ground rising to the north it is anticipated that there would

remain transient views of a small part of the Project from this location. There would be a Low magnitude of impact with the significance of effect reducing to no greater than Minor adverse. Which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 42: View looking northwest from footpath 419/1/10, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.231 Following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Year 1, and summer Year 15 due to the elevation of the solar panels seen on the ridgeline. Long distance views to parts of the central site would be available from this location. Solar panels would be seen on higher ground to the northwest around Cassington. At this distance and depending on the atmospheric conditions, solar panels would generally appear as darker shaded areas within the arable fields, with limited definition. Existing areas of open water to the southeast of Cassington would remain the most noticeable feature within the view and generally draw the eye away from the solar panels. There would be Negligible magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 43: View looking northwest from permissive path through Wytham Wood

8.9.232 Similarly, to Representative viewpoint 42, the southernmost parts of the central site of the completed Project (at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15) would be discernible across much of the ridgeline to the north of Cassington. No part of the Project, due to is low lying nature, would break the skyline and at this middle distance would not represent an obvious feature within the view. The characteristic panoramic view would be largely unaffected. There would be Negligible magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Southern Site

Representative Viewpoint 44: View looking southwest from permissive path through Wytham Wood

8.9.233 Viewed from this elevated position, a small part of the southern site would be discernible in views at winter Year 1. The westernmost parts of the southern site, seen on rising ground to the north of Smith Hill Copse would be seen as a darker colour when compared to the existing agricultural fields. At a distance of circa. 1.7km, views to a small part of the Project would not represent an obvious feature within the landscape. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Albeit that users of this permissive path would be limited when compared to a public right of way. As a result of the High sensitivity, there would be a Minor adverse significance of effect, which would not be significant.

8.9.234 Due to the elevated nature of the view, it is anticipated that any views available at winter Year 1, would remain available at summer Year 15. As a result, the magnitude of impact and significance of effect would similarly remain, being not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 45: View looking southeast from footpath 184/48/10, at the edge of Farmoor Reservoir

8.9.235 Seen across Farmoor Reservoir, the majority of the southern site would be visible on ring ground framed by Smith Hill Copse and Denman's Copse. Solar panels would appear as a dark colour within agricultural fields, not dissimilar to the colour of the reservoir, an expanse of water which dominates the view. As such, following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Year 1 and at summer Year 15, with no obstructions in the foreground, the southern site of the Project would form a visible feature within the view, though not prominent. Intervening vegetation to the northwest of the southern site would partially screen parts of the Project both during winter and summer months. Proposed vegetation, at summer Year 15, would add to this screening effect, though due to the rising ground it is anticipated that the views of the Project would remain largely the same as those at Year 1. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect at Year 1 and Year 5. This effect is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 46: View looking south from footpath 184/15/10 near Eynsham Road

8.9.236 Following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Year 1, and summer Year 15 due to the elevation of the solar panels seen on the ridgeline. Middle distance views to parts of the southern site would be available from this location. Solar panels would be seen on higher ground to the south. Solar panels would generally appear as darker shaded areas within the arable fields. To the west of the view, the Project substation and NGET substation would be the most noticeable addition to the view. Although large structures, it is anticipated that they would not break the skyline. There would be Low magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 47: View looking southeast from footpath 184/22/10 (Oxfordshire Green Belt Way)

8.9.237 At winter Year 1, parts of the completed southern site of the Project would be visible on rising ground to the south of the viewpoint. Seen above Jumpers Farm and intervening vegetation. A mature hedgerow, adjacent to Cumnor Road, would screen much of the southern site from view, including those parts containing the Project and NGET substations which are the most noticeable features within the southern site. Due to the rising ground existing intervening hedgerow and tree vegetation would have limited screening effects, with solar panels seen as a noticeable change to the character of the view. The solar panels would not break he skyline and be quite contained within the view. As such, it is anticipated that those parts of it visible would not dominate the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact as a result, with a Minor adverse significance of effect. Which is not significant.

8.9.238 Due to the rising ground, it is anticipated that the existing and proposed vegetation would have a limited effect in terms of screening the Project from

view. It is considered that those effects identified at winter Year 1 would remain at summer Year 15.

Representative Viewpoint 48: View looking south from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.239 Following the construction phase (on completion)near distance views of the solar panels would be obtained through gaps in the existing retained hedgerow and would occupy the sloping land to the west of the view (Figures 8.112 to 8.113a). New reinforcement planting to the existing hedgerow along the southern Project Site boundary would have recently been planted and would provide little screening of the perimeter fence and solar panels. The available views include high Voltage powerlines.

8.9.240 The perimeter fence and solar panels would be visible in the near distance of the view giving rise to a Low magnitude of impact. Given the receptors' High sensitivity this would result in Moderate adverse significance of effect at winter Year 1 (on completion), which would not be significant.

8.9.241 At Year 15, the establishment of the new reinforcement planting to the existing hedgerow surrounding the field in which the solar panels are located would have matured and the height of the new planting would result in the perimeter fence and a large proportion of the solar panels being screened. The hedgerow would not be a new feature but would reinforce the existing vegetation already present. Resulting in the composition and character of the view being partly improved. The magnitude of impact would remain Low, but the overall significance of effect would reduce at summer Year 15, to Minor adverse for the duration of the operation, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 49: View looking southwest from footpath 184/22/20

8.9.242 At winter Year 1, following the construction phase (on completion), the immediate foreground of this view would be unchanged. Within the mid-ground and across the view the solar panels within this part of the Projects southern site would be a noticeable feature within the view. Continuing on rising ground above Denman's Farm, a slither of green would be occupied by solar panels. The solar panels would not break the skyline at any point, with the characteristic Denman's and Smith Hill Copse remaining an obvious feature within the view enclosing the Project. To the southwest of the view the Project and NGET substations would be a noticeable feature within the view, partially screened by intervening layered vegetation. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact with parts of the Project in proximity to the view. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.243 At summer Year 15, designed in landscape mitigation including hedgerow planning to the southern sites northern edge, appropriately managed, would screen views of those parts of the Project to the north of Denman's Farm nearest the view. Above this, on rising ground, parts of the Project would remain visible though not a prominent feature within the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 50: View looking southeast from footpath 184/50/20, Oxford Green Belt Way adjacent Farmoor Reservoir

8.9.244 Following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Yea 1, walkers at this viewpoint would obtain near distance south eastwards views of the adjacent solar farm and site of the Project substation and assumed location of the NGET substation (Figure 8.116 to 8.117a). Views of much of the southern site would not be available from this location. Due to the substation(s) views to the wider landscape and higher ground to the southeast would no longer be available. Although the substation(s) would not be solid building as such and would allow some glimpsed views through them. Hedgerow planting located adjacent to the boundary along the roadside would have recently been planted and would not provide much screening of the adjacent solar farm at winter Year 1.

8.9.245 The proposed substation(s) would be visible in the midground of this view giving rise to a high magnitude of impact. The views of higher ground to the southeast would be obstructed. Given the receptors' High sensitivity walkers would experience Major adverse significance of effect, which would be significant.

8.9.246 By year 15, the new hedgerow reinforcement, woodland planting and individual trees adjacent to the roadside and substation sites would have matured. Given the size of the substation(s) they would remain a noticeable element within the view but their overall significance would be slightly diminished with the new landscaping having a screening effect, visually breaking up the overall mass of the substation(s). Existing retained vegetation in full leaf would similarly have some screening effect. The magnitude of impact would likely reduce slightly to Medium. Resulting in a residual Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 51: View looking northeast from footpath 184/29/10, near Upper Whitely Farm

8.9.247 At winter Year 1, with gaps in the vegetation to the md ground, there would be views to a very small part of the southern site in front of Smith Hill Copse. Much of the view would remain unchanged with a large portion of it left as existing to accommodate the route of the existing overhead power lines and water main. To the northernmost part of the view, seen above hedgerows, parts of the Project and NGET substation would be visible, although partially screened by existing retained vegetation and topography as it falls away from the view. There would be a Low magnitude of impact with only a small part of the Project most noticeable in the view. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

8.9.248 Due to the elevated nature of the viewpoint, available views to small parts of the Projects southern site, including parts of the Project and NGET substations, would remain at summer Year 15. Although existing trees in full leaf would partially screen the available views to the substations. It is considered that the magnitude of impact and significance of effect identified would remain at summer Year 15.

Representative Viewpoint 52: View looking north from the B4017 Tumbledown Road

8.9.249 At winter Year 1, intervening vegetation along Tumbledown Road would screen available views to much of the Project Site. With land falling away from the view, those parts of the southern site visible would be generally below the eyeline of road users with views towards Wytham Wood to the north remaining the predominant feature within this view. A small part of the Project Site, including glimpsed views to part of the main substation near to the road would be seen across the middle of the view occupying agricultural fields which have the overhead powerlines within them. Existing hedgerow vegetation, including along Tumbledown Road would break up those parts of the Project visible within the view. Along with a green strip, following the route of the overhead powerlines, which would ensure that the solar panels would not be a dominant feature within transient views. Here would be a Low magnitude of impact and Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect as a result. Which is not significant.

8.9.250 At summer Year 15, roadside vegetation within the view would further screen the majority of Project Site visible within the view. There would remain channelled views to a small part of the Project, including the substation nearest the road, when looking north along Tumbledown Road. Views would be partially screened by intervening layered vegetation. There would remain a Low magnitude of impact, though with only a very small part of the Project Site visible below the eyeline of road users, it is considered that he significance of effect would be reduced to Negligible adverse, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 53: View looking north from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way

8.9.251 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Yea 1, views of the solar farm would be obtained across the central part of the frame from this elevated location (Figures 8.122 to 8.123a). The solar farm would be seen in the context of pylons and overhead powerlines. New hedgerow, tree planting and enhancements to existing hedgerows to provide screening would have recently been implemented and would provide little screening, however the composition and character of the view would be similar to the existing situation with the user's eye drawn above the solar farm to higher ground to the north. The solar farm would be similar in colour and scale to the Farmoor Reservoir to the northwest.

8.9.252 Areas of the solar farm would be visible in the middle distance at this location giving rise to Low magnitude of impact. Given the receptors' High sensitivity this would result in a Moderate adverse significance of visual effect which would not be significant.

8.9.253 By Year 15, hedgerow planting with trees, predominately to the perimeter of the site, and existing hedgerow enhancements would have matured and break up the overall mas of the southern site of the solar farm. Although due to the elevated location, views to much of it would remain noticeable in the middle distance. The magnitude of impact would remain Low, but the overall significance of effect would reduce to Minor adverse which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 54: View looking north from footpath 184/16/20

8.9.254 At winter Year 1, a part of the Projects southern site would form an obvious feature in the immediate foreground of the view, on either side of the PRoW as it goes north. Channelled views to the wider landscape and views to higher ground around Wytham Woods would remain a feature of the view, though views to solar panels would be a prominent feature within the view. There would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon users of High sensitivity, with much of the available views to the wider landscape still available. Resulting in a Major adverse significance of effect, which is significant.

8.9.255 At summer Year 15, new native species hedgerow planting to either side of the PRoW, appropriately managed, would screen views of those parts of the Project nearest the view. Views to parts of the Projects southern site would remain visible other the hedgerow due to the topographical variation relative to the viewpoint's location. Though these views would be less prominent than those of Year 1. The hedgerow planting would channel views to the wider landscape away from the Project Site. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, with the significance of effect reducing to Minor adverse, which would not be significant.

Representative Viewpoint 55: View looking northwest from footpath 184/18/20, near Cumnor

8.9.256 At winter Year 1 and summer Year 15, views of the Project Sites southern sit would be limited. With the land falling away from the view the majority of it would be below he ridge line near to Denman's Copse. It is anticipated that a very small part of the Projects southernmost part, between Denman's and Smith Hill Copse may be discernible. This would be the very tops of the perimeter fence and / or solar panels and would not alter the overall panoramic view available towards Farmoor Reservoir. There would be a Negligible magnitude of impact and Negligible significance of effect, approaching No Effect, which would not be significant.

Decommissioning Landscape and Visual Effects

8.9.257 Predicted effects upon the landscape and visual resource of the Project Site and surrounding area during the decommissioning would be equivalent to those experienced during construction for the duration of the decommissioning phase, with the small exception of the landscape proposals having reached maturity, which would offer some screening of low-level works within the localised views. The decommissioning of the Project is not anticipated to cause any significant effects upon the landscape or visual resource.

8.9.258 Assuming all above ground infrastructure (excluding the NGET substation) and equipment has been removed, together with cables beneath the solar arrays, upon restoring the area to its predevelopment (baseline) condition of agricultural land / grassland habitats the proposed mitigation and biodiversity enhancements would have a long-term beneficial effect upon the landscape and visual amenity of the Project Site.

Future monitoring

8.9.259 Landscape management would be required for a period of five years following the Construction phase (completion) of the Project to ensure that the newly planted and seeded areas become well established and meet their landscape potential. Management would include the replacement of dead, dying, or damaged stock or those that fail to establish satisfactorily. Pruning that would be beneficial for plant growth, form and plant health would be promoted. This would form part of the landscape and ecological management plan secured in the DCO.

8.10 Cumulative Effects

8.10.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) CEA methodology has followed the methodology set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA methodology of the PEIR. As part of the assessment, all projects and plans considered alongside the Project have been allocated into 'tiers' reflecting their current stage within the planning and development process.

- Tier 1
  - Under construction
  - Permitted application.
  - Submitted application.
  - Those currently operational that were not operational when baseline data were collected, and/or those that are operational but have an ongoing impact.
- Tier 2
  - Scoping report has been submitted.
- Tier 3
  - Scoping report has not been submitted.
  - Identified in the relevant Development Plan
  - Identified in other plans and programmes.

8.10.2 For clarity, cumulative effects with the generation assets are considered first. This assessment is followed by all other relevant projects, identified by tier. This tiered approach is adopted to provide a clear assessment of the Project alongside other projects, plans and activities.

8.10.3 The specific projects, plans and activities scoped into the CEA, are outlined in **Table 8.21**.

8.10.4 It is acknowledged that 32 cumulative schemes were identified, forming the CEA long list. This list of developments has been reviewed as part of the LVIA, with 19 discounted for one or more of the following reasons (with reference to guidance set out in GLVIA3):

- The cumulative development is outside the 5 km Study Area identified for the LVIA;

- The cumulative scheme is not located within the same landscape character area / type as that of any part of the Project;
- The ZTV(s) (Figures 8.7 to 8.11) demonstrates no potential intervisibility with any part of the Project and cumulative scheme(s);
- The cumulative scheme is of a type / scale which is anticipated to not cause a significant or any cumulative landscape and visual effect; and,
- The cumulative scheme has already been built out and therefore forms part of the baseline situation for the LVIA.

8.10.5 The NGET substation has been assessed as part of the Project but alternatively it may be located adjacent to the Site. In this situation the land identified within the Site for the NGET substation would be developed with solar PV panels. The placement of the NGET substation outside the Order Limits could give rise to cumulative effects.

8.10.6 For assessment purposes, it is assumed that the NGET substation will be within the Project Site. To cater for the eventuality that National Grid decides not to locate the NGET in the Project Site, then an assessment has been made under a cumulative scenario for its delivery in an area adjoining the west of the Southern Site, south of Farmoor Reservoir. Additionally, as part of this cumulative scenario, the assessment is made for the substitution of solar panels on the land formerly set aside for the NGET. National Grid would be responsible for seeking any necessary consents and permissions.

Table 8.21: List of other projects, plans and activities considered within the CEA

Project/Plan	Status	Distance from the Project (nearest point, km)	Description of project/plan	Dates of construction (if applicable)	Dates of operation (if applicable)	Overlap with the Project
Tier 1						
20/01734/OUT (EW1) Salt Cross Garden Village	Outline Planning Application	Eastern edge of Application Site is immediately adjacent to the southernmost parts of the central section of the Project.	Proposed residential led mixed use development, including 2,200 dwellings and 40ha of employment land	unknown	unknown	unknown
21/00189/FUL Land North of Hill Rise, Woodstock	Allocation (approved)	Approximately 1 km to the west of the Projects northern site at its nearest point.	Proposed residential development of some 180 dwellings, granted on appeal.	unknown	unknown	unknow
21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock	Outline Planning Application	Approximately 0.3 km to the west of the cable route corridor between the northern and central Project site.	Proposed residential development of some 225 dwellings.	unknown	unknown	unknown
22/00747/OUT Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington	Outline Planning Application	Approximately 3 km to the east of the central site.	Outline planning application for the development of up to 370 homes, public open space (including play areas and woodland planting), sports pitches and pavilion, drainage and engineering works, with all matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) except for vehicular and emergency accesses to Bicester Road	2028 to 2029	n/a	2028 to 2029

Project/Plan	Status	Distance from the Project (nearest point, km)	Description of project/plan	Dates of construction (if applicable)	Dates of operation (if applicable)	Overlap with the Project
21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane Yarnton	Outline Planning Application	Project Site immediately adjacent to the central section of the Project.	The erection of up to 540 dwellings (Class C3), up to 9,000sqm GEA of elderly/extra care residential floorspace (Class C2), a Community Home Work Hub (up to 200sqm)(Class E), alongside the creation of two locally equipped areas for play, one NEAP, up to 1.8 hectares of playing pitches and amenity space for the William Fletcher Primary School, two vehicular access points, green infrastructure, areas of public open space, two community woodland areas, a local nature reserve, footpaths, tree planting, restoration of historic hedgerow, and associated works. All matters are reserved, save for the principal access points. (APPEAL LODGED)	2027 to 2029	n/a	2028 to 2029
23/00517/F New Science Park West of junction with The Boulevard, Oxford Airport, Langford Lane	Full Planning Application	Project Site in close proximity to the east of the northern section of the Project.	Redevelopment of the site to include the demolition of existing buildings and development of new accommodation across 5 buildings for employment uses (Class E(g)(ii) and (iii)) plus ancillary amenity building, outdoor amenity space, car parking, cycle parking, landscaping and associated works	2025 to 2026	n/a	2026
19/02516/FUL Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm	Full Planning Application	Project Site approximately 2.5 km to the southwest of the central section of the Project at its nearest point.	31.9 MW peak. Up to 10 batteries in shipping containers. Up to 10 inverters in shipping containers. Internal access tracks, perimeter fence, cctv cameras.	16 weeks (dates of construction unknown)	40 years	unknown

Project/Plan	Status	Distance from the Project (nearest point, km)	Description of project/plan	Dates of construction (if applicable)	Dates of operation (if applicable)	Overlap with the Project
20/01734/OUT Land North Of A40 Section From Barnard Gate To Eynsham Roundabout Eynsham Oxfordshire	Outline Planning Application	Project Site adjacent to central section of the Project.	Outline application with means of access for a mixed-use Garden Village, comprising residential, retail, food and drink, health and community facilities, hotel, class B1, B2 and B8 employment uses, education provision, burial ground, public open space with	unknown	unknown	unknown
15/00761/FUL West Eynsham Strategic Development Area	Full Planning Application	Project Site approximately 1.5km to the southwest of the central site of the Project	Full planning permission for 77no. residential dwellings. Associated with EW2, Tier 3 allocation proposal for a further 1,000 residential dwellings near Eynsham.	unknown	unknown	unknown
16/01364/OUT Land east of Woodstock	Outline Planning Application	Project Site adjacent to northern section of the Project.	Outline application for 300 residential dwellings, up to 1100sqm of A1/A2/B1/D1 floorspace.	unknown	unknown	unknown
22/01715/OUT Land South of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road	Outline Planning Application	Project site adjacent to the cable route, in proximity to the northern and central sections of the Botley West proposals	Erection of up to 500 dwellings with associated access, open space and infrastructure	2027 to 2029	n/a	2027 to 2029
Tier 2						
P23/V2624/SCR Red House Farm, Botley	Full Planning Application	Project Site immediately to the north of the southern section of the Project.	Installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure, security fence, CCTV, cable route, landscaping, and onsite biodiversity net gain.	unknown	unknown	unknown

Maximum design scenario – cumulative effects assessment

8.10.7 The maximum design scenarios identified in **Table 8.22** have been selected as those having the potential to result in the greatest effect on an identified receptor or receptor group. The cumulative effects presented and assessed in this section have been selected from the Project Design Envelope provided in Volume 1, Chapter 6: Project Description, of the ES as well as the information available on other projects and plans, in order to inform a 'maximum design scenario'. Effects of greater adverse significance are not predicted to arise should any other development scenario, based on details within the Project Design Envelope (e.g., different foundation type or substation layout), to that assessed here, be taken forward in the final design scheme.

Table 8.22: Maximum design scenario for the assessment of cumulative effects

Potential cumulative effect	Phase			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
The impact of the Botley West Solar Farm assets on landscape character during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase. The impact of the Botley West Solar Farm assets on publicly accessible views during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phase	✓	✓	✓	Maximum design scenario as described for the Project (Refer to Chapter 6: Project Description) assessed cumulatively with the following other projects/plans: **Tier 1** • 20/01734/OUT (EW1) Salt Cross Garden Village • 21/00189/FUL Land North of Hill Rise, Woodstock • 21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock • 22/00747/OUT Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington • 21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane Yarnton • 23/00517/F New Science Park West of junction with The Boulevard, Oxford Airport, Langford Lane • 19/02516/FUL Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm • 20/01817/FUL Land Between Woodstock Sewage Works and B4027 • 20/01734/OUT Land North Of A40 Section From Barnard Gate To Eynsham Roundabout Eynsham Oxfordshire • 15/00761/FUL West Eynsham Strategic Development Area • 16/01364/OUT Land east of Woodstock • P23/V2624/SCR Red House Farm, Botley • 22/01715/OUT Land South of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road	Outcome of the CEA will be greatest when the greatest number of other schemes are considered

[a] C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

8.11 Cumulative effects assessment

8.11.1 A description of the significance of cumulative effects upon Landscape and Visual receptors arising from each identified cumulative scheme is given below.

Tier 1 Projects

20/01734/OUT Salt Cross Garden Village

8.11.2 Representative Viewpoints detailed above, which may have views of the Project and the Salt Cross Garden Village include 29 (located within the Salt Cross site), 30 and 31. With a number of other more distant Representative Viewpoints having possible views of both schemes. Though many other views, such as viewpoint 28, have intervening vegetation and topographical variation which would limit potential cumulative views.

Construction Phase

8.11.3 The Salt Cross Garden Village application site falls entirely within the same landscape character area as that of the majority of the central section of the Project, LCA 11: Eynsham Vale. LCA 11 is characterised by 'large scale subtly rolling farmland, with a strong landscape structure.' The field boundaries, woodland and landscape features which contribute to the LCAs inherent character would be retained and enhanced as part of the Project. Given the nature of a residential development, it is considered that these inherent characteristics would likely be altered as a result of the Salt Cross Garden Village. With the boundary vegetation and more important areas of existing vegetation retained. However, it is anticipated that there would be more vegetation removal as a result of this type of development when compared to the Project. As such the full extent of the Project would be broken up by this retained landscape structure and with the low level nature of a solar development it would not be a prominent feature in the overall landscape. Where a residential development would likely be more noticeable. The ZTV, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, indicates that there would be areas of potential high intervisibility with the Project.

8.11.4 Should there be any temporal overlap of the construction phase of the Project and the Salt Cross Garden Village scheme, there would be a temporary Medium magnitude of impact upon a small part of LCA 11. This would result in a Moderate adverse significance of effect for this Medium to High sensitivity LCA. This is not significant. The Botley West project would have a greater effect upon the LCA.

Operation and Maintenance Phase

8.11.5 The ZTV indicates an area of high potential intervisibility between the Project and the proposed Salt Cross Garden Village. With the schemes separated by Lower Road. At the southernmost point of the central section of the Project, nearest the Salt Cross Garden Village, the area of solar panels is limited. The existing vegetation and topographical variation is such that the majority of the

Project would be hidden from view. As a result, parts of the local landscape where the Salt Cross Garden Village and the Project are appreciated in combination would be limited to the southern sections of Lower Road. When viewed from the west, it is anticipated that the Salt Cross Garden Village would largely screen views to the Project beyond it and would likely be a more noticeable feature in the landscape as the scale of built elements are generally larger and screened less by intervening vegetation.

8.11.6 At winter Year 1, it is considered that there would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon LCA 11. With both Salt Cross Garden Village and the Project being a noticeable addition to a relatively large part of the LCA. With limited screening affects from existing vegetation devoid of leaf. This would result in a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect. With a similar contribution by each scheme.

8.11.7 At summer Year 15, existing vegetation would be in full leaf, and it is anticipated that proposed vegetation within the Salt Cross Garden Village and the Project would have reached its design intention. This would help to break up the overall mass of the Project particularly and screen it from many views. With the Salt Cross Garden Village built elements larger in scale, i.e. residential buildings, albeit that it would cover less of the overall LCA, it is considered that it would be a more noticeable feature than that of the Project. There would remain a Moderate magnitude of impact upon this part of the LCA, resulting in a Minor to Moderate adverse significance of effect. The Salt Cross Garden Village would be the greater contributor to this effect, which is nonetheless not significant.

Decommissioning Phase

8.11.8 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the Salt Cross Garden Village remaining as a permanent development. As such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage.

21/00189/FUL Land North of Hill Rise, Woodstock

8.11.9 There would be limited Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, with the potential for cumulative views of the Project and Land of North Rise. Representative Viewpoint 12 is in proximity to the cumulative scheme. But located at its eastern edge with views away from Land North of Hill Rise.

8.11.10 Land North of Hill Rise, Woodstock is a relatively small proposal is located entirely with LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys, the same as that of the northern section of the Project. LCA 4 is described as a landscape where ‘the parks have extensive areas of woodland, and the landscape generally has a well-managed character typical of large estates’. Although within the same LCA, there is some separation between the schemes. With topography and existing vegetation such that there would be limited intervisibility between the two.

8.11.11 Should there be a temporal overlap in the construction phases, there would be a noticeable effect upon a relatively small area of the LCA. Due to the scale of the Project it would have a greater contribution to any cumulative effects.

Overall, given the relative scale of the two schemes when compared and the physical separation of them, there would be a Low magnitude of impact upon this part of the LCA. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.12 Existing vegetation and topographical variation is such that potential intervisibility between the two schemes would be limited. The ZTV, however, indicates an area of potential intervisibility at the lower middle of scale (see Figures 8.7 – 8.11). As such there would be a small area within the landscape in views from the southwest and northeast where there would be the potential to see the two schemes in combination. It is anticipated that there would be no location where you would be able to see the whole of the Projects northern section in combination with the Land North of Hill Rise within the same view. Rather a sequential cumulative effect is considered more likely.

8.11.13 At winter Year 1, with no leaves on intervening deciduous vegetation, it is anticipated that potential cumulative effects are more likely. Given the separation, any cumulative effects are not likely to be obvious with each Proposed Development being more noticeable at a local level. There would be a Low magnitude of impact, resulting in a Minor adverse significance of cumulative effect, which is not significant. Of the two, the northern section of the Project would be the greater contributor to any potential cumulative effects due to its scale when compared to the cumulative scheme.

8.11.14 At summer Year 15, existing vegetation would be in full leaf. Also, proposed vegetation would have reached its intended design function. It is anticipated that both the Project and Land North of Hill Rise would be broken up by this. Also adding to the visual separation. With the Projects built form at a lower level generally than the built elements of the cumulative scheme. As a result, it is anticipated that the cumulative scheme would be more noticeable within the landscape. Albeit, that visual effects for both schemes would be at a local level. When considering the potential cumulative effects, there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact with a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Decommissioning Phase

8.11.15 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the Salt Cross Garden Village is anticipated to remain a permanent development and as such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage.

21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock

8.11.16 Similarly to North of Hill Rise, there would be limited Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which may have views of the Project and the Land North of Banbury Road. Viewpoint 14 looks west towards both schemes. However, with land rising from the viewpoint and intervening vegetation it is anticipated that the cumulative scheme would not be discernible in views from this location.

Construction Phase

8.11.17 Land North of Banbury Road is similarly, to Hill Rise, located entirely within the same LCA as that of the northern section of the Project. As such, there would be a direct cumulative effect upon it as a result. There is some separation from the areas of solar panel development within the northern section. As such there would be an element of visual separation, with intervening vegetation and topographical variation being such that it is anticipated that a cumulative visual effect where both schemes as a whole would be seen in the same view is unlikely. Rather sequential cumulative effects are more likely with effects upon views more noticeable at a local level.

8.11.18 Should there be a temporal overlap of the construction phases, there would be a noticeable effect upon a small part of the overall LCA. These effects would be at a local level and with the separation the cumulative effects would not be immediately obvious. There would be a Low magnitude of impact and Minor adverse significance of cumulative effect, which is not significant. The northern section of the Project would be the greater contributor to any cumulative effects due to the relative scale of the schemes.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.19 The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be very limited potential intervisibility between the Projects northern section and Land North of Banbury Road. With the settlement of Woodstock preventing potential intervisibility to the central section, with topographical variation and existing vegetation limiting potential intervisibility to the northern section.

8.11.20 The Project, although covering a larger area than that of Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock, would retain so far as possible the inherent structure of the landscape. In the form of field boundary hedgerows and areas of woodland. Land North of Banbury Road would, it is assumed, similarly retained existing vegetation. Due to the nature of a residential development however, retained vegetation would be likely more apparent to the development boundaries. Internally it is likely that the physical structure of the landscape would need to be altered to accommodate it.

8.11.21 At winter Year 1, there would be a Low magnitude of impact upon LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect, upon this relatively small LCA. Of the schemes, it is judged that the Land West of Botley scheme would be the greater contributor to any cumulative effects being the larger scheme, albeit that he inherent structure of the landscape would be largely retained. This effect is significant.

8.11.22 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation implemented as part of both schemes, along with the management of existing landscape features, would further integrate the schemes into the landscape. Potential intervisibility would likely be further reduced which would lessen the overall effects. Overall land take would remain resulting in the magnitude of impact remaining Low. However, it is judged that the significance of cumulative effect would reduce to Minor adverse at summer Year 15, which is not significant. At this stage of the lifetime of the schemes, it is judged that, although still covering a larger area, the Project would be less noticeable that the residential development of Land

North of Banbury Road. Due to the low lying nature of the solar development when compared to residential development. Landscape and / or visual effects of either would be most noticeable at a local level.

Decommissioning Phase

8.11.23 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock remaining as a permanent development. As such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage. Although separated by a relatively short distance, the topographical variation and existing vegetation is such that areas within the landscape here the schemes would be seen in combination are anticipated to be limited. To the south, the market town of Woodstock would prevent intervisibility with other parts of the Project.

22/00747/OUT Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington

8.11.24 It is anticipated that there would be no Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which would have views of the Project and Land at Bicester Road that would have a discernible view of both schemes within the same view.

Construction Effects

8.11.25 The Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington is located within the Vale Farmland District Character Area, as derived from the Cherwell Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Study Assessment (2017). No part of the Project sits within the same character area. There would therefore be no direct cumulative landscape characterising effect as a result. The ZTV, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, indicates that there would be a very small area of potential intervisibility with the Project to the southern end of the Land at Bicester Road site. Intervening built form, including the town of Kidlington, would generally prevent any potential intervisibility.

8.11.26 Should there be any temporal overlap of the construction phase of the Project and the Land at Bicester Road scheme, there would be a temporary Negligible of cumulative visual impact. This would result in a Negligible adverse significance of effect, approaching no effect. This is not significant.

Operation and Maintenance phase

8.11.27 The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be a very small area of potential intervisibility between the two schemes. With the settlement of Kidlington, topographical variation and existing vegetation such as that adjacent to the A4260 and A4165, visually separating the Project and the Land at Bicester Road scheme. As such, there would be very limited cumulative visual effects as a result.

8.11.28 At winter Year 1, there would be a Negligible magnitude of visual impact. Resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of cumulative effect, approaching No Effect. This effect is significant.

8.11.29 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation implemented as part of both schemes, along with the management of existing landscape features,

would further integrate the schemes into the landscape. Potential intervisibility would likely be further reduced. It is judged that the magnitude of impact significance of cumulative effect would reduce to No Change and No Effect at summer Year 15, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.30 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington would remain as a permanent residential development. As such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage.

21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane, Yarnton

8.11.31 It is anticipated that there would be no Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which would have views of the Project and Land at Bicester Road that would have a discernible view of both schemes within the same view.

Construction phase

8.11.32 The proposed development West of Rutten Lane, Yarnton is located within the Wooded Estatelands District Character Area, as derived from the Cherwell Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Study Assessment (2017). A very small part of the Projects' central section sits within the same character area. There would therefore be a direct cumulative landscape characterising effect upon a part of this small character area as a result. The ZTV, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, indicates that there would be areas of potential intervisibility with the Project across much of the West of Rutten Lane development site. Although areas of existing woodland (Begbroke Wood) and the settlement of Begbroke, would largely prevent potential intervisibility to much of the Project.

8.11.33 Should there be any temporal overlap of the construction phase of the Project and the West of Rutten Lane scheme, there would be a temporary Low magnitude of cumulative landscape and visual impact. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect. This is not significant.

Operation and Maintenance phase

8.11.34 The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be an area of potential intervisibility between the two schemes, with much of the West of Rutten Lane site covered. With the settlement of Begbroke, Begbroke Wood and the topographical variation visually separating the majority of the Project and West of Rutten Lane scheme with intervisibility predominately to the northern section only. As such, there would be cumulative visual effects as a result. With only limited cumulative landscape characterising effect, with majority of the Project falling within different landscape character areas to that of this cumulative scheme.

8.11.35 At winter Year 1, there would be a Negligible cumulative magnitude of impact upon LCA Wooded Estatelands. Resulting in a Negligible to Minor adverse significance of cumulative effect, upon this small LCA. Of the schemes, it is judged that the West of Rutten Lane scheme would be the greater contributor

to any cumulative effects being entirely located within the character area. This effect is not significant.

8.11.36 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation implemented as part of both schemes, along with the management of existing landscape features, would further integrate the schemes into the landscape. Potential intervisibility would likely be further reduced which would lessen the overall effects. Overall land take would remain resulting in the magnitude of impact remaining Negligible. With the significance of cumulative effect remaining as Negligible to Minor adverse at summer Year 15, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.37 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the West of Rutten Lane, Yarnton would remain as a permanent residential development. As such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage.

23/00517/F New Science Park

8.11.38 There would be limited Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which would have views of the Project and the New Science Park. Viewpoint 36 looks southwest towards both schemes. However, with intervening development and vegetative cover it is anticipated that the cumulative scheme and Project would not be discernible in views from this location.

Construction phase

8.11.39 The proposed New Science Park is located predominantly within the Lowland Village Farmlands landscape character area, as derived from the Cherwell Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Study Assessment (2017). No part of the Project fall within this landscape character area, as such there would be no direct cumulative landscape effects. The ZTV, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, indicates that there would be an area of potential intervisibility with the northern section of the Project, largely with the northernmost part of the New Science Park.

8.11.40 Should there be any temporal overlap of the construction phase of the Project and the New Science Park scheme, there would be a temporary Low magnitude of cumulative visual impact. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect. This is not significant.

Operation and Maintenance phase

8.11.41 The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be an area of potential intervisibility between the two schemes, with the northernmost sections of the New Science Park site covered. With the settlements of Begbroke and Yarnton, along with blocks of woodland including Begbroke Wood and the topographical variation visually separating the majority of the Project and New Science Park scheme with intervisibility predominately to the northern section only. As such, there would be cumulative visual effects as a result. With no cumulative landscape characterising effect,

with the Project falling entirely within different landscape character areas to that of this cumulative scheme.

8.11.42 At winter Year 1, there would be a Low cumulative magnitude of visual impact. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of cumulative visual effect. This effect is not significant.

8.11.43 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation implemented as part of both schemes, along with the management of existing landscape features, would further integrate the schemes into the landscape. Potential intervisibility would likely be further reduced which would lessen the overall effects. Overall land take would remain resulting in the magnitude of visual impact reducing to Negligible. With the significance of cumulative visual effect similarly reducing to Negligible adverse at summer Year 15, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.44 Decommissioning effects, in respect of the Project would be similar to that of the construction phase. However, the New Science Park would remain as a permanent residential development. As such there would be no cumulative effects at this stage.

19/02516/FUL Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm

8.11.45 There would be limited Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which may have views of the Project and the Twelve Acre Farm scheme. Viewpoint 28, to the north and west looks west towards both schemes. However, intervening vegetation and topographical variation would limit potential view of both schemes within the view.

Construction phase

8.11.46 The Twelve Acre Farm solar farm application site falls entirely within the same landscape character area as that of the majority of the central section of the Project, LCA 11: Eynsham Vale. LCA 11 is characterised by 'large scale subtly rolling farmland, with a strong landscape structure.' The field boundaries, woodland and landscape features which contribute to the LCAs inherent character would be retained and enhanced as part of the Project. For the purposes of this cumulative assessment, it has been assumed that these landscape characteristics and inherent landscape features and structure would be similarly retained as part of the Twelve Acre Farm scheme. The full extent of the solar farms would therefore be broken up visually within the landscape by the retained vegetation and gently undulating nature of the topography. The ZTV, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, indicates that there would be a small area of potential intervisibility with the Project. Albeit that any intervisibility would be of construction phases of developments which are similar in nature.

8.11.47 Should there be any temporal overlap of the construction phase of the Project and the Twelve Acre Farm scheme, there would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact upon LCA 11. This would result in a Minor adverse significance of effect for this Medium to High sensitivity LCA. This is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.48 The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be a small area of potential intervisibility between the two schemes. With the settlement of Eynsham and the topographical variation visually separating the Project and Twelve Acre Farm scheme. As such, there would be limited cumulative visual effects as a result.

8.11.49 With existing landscape features and overall landscape structure retained and supplemented, along with the muted dark colour of the solar panels, it is considered that the existing pattern of hedgerows and trees would remain a prominent feature within the landscape. With the solar panels, particularly those of the Project, covering a large area, although low lying and not visually prominent, would represent an obvious change in landscape character within this relatively small landscape character area.

8.11.50 At winter Year 1, there would be a Low magnitude of impact upon LCA 11. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect, upon this relatively small LCA. Of the schemes, it is judged that the Land West of Botley scheme would be the greater contributor to any cumulative effects being the larger scheme. This effect is not significant.

8.11.51 At summer Year 15, proposed landscape mitigation implemented as part of both schemes, along with the management of existing landscape features, would further integrate the schemes into the landscape. Potential intervisibility would likely be further reduced which would lessen the overall effects. Overall land take would remain resulting in the magnitude of impact remaining Low. However, it is judged that the significance of cumulative effect would reduce to Minor adverse at summer Year 15, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.52 Predicted effects upon the landscape character of the Project Site, that of the Twelve Acre Farm solar farm and the host LCA during the decommissioning would be equivalent to those experienced during construction for the duration of the decommissioning phase, with the small exception of the landscape proposals having reached maturity, which would offer further screening of low-level works within the localised views. The decommissioning of the Project and Twelve Acre scheme, should there a temporal overlap of the decommissioning phase, is not anticipated to cause any significant effects upon the landscape.

8.11.53 Assuming both schemes are fully removed, with the Project Sites restored to agricultural land / improved grassland habitats, which would have been maintained and enhanced as part of the Project, returning the area to its predevelopment (baseline) condition. With the proposed mitigation and biodiversity enhancements would have a long-term beneficial effect upon the Project Site of the Project. It is assumed that mitigation proposed as part of the Twelve Acre scheme would have a similar long-term beneficial effect.

8.11.54 There would be no significant cumulative effects upon the landscape resource during decommissioning.

20/01734/OUT Land North Of A40 Section From Barnard Gate To Eynsham Roundabout Eynsham Oxfordshire (Oxfordshire Garden Village)

8.11.55 Representative Viewpoints detailed above, which may have views of the Project and the Lan Nort of A40 include 29, 30 and 31. With a number of other more distant Representative Viewpoints having possible views of both schemes. Though many other views, such as viewpoint 28, have intervening vegetation and topographical variation which would limit potential cumulative views.

Construction phase

8.11.56 The Oxfordshire Garden Village would be entirely located within the same landscape character area as the majority of the central section of the Project, LCA 11: Eynsham Vale. Although a different type of development, a mixed-use residential led development, it would occupy a large area immediately to the west of the Project. As such, cumulatively a large area of the LCA would be developed and altered to that of an energy infrastructure and a large scale residential led development. The inherent structure of the landscape would be retained so far as possible by both schemes.

8.11.57 Should there be a temporal overlap with the construction phases, there would be a noticeable landscape and visual cumulative effect as a result. With the Oxfordshire Garden Village is n proximity to the southwest of the central section of the Project. Therefore, construction activities, including construction traffic using the same routes, would be noticeable within the local landscape. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact upon the LCA. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.58 Due to the proximity of the Oxfordshire Garden Village site, to the southwest of the Project, the ZTV (Figures 8.7 to 8.11) indicates the potential for high intervisibility between the two schemes. Although confined to a relatively small area of the surrounding landscape, due to the scale of the respective schemes they would likely be noticeable from a number of locations. Retained vegetation and intervening landform would visually break up the overall mass of the developments, which would result in parts of the surrounding landscape where the developments as a whole would be visible in the same view being limited.

8.11.59 At winter Year I, due to the proximity and scale of the developments, there would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon LCA 11 and a number of visual receptors in the local landscape. Leading to a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect. This effect is not significant.

8.11.60 At summer Year 15, it is assumed that mitigation and designed in landscaping in bit developments would have reached maturity. This would further break up the developments and lessen their visual impact. However, covering such a large area, the landscape effects would remain. There would continue to be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result. However, it is anticipated that the

significance of effect would reduce to Minor adverse over time, which is not significant. Ding the lifetime of the Land West of Botley scheme, it is likely that this would become less visually prominent than the Oxfordshire Garden Village. Owing to the low-lying nature of the solar panels and the potential larger scale structure within a mixed use development.

Decommissioning Phase

8.11.61 Following the life span of the Land West of Botley solar farm, approximately 40 years, the landscape within the Project Site would be returned to agriculture. Conversely, the Oxfordshire Garden Village would remain a permanent development within the local landscape. As such, there would be no cumulative effects at decommissioning.

15/00761/FUL (EW2) West Eynsham Strategic Development Area

8.11.62 It is anticipated that there would be no Representative Viewpoints, detailed above, which would have views of the Project and Land at Bicester Road that would have a discernible view of both schemes within the same view.

8.11.63 The Application Site for the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area is located approximately 738m to the northwest of the Project cable routes, and some 1.7km to the southwest, at its nearest point, from the solar arrays within the southernmost parts of the Central Site near Eynsham / Cassington. The Eynsham Strategic Development Area would be located within the same West Oxfordshire District Council Landscape Character Area (11. Eynsham Vale) as that of the majority of the Projects' Central Site. There would therefore be a direct cumulative landscape effect upon this local LCA as a result. It would be in a different Landscape Character Area to that of the Northern and Southern Sites.

Construction Phase

8.11.64 The ZTV (Figures 8.7 to 8.11), indicates that there would be very limited potential intervisibility between the Eynsham Strategic Development Area and any part of the Project. It is anticipated that no part of the Projects Northern and Central Sites would be discernible in combination with this cumulative scheme. Due to the scheme's location relative to parts of the Project and intervening the development of Eynsham. When viewed from higher ground to the southeast, Representative Viewpoint 53 for example, there would be the potential to see the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area in combination with the Projects Southern Site.

8.11.65 At a distance of more than 4 km however, at its nearest point, although theoretically visible in combination, the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area would represent a barely discernible feature within views. The Projects Southern Site would therefore be more noticeable and have a greater effect upon views.

8.11.66 If there is a temporal overlap with the construction phases, due to the separation of the schemes, construction activities would not be a prominent

feature in views. With in combination views only available from a few distant receptors to the southeast. Where views are available it is anticipated that the southern section of the Project would have a more noticeable effect upon views due to the distance to the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area. There would be a temporary Negligible magnitude of impact upon a limited number of visual receptors. Resulting in a Negligible adverse significance of cumulative effect, approaching No Effect. This effect is not significant.

22/01715/OUT Land South of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road

8.11.67 There would be limited Representative Viewpoints, identified above, that would have a noticeable view of the Project and Land South of Perdiswell Farm within the same view. Representative Viewpoints 18 and 36 are looking in the direction of both schemes. However, intervening vegetation and topographical variation would limit views of both schemes.

Construction phase

8.11.68 The Land South of Perdiswell development would be entirely located within the Estate Farmlands landscape character area, as derived from the Cherwell Landscape Character Sensitivity and Capacity Study Assessment (2017). A small part of the central section of the Project would be similarly located within this character area. At its northernmost point near to the A44 / Bladon. There would be a direct cumulative landscape characterising effect upon this small character area. The ZTV of the Project, Figures 8.7 to 8.11, has indicated that there would be potential intervisibility between the two schemes due to the proximity of them. With the topographical variation and existing settlement and vegetation visually separating the majority of the Project and Land South of Perdiswell scheme. As such, there would be cumulative visual effects as a result.

8.11.69 Should there be a temporal overlap with the construction phases, there would be a noticeable landscape and visual cumulative effect, at a local level, as a result. With the Land South of Perdiswell Farm in proximity to the northernmost parts of the central section of the Project. Therefore, construction activities, including construction traffic using the same routes, would be noticeable within the local landscape. There would be a temporary Medium magnitude of impact upon this small character area. Resulting in a Moderate adverse significance of effect, which is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.70 Due to the proximity of the Land South of Perdiswell Farm site, to the central section of the Project, the ZTV (Figure 8.7 to 8.11) indicates the potential for high intervisibility between the two schemes. Although confined to a relatively small area of the surrounding landscape, due to the scale of the respective schemes they would likely be noticeable from a number of locations at a local level, such as from the A44 on approach to Bladon. Retained vegetation and intervening landform would break up the overall mass of the developments, which would result in parts of the surrounding landscape where the developments as a whole would be visible in the same view being limited.

8.11.71 At winter Year 1, due to the proximity and scale of the developments, there would be a Medium magnitude of impact upon the Estate Farmlands landscape character area and a number of visual receptors in the local landscape. Leading to a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect. This effect is not significant.

8.11.72 At summer Year 15, it is assumed that mitigation and designed in landscaping in both developments would have reached maturity. This would further break up the developments and lessen their visual impact. However, covering such a large area, the landscape effects would remain. There would continue to be a Medium magnitude of impact as a result. However, it is anticipated that the significance of effect would reduce to Minor adverse over time, which is not significant. During the lifetime of the Land West of Botley scheme, it is likely that this would become less visually prominent than the Land South of Perdiswell Farm. Owing to the low-lying nature of the solar panels and the potential larger scale structures within a residential development.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.73 Following the life span of the land west of Botley West Solar Farm, approximately 40 years, the landscape within the Project Site would be returned to agriculture. However, land south of Perdiswell Farm would remain a permanent residential development within the local landscape. As such, there would be no cumulative effects at decommissioning.

Tier 2 Projects

P23/V2624/FUL Red House Farm, Botley

8.11.74 Located directly to the north of the southern section of the Project, there would be noticeable views to the Project and Red House Farm scheme from Representative Viewpoint 46. With more distant, but still may be discernible, within views including Representative Viewpoint 44 and 46.

Construction phase

8.11.75 Red House Farm, Botley, would be entirely located within landscape character area (LM20) as a small part of the southern section of the Project. There would therefore be a direct cumulative effect upon this small landscape character area as a result. Due to the proximity of the schemes, there is likely to be indirect perceptual effects upon landscape character area LM19, within which the majority of the southern section of the Project is located. Red House Farm, Botley is of a similar scale to the southern section of the Project and occupies the majority of LCA LM20. A small character area to the immediate north of the Project, occupied by a small part of the northernmost parts of the Project. As such, Red House Farm would have a greater effect upon the landscape of LM20 than the Project.

8.11.76 Where available, views of the construction sites would be seen as a continuous site due to the proximity of them. With retained vegetation and topographical variation breaking up the overall scale.

8.11.77 Should there be a temporal overlap with the construction phases, construction activities would be seen at a local level with no obvious distinction between the two sites. Where views are available, due to the similar nature and scale of the Projects southern section and the Red House Farm solar farm, it is anticipated that no one scheme would have a greater effect upon the local landscape and visual receptors. Rather, it would be seen as a continuous development. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact upon a limited number of visual receptors. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect for a Medium to High sensitivity dynamic visual receptors. This effect is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.78 Although the majority of this cumulative scheme would be located in a different character area to that of the Project (Southern Site), being located immediately to the north and of an equivalent size there would be an effect upon these relatively small character areas as a result. Both schemes would also be a noticeable addition to the landscape, when viewed from the south. Covering a relatively large area of land, there would be a Medium magnitude of direct cumulative impact upon the landscape character and available views. This would result in a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect, which would not be significant. Being of a similar size, it is considered that both the Project and cumulative scheme would contribute equally to these effects.

8.11.79 With generally elevated views from the south, at summer Year 15, although broken up a little by proposed planting, it is anticipated that both schemes would remain a noticeable feature in the landscape. Resulting in a Medium magnitude of impact, with the overall significance of cumulative effect reducing slightly to Minor adverse, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.80 Effects of decommissioning would be equivalent to those of the construction phase. Assuming land would be returned to the existing (baseline) situation of agricultural land and Farmoor Reservoir returned to an open water body, there would be no significant cumulative effects upon visual receptors wit he potential for sequential views of the scheme. Landscape mitigation implemented as part of the Project would continue to have a long-term beneficial effect within the local landscape.

National Grid Substation

8.11.81 There would be limited Representative Viewpoints, identified above, that would have a noticeable view of the NGET, located at the western edge of the southern site, and the Project within the same view. Views are more likely to be sequential, with viewers having to alter their field of view to see the Project then the NGET. Representative Viewpoints 46, 50 and 51 are looking in the general direction of both schemes. However, intervening vegetation and topographical variation would limit views of both schemes.

Construction phase

8.11.82 The NGET would be entirely located within landscape character area (LM19) as is the southern section of the Project. There would therefore be a direct cumulative effect upon this small landscape character area as a result. The NGET is of a larger scale to the project substation set within the southern section of the Project but would occupy a smaller part of the overall character area. As such, the southern section of the Project would have a greater effect upon the landscape of LM19 than the NGET.

8.11.83 Where available, predominantly sequentially, views of the construction sites would be seen as a continuous site due to the proximity of them. With retained vegetation and topographical variation breaking up the overall scale.

8.11.84 Should there be a temporal overlap with the construction phases, construction activities would be seen at a local level with no obvious distinction between the two sites. Where views are available, due to the similar nature and scale of the Projects southern section and the NGET, it is anticipated that no one scheme would have a greater effect upon the local landscape and visual receptors. Rather, it would be seen as a continuous development. There would be a temporary Low magnitude of impact upon a limited number of visual receptors. Resulting in a Minor adverse significance of effect for a Medium to High sensitivity dynamic visual receptors. This effect is not significant.

Operation and maintenance phase

8.11.85 With the NGET scheme located in the same character area (LM19) to that of the majority of the Project (Southern Site), being located immediately to the west and of a comparable size, or slightly bigger than the Project substation, there would be an effect upon this small character area as a result. Both schemes would also be a noticeable addition to the landscape, when viewed from the north and south in sequential views. Covering a relatively large area of land, there would be a Medium magnitude of direct cumulative impact upon the landscape character and available views. This would result in a Moderate adverse significance of cumulative effect, which would not be significant. It is considered that the southern section of the Project be a greater contributor to these effects. Albeit that the structure of the NGET would be of a larger scale and potentially more noticeable in some views.

8.11.86 With generally elevated views from the south, at summer Year 15, although broken up a little by proposed planting, it is anticipated that both schemes would remain a noticeable feature in the landscape. Resulting in a Medium magnitude of impact, with the overall significance of cumulative effect reducing slightly to Minor adverse, which is not significant.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.87 Effects of decommissioning would be equivalent to those of the construction phase. Assuming land, within the Project, would be returned to the existing (baseline) situation of agricultural land. With the NGET substation retained and its operation continued, there would be no significant cumulative effects upon visual receptors, with effects from the NGET remaining. Landscape mitigation

implemented as part of the Project would continue to have a long-term beneficial effect within the local landscape.

8.12 Transboundary effects

8.12.1 As per the scoping report, it was concluded that the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or cumulatively on the environment in a European Economic Area State (EEA states) and therefore a transboundary assessment is not proposed in the ES.

8.13 Inter-related effects

8.13.1 Inter-relationships are the impacts and associated effects of different aspects of the Project on the same receptor. These are as follows.

- Project lifetime effects: Assessment of the scope for effects that occur throughout more than one phase of the Project (construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning), to interact to potentially create a more significant effect on a receptor than if just assessed in isolation in these three phases (e.g., construction noise effects from piling, operational substation noise, and decommissioning disturbance).
- Receptor led effects: Assessment of the scope for all effects (including inter-relationships between environmental topics) to interact, spatially and temporally, to create inter-related effects on a receptor. As an example, all effects on Landscape and Visual Resources, such as vegetation loss or disturbance, may interact to produce a different, or greater effect on this receptor than when the effects are considered in isolation. Receptor-led effects may be short term, temporary or transient effects, or incorporate longer term effects.

8.13.2 A description of the likely interactive effects arising from the Project on Landscape and Visual Resources is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 19: Cumulative Effects and Inter-relationships of the ES.

8.13.3 **Table 8.23** lists the inter-related effects (project lifetime effects) that are predicted to arise during the construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Project, and also the inter-related effects (receptor-led effects that are predicted to arise for Landscape and Visual Resources and receptors.

Table 8.23: Summary of likely significant inter-related effects

Description of impact	Phase			Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
	C	O	D		
Removal of sections of hedgerow to accommodate the Project. Including maintenance access points throughout the three sections of the Project, totalling approximately 706.3 linear metres.	✓	✓	✓	The removal of hedgerow would result in the loss of habitat throughout the Project site, affecting the linkages to other existing habitats, such as woodland blocks. The removal of hedgerows would also have an effect upon the physical landscape character and potential intervisibility with the Project where removal occurs in the	Minor adverse

Description of impact	Phase C	Phase O	Phase D	Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
				vicinity of PRoW and other receptors. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at sections 8.8.11 and 8.8.103 above and Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation.	
Areas of the Project removed to accommodate known areas of archaeological interest.	✓	✓	✓	A number of areas, shaded orange within the masterplan (see figures 2.1 to 2.4), have been left free of solar arrays. Where this occurs, particularly near to sensitive visual receptors, there would be some beneficial effect upon visual receptors as well as the physical archaeology. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at sections 8.8.11 and 8.8.103 above and Chapter 7: Historic Environment.	Negligible beneficial
Effects on public rights of way (PRoW)	✓	✓	✓	The Landscape and Visual Resources chapter assesses the visual effects upon specific visual receptor groups, including PRoW users. The effects upon the PRoW network itself is considered within Chapter 17: Agricultural Land Use and Public Rights of Way. No PRoW are to be permanently closed or diverted as part of the Project, with only temporary diversions in place during construction in some locations. A number of additional sections of Permissive footpaths and cycleways are proposed as part of the Project improving the overall connectivity with the existing network. Such as Bladon village to the A44. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at sections 8.8.11 and 8.8.103 above and Chapter 17: Agricultural Land Use and Public Rights of Way.	Negligible beneficial
Effects upon agricultural land	✓	✓	✓	The Project will result in the loss of a large area of agricultural land, for the life of the Project, anticipated to be 40 years. The loss of agricultural land would also have an effect upon the physical landscape character and visual amenity of the area. Following decommissioning, the landscape would be returned to agriculture, where it is anticipated that the lack of intensive farming would have some beneficial effects upon the quality of the soil. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at sections 8.8.11 and 8.8.103 above and Chapter 17: Agricultural Land Use and Public Rights of Way.	Moderate adverse

8.14 Summary of Effects, mitigation measures and monitoring

8.14.1 Information on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment within the Study Area was collected through a desktop review of published information and other available data, site surveys and through consultation.

8.14.2 **Table 8.24** presents a summary of the potential impacts, measures adopted as part of the Project and residual effects in respect to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The impacts assessed include potential impacts of the Project upon Landscape and Visual resources and receptors within the 5 km Study Area. Of the 55 Representative Viewpoints assessed as part of the Environmental Statement, it is concluded that there will be 12 significant visual effects at winter Year 1 (following the Construction phase of the Project) only, from views available at Representative Viewpoints 5b, 5c, 13, 17, 25, 26, 32, 33, 38, 39, 50 and 54 arising from the Project during the operation and maintenance phase.

8.14.3 **Table 8.26** presents a summary of the potential cumulative impacts, mitigation measures and residual effects. The cumulative impacts assessed include potential impacts of the Project upon Landscape and Visual resources and receptors within the 5 km Study Area in combination with the identified cumulative schemes.

8.14.4 A Summary of the LVIA findings, is set out below:

- The Project is located within multiple landscape character areas / types, as derived from the available local authority landscape character assessment(s). There would be a Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) significance of effect upon those landscape character areas as a whole within which the Project is located. At a local level, landscape characterising effects upon the Project site, within a small part of the LCA(s) is considered to be Moderate adverse (not significant.
- The assessment has taken account of the landscape baseline situation, with the essential landscape structure in terms of existing vegetation being retained, protected and enhanced as part of the Project.
- No significant effects are predicted during construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the Botley West Project on landscape character areas within the 5 km study area.
- No significant effects are predicted during construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the Botley West Project on nationally designated landscapes, including the Cotswolds National Landscape.
- Of the 55 Representative Viewpoints assessed as part of the Environmental Statement, it is concluded that there will be 12 Major adverse (significant) visual effects at winter Year 1 (following the Construction phase of the Project) only, from views available at Representative Viewpoints 5b, 5c, 13, 17, 25, 26, 32, 33, 38, 39, 50 and 54 arising from the Project during the operation and maintenance phase. These effects would diminish other time, with no residual significant visual effects predicted at summer Year 15.

- In accordance with the LVIA methodology, landscape and visual effects has been assessed at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15. Although 12 significant effects have been identified, as detailed above, by Year 15 these are anticipated to be not significant. However, it is reasonable to assume that these effects would start to diminish by year 5. As it is anticipated that new hedgerow planting, planted at a height of 60-90 cm, would achieve a growth rate of approximately 30 cm per year. Therefore, by year 5 of the Project, it is anticipated that newly established hedgerows, if suitably manged, would have achieved a height of approximately 2 to 3 metres and therefore screen views to much of the Project.
- The cumulative assessment has considered the addition of the Botley West Project to 13 consented and / or planned Tier 1 schemes, refer to Table 8.26 below. It is concluded that there will be no significant cumulative effects from the Project alongside other projects/plans.
- A total of 12 significant effects, detailed above, have been identified. Of the remaining 43 Representative Viewpoints, no other significant effects have been identified. On balance, it is considered that the quality and character of the landscape and visual resources would largely be maintained and would have the capacity to accommodate the Project without significant effects beyond hose identified at a very local level or where it would be difficult to entirely mitigate visual effects. In addition, proposed planting would have a longer-term benefit reinforcing the landscape character of the local landscape.

Table 8.24: Summary of potential environmental effects, mitigation and monitoring.

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Project Site	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	Medium to High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
LCA 4: Eastern Parks and Valleys	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
LCA 11: Eynsham Vale	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
LM 19: Whitley Copse to Chawley Corallian Limestone Ridge	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Cotswolds National Landscape (AONB)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible to Minor adverse (indirect) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (indirect)	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse (indirect) D: Negligible to Minor adverse (indirect)	n/a
Public Rights of Way (within or immediately adjacent to Project)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium	High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
		D: Low to Medium					
Public Rights of Way (close to the Project)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium D: Low to Medium	High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Public Rights of Way (distant)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible to Low O: Negligible to Low D: Negligible to Low	High	C: Negligible to Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
Dynamic Receptors (road users)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Negligible to Low D: Negligible to Low	Low to Medium	C: Negligible to Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
Northern Site							
Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south from bridleway 365/4/30	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D:	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/10 (part of NCN Route 5)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: No Change O: No Change D: No Change	High	C: No Effect O: No Effect		O: No Effect D: No Effect	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 3: View southeast from footpath 416/10/60, near Wootton down Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 4: View east from footpath 416/22/20, near Lower Dornford Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 5a: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/20 (Claude Duval Wau) part of NCN Route 5	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 5b: View looking east from footpath 416/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Representative Viewpoint 5c: View looking west from footpath 416/5/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking west from footpath 379/7/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking southeast from footpath 416/17/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking southeast from footpath 416/24/10, near Hordley House	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north from footpath 379/1/10 (Oxfordshire Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking west from	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
footpath 379/1/20 (Oxfordshire Way)							
Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking west from bridleway 379/19/20 (Claude Duval Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Medium D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking northeast from footpath 413/1/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking northeast from bridleway 342/1/10, near Banbury Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking west from bridleway 342/1/30 near the A 4260 main road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from footpath 342/6/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Central Site							

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking south from A44, near Bladon	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	Low to Medium	C: Negligible adverse O: Negligible adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse D: Negligible adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking west from footpath 265/24/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low to Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 18: View looking northeast from footpath 132/3/10, near Bladon	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 19: View looking southeast from the A4095 local road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Low to Medium	C: Negligible to Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Negligible adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 20: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10, near Long Hanborough	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse D: Negligible adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 21: View looking southeast	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
from footpath 238/1/10 near Pinsley Wood		D: Medium					
Representative Viewpoint 22: View looking southeast from footpath 238/2/20 at the edge of Lower Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse		O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 23: View looking northeast from footpath 238/2/20, near Pinsley Wood	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 24: View looking east from footpath 238/5/20 near Church Hanborough	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low to Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Moderate	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 25: View looking south from footpath 238/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 26: View	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
looking north from footpath 238/5/20		D: Medium					
Representative Viewpoint 27: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 28: View looking east from footpath 216/4/10 near Elm Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 29: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10, at Acre Hill	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse D: Negligible adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 30: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10 at Ace Hill	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse		O: No Effect D: No Effect	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 31: View looking north from bridleway 206/9/10 near Lower Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible to Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse		O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Representative Viewpoint 32: View looking northeast from footpath 124/5/10, near Begbroke	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Medium D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Major adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 33: View looking southeast from footpath 152/7/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 34: View looking west from footpath 420/14/10 (Shakespeare's Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 35: View looking west from footpath 420/14/20 (Shakespeare's Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 36: View looking southwest from footpath 237/1/10 near Bletchington	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse		O: No Effect D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 37a: View	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse		O: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
looking east from footpath 152/6/10 near Goose Eye Farm		O: Medium D: Medium		O: Moderate adverse		D: Moderate adverse	
Representative Viewpoint 37b: View looking north from footpath 152/6/10 near Goose Eye Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 38: View looking west from footpath 152/6/10 near Purwell Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 39: View looking southeast from footpath 152/6/10 near Purwell Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate to Major adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 40: View looking northwest from footpath 152/6/10, near Cassington	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 41: View looking west from	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium	Low to Medium	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Yarnton Road on the outskirts of Cassington		D: Medium					
Representative Viewpoint 42: View looking northwest from footpath 419/1/10, Oxford Green Belt Way	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 43: View looking northwest from permissive path through Wytham Woods	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Southern Site							
Representative Viewpoint 44: View looking southwest from permissive path through Wytham Woods	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 45: View looking southeast from footpath 184/48/10 at the edge of Farmoor Reservoir	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Representative Viewpoint 46: View looking south from footpath 184/15/10 near Eynsham Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 47: View looking southeast from footpath 184/22/10 (Oxfordshire Greenbelt Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 48: View looking south from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low D: Low	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 49: View looking southwest from footpath	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 50: View looking southeast from footpath 184/50/20, Oxford Green Belt Way	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: High D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Major adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
adjacent Farmoor Reservoir							
Representative Viewpoint 51: View looking northeast from footpath 184/29/10 near Upper Whitley Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 52: View looking north from the B4017 Tumbledown Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Low to Medium	C: Negligible to Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse		O: Negligible adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 53: View looking north from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 54: View looking north from footpath 184/16/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Major adverse		O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 55: View looking northwest from footpath	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse O: Negligible adverse		O: Negligible adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a

Description of impact	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
184/18/20 near Cumnor							

[a] C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

Table 8.25: Summary of potential cumulative environmental effects, mitigation and monitoring.

Description of effect	Phase C O D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and Winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (Summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
Tier 1							
20/01734/OUT (EW1) Salt Cross Garden Village	✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: n/a	n/a
21/00189/FUL Land North of Hill Rise, Woodstock	✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a
21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock	✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a

Description of effect	Phase C	Phase O	Phase D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and Winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (Summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
22/00747/OUT Land at Bicester Road, Kidlington	✓	✓		C: Negligible O: Negligible D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Negligible adverse O: Negligible adverse		O: No Effect D: n/a	n/a
21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane Yarnton	✓	✓		C: Low O: Negligible D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse		O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a
23/00517/F New Science Park West of junction with The Boulevard, Oxford Airport, Langford Lane	✓	✓		C: Low O: Low D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Negligible adverse D: n/a	n/a
19/02516/FUL Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm	✓	✓	✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
20/01817/FUL Land Between Woodstock Sewage Works and B4027	✓	✓		C: Low O: Low D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse		O: Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a

Description of effect	Phase C	Phase O	Phase D	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and Winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (Summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)	Proposed monitoring
20/01734/OUT Land North Of A40 Section From Barnard Gate To Eynsham Roundabout Eynsham Oxfordshire	✓	✓		C: Low O: Medium D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a
P23/V2624/SCR Red House Farm, Botley	✓	✓	✓	C: Low O: Medium D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
22/01715/OUT Land South of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road	✓	✓		C: Medium O: Medium D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a
National Grid (NGET) substation	✓	✓		C: Medium O: Medium D: n/a	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Moderate adverse		O: Minor adverse D: n/a	n/a

[a] C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

8.15 References

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