Botley West Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1

Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

October 2025

PINS Ref: EN010147
Document Ref: EN010147/APP/6.3
Revision 4
APFP Regulation 5(2)(a); Planning Act 2008; and Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations

Approval for issue

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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.
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.

Term	Meaning
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.
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).

Term	Meaning
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
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

Abbreviation	Meaning
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
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 8.5.35** 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 8.5.35** 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 8.5.35** 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 8.6.54 to 8.6.57.
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 8.9.88, with potential cumulative effects dealt with at paragraphs 0 to **Error! Reference source not found.**.

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".*	The Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Figure prj-01-0401 to 0407) details the intended landscape strategy for the Project. Including retained landscape elements and features.
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".*	The Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Figure prj-01-0401 to 0407) details the intended landscape strategy for the Project. Including retained landscape elements and features.

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…"*	The Illustrative Landscape Masterplan (Figure prj-01-0401 to 0407) details the intended landscape strategy for the Project. Including retained landscape elements and features.
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

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
		accessible location(s) and / direction of view. Also, in some cases the Important Views did not fall within the ZTV for the Project 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*	An assessment of landscape effects is detailed at Section 8.9.

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	Landscape. CE1.4. Rural skills training and the utilisation of those skills – such as dry stone walling, stonemasonry, traditional 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. A standalone Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been produced. Ref EN010147/APP/17.13.

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,*	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
any removal of vegetation. The cable route may be 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	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
It is unclear from Scoping Report Section 7.4 whether panels are intended to be raised to avoid 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 The assessment methodology used within the Botley West Environmental Statement (ES) is based on the DMRB (National Highways, Standards for Highways) as set out in paragraph 4.2.9 of Chapter 4: Approach to Environmental assessment **[APP-041].** The two relevant documents published as part of the National Highways Standards are LA104 – Environmental assessment and monitoring (revision 1) (August 2020) and LA107 – Landscape and visual effects (revision 2) (February 2020).

8.4.2 The definitions for the magnitude of landscape impact/change are set out at Table 3.24 of LA107. The definitions for the degree of impact experienced by visual receptors are set out in Table 3.41 of LA107.

8.4.3 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been based on DMRB, as set out above, but has been necessarily adapted in line with best practice guidance as set out in GLVIA3 and subsequent Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) LITGN-2024-01. GLVIA3 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

8.4.4 The assessment method for this LVIA draws upon best practice guidance, including the following:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013);
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition (GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, August 2024);
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations Technical Guidance Note 02/21(Landscape Institute, 2021);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014);

- Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, May 2021); and,
- Highways England, Transport Scotland, Welsh Government, Department for Infrastructure (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 104, Environmental assessment and monitoring, Revision 1 and LA107 Landscape and Visual Effects.

Scope of the Assessment

8.4.5 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**.

8.4.6 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 (including NGET substation). • 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.

Activity	Potential effects scoped into the assessment
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; • 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 ; • 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.	Direct and indirect temporary effects on landscape character during the day. Direct temporary effects on visual amenity of receptors during the day

8.4.7 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

8.4.8 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.

8.4.9 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.

8.4.10 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.

8.4.11 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.

8.4.12 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

8.4.13 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.

8.4.14 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.

8.4.15 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.

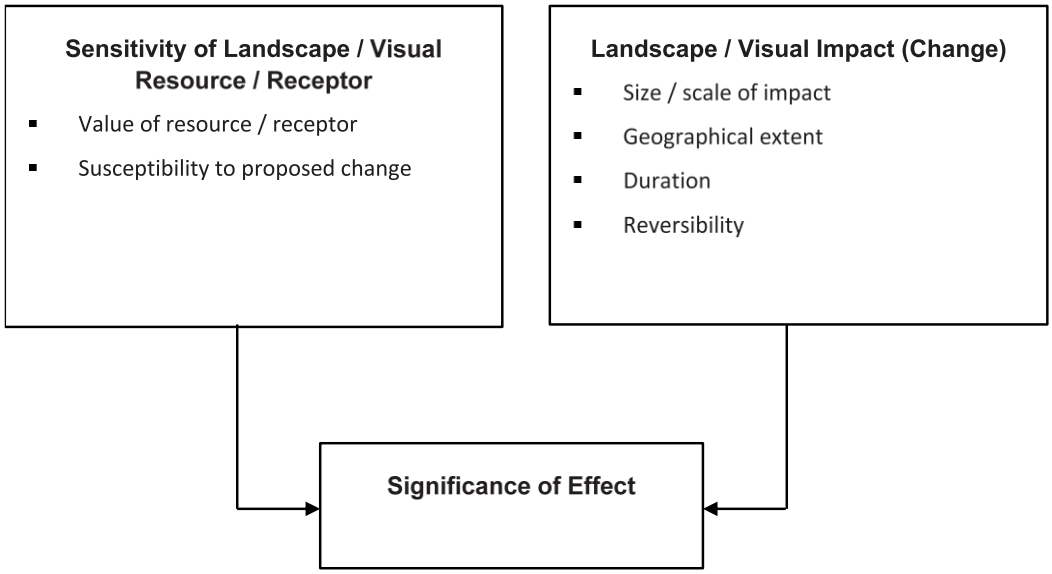


Diagram 1: Assessment Methodology Summary

Nature of Effects and Nature of Receptors

8.5.4 As identified in the GLVIA3, landscape and visual effects are identified by establishing and describing the changes resulting from the different components of the development and the resulting effects on individual landscape or visual receptors. Assessment of the level of effects takes account of the nature of the effects ('**magnitude**'), as well as the nature of the receptors ('**sensitivity**') and differentiates between them according to the phases (construction, operational and demolition) of the development in which they would occur (GLVIA3, Box 3.1).

8.5.5 Effects are also defined as **direct and indirect**. Direct landscape effects relate to the host landscape and concern both physical and perceptual effects on the receptor.

8.5.6 Indirect landscape effects relate to those landscapes and receptors which are separated by distance or are remote from the development and therefore are only affected in terms of perceptual effects. The Landscape Institute also defines indirect effects as those which are not a direct result of the development but are often produced away from it or as a result of a complex pathway.

8.5.7 Visual effects are considered as direct effects, as the view itself may be directly altered by the Project.

8.5.8 The aim of the LVIA is to provide an objective assessment of the relationship between the Project and the landscape in which it would be located and seen. As part of this, it is also important to consider the nature of the proposed change in the context of the key characteristics of the landscape. Being a large-scale development added to the landscape, it is unlikely that a beneficial nature of effect would be found, but neutral effects could occur where it is considered the Project does not change the defining characteristics of the landscape and/or has been well absorbed/integrated into its surrounding context.

8.5.9 Generally, with the development of 'new' or large-scale industrial developments, a precautionary approach has been adopted, which assumes that significant landscape and visual effects are weighed on the adverse side of the planning balance. Unless it is stated otherwise, the effects considered in this assessment have been considered to be adverse.

8.5.10 Whether an effect is Beneficial, Neutral or Adverse is identified based on professional judgement. GLVIA3, indicates at paragraph 2.15 that this is a "particularly challenging" aspect of assessment, particularly in the context of a changing landscape.

8.5.11 The decision regarding the level of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate.

Receptor sensitivity/value

8.5.12 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).

8.5.13 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

8.5.14 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).

8.5.15 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	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above

Sensitivity	Typical Descriptors Visual Receptor Susceptibility	Value of View
	around Britain and overseas to experience the views.	
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 way are moderately sensitive to visual change.	See paragraph 8.5.4 and 8.5.6, above
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

8.5.16 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.

8.5.17 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

8.5.18 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).*

8.5.19 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.

8.5.20 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	Complete or very substantial change in view, dominant involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or

Magnitude of impact	Typical Descriptors Landscape Resource	Visual Resource
	landscape and/or introduction of dominant, uncharacteristic elements with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	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 but may not necessarily be substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape.	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 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.	

Duration and reversibility

8.5.21 The duration and reversibility of landscape and visual effects are based on the period over which the Project is likely to exist (during construction and operation) and the extent to which the Project will be removed (during decommissioning), with effects reversed at the end of that period. The duration of the impact is described using the following terms:

- long-term – more than 10 years (may be defined as permanent or reversible);
- medium-term – 6 to 10 years; and
- short-term – 1 to 5 years.

Significance of effect

8.5.22 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.

8.5.23 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".*

8.5.24 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.

8.5.25 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.

8.5.26 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.

8.5.27 The matrix, at Table 8.12, 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.

8.5.28 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

8.5.29 The Botley West Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment significance of effects matrix is based on this DMRB matrix, albeit adapted to reflect GLVIA3 terminology. The 'No Change' column has also been removed, as LVIA assessment concentrates on potential significant effects in line with Schedule 4(5) of the EIA regulations which requires *"A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment"*.

8.5.30 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.

8.5.31 Where the landscape or visual impact has been classified as Major and Major to Moderate this is considered to be equivalent to a significant effect. Moderate effects may or may not be significant, depending on the particular circumstances arising and professional judgement. In this instance justification has been provided in the receptor assessment.

8.5.32 It should also be noted that whilst an effect may be significant, that does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an "*undue consequence*" (GLVIA3, paragraph 5.40). 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.

Assumptions and limitations of the assessment

8.5.33 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.

8.5.34 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.

8.5.35 Fieldwork was carried out on publicly accessible roads and did not involve visiting any of the properties or using their private access tracks. Therefore, assumptions in relation to the views from individual properties were made bearing in mind the worst-case scenario. Also, the assessment of visual effects is based on an estimate of worst-case scenario winter views, when trees have lost their leaves.

8.5.36 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 8.13**. Baseline information on trees is provided in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3: Strategic Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Method Statement **[EN010147/APP/6.5]**.

8.6.2 Baseline information included in the following section has been expanded as a response to written representations received and / or due to updated baseline studies that have been published post submission.

Table 8.13: 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	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

Title	Source	Year	Author
Capacity Assessment			
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	HDA 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
West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031	https://westoxfordshire.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=e1c98b708d3f45feaec1cca13833cdac	2018	West Oxfordshire District Council
Landscape Character Assessment For Cherwell District	https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1804/cherwell-landscape-character-assessment-2024	2024	Cherwell District Council
Vale of White Horse Landscape Character Assessment	https://south-and-vale-landscape-character-assessment-luc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/79b6d7085966480baf826750355dbf93	2024	LUC for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

Landscape Character

National Landscape Caracter Areas (NCA)

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

8.6.4 Figure 8.244 identifies the NCA within a 5 km Study Area.

8.6.5 Detailed descriptions of these LCA / LCT can be found in Appendix 8.1 of the ES.

8.6.6 The northern section of the Project falls entirely within NCA 107: Cotswolds. The central (largest) and southern sections of the Project fall entirely within NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales.

8.6.7 The NCAs provide context to the assessment but given the scale of the NCAs, and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this NCA are not assessed further.

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 (RCAs) that are part of the National Joint Character Areas, which fall within Oxfordshire.

8.6.9 Three RCAs are located within the Study Area, covering the Project Site as shown in Figure 8.245, as follows:

- Cotswolds RCA of rolling hills, and extensive parklands.
- Midvale Ridge RCA of low-lying limestone hills with a mixed arable and pastoral landscape; and
- Upper Thames Vale RCA of low-lying clay vale landscape, characterized by its rolling topography and village settlements.

8.6.10 There are twenty-four separate landscape types (LTs) within the county, made up of individual landscape description units with a similar pattern of geology, topography, land use and settlements. Their names reflect their characteristic land cover.

8.6.11 The Project Site comprises eight LTs as listed below:

8.6.12 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.

8.6.13 Relevant information regarding the Key Characteristics, Forces For Change and Landscape Strategy guidelines is detailed in Appendix 8.1 for the eight Landscape Types.

8.6.14 The county-wide regional LCTs identified within the study area broadly correspond with those identified in the District-level Landscape Character Assessments. Due to the greater detail provided in the District assessments, effects on regional LCTs are not assessed further.

Local Landscape Character

8.6.15 The main sources for the landscape character baseline to inform judgements within the LVIA Study area based on the following studies:

- West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (1998);

- Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy Assessment and Strategy For West Oxfordshire (2016);
- Assessment For Cherwell District (2024);
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Renewable Energy Study Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2024);
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse (2024) and
- Cumnor Parish Neighbourhood Plan Important Views Report (2021).

8.6.16 The local LCAs and LCTs within the LVIA Study Area are shown in Figure 8.246.

West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment (1998)

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

- Open limestone wolds LCT (LCA4 Eastern Parks and Valleys);
- Semi-enclosed limestone wolds (large-scale) (LCA4 Eastern Parks and Valleys);
- Floodplain pasture LCT (LCA11 Eynsham Vale);
- Open flat vale farmland LCT (LCA11 Eynsham Vale);
- Semi-enclosed flat vale farmland LCT (LCA11 Eynsham Vale);
- Floodplain pasture LCT (LCA12 Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fingers); and,
- Semi-enclosed flat vale farmland LCT (LCA12 Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fingers).

In addition, the following LCTs appear within the Study Area:

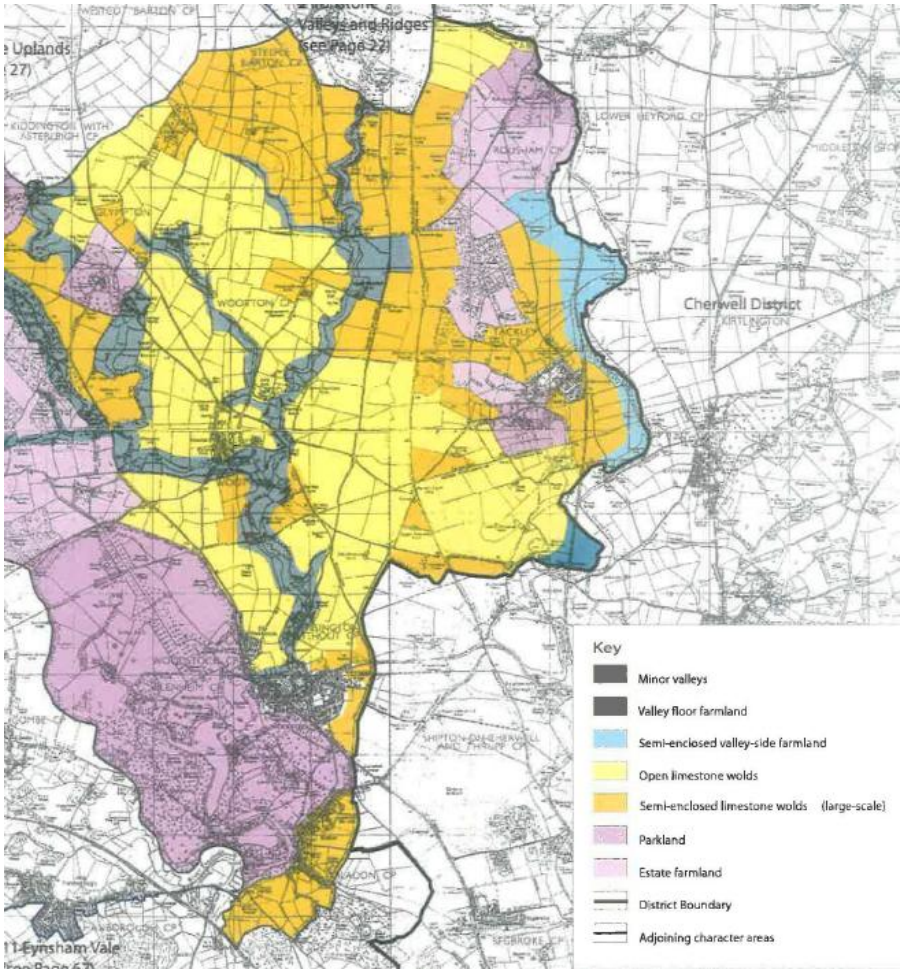
- Floodplain wetlands LCT,
- Minor valleys LCT,
- Open valley-side farmland LCT,
- Parkland and Estate farmland LCT,
- Semi-rolling vale farmland LCT,
- Semi-enclosed valley-side farmland LCT,
- Valley floor farmland LCT.

Eastern Parks and Valleys LCA

8.6.18 "*An area of rolling limestone landscape which is heavily dissected by the valleys of the Glyme, Dorn and Cherwell and distinguished by a particular concentration of formal parks, designed landscapes and estate farmland (Blenheim, Ditchley, Glympton, Kiddington, Rousham, etc). The parks have extensive areas of woodland and the landscape generally has a well-managed character typical of large estates. The parkland and estate landscapes are the*

dominant feature of this area, creating a large-scale mosaic of woodland and farmland within which are set the mansions and formal elements of the designed parkland landscape.

8.6.19 The northern section of the Project lies within the Open limestone wolds LCT and Semi-enclosed limestone wolds LCT.



Extract from West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment showing Eastern Parks and Valleys LCA

Open limestone wolds LCT

8.6.20 Key characteristics:

- large-scale, smoothly rolling farmland occupying the limestone plateau and dipslope;
- typically large or very large fields, with rectilinear pattern of dry-stone walls (typical of later enclosures and often in poor condition) and weak hedgerows, with frequent gaps and very few trees;
- productive farmland predominantly under intensive arable cultivation;
- thin, well-drained calcareous soils and sparse natural vegetation cover and a somewhat impoverished 'upland' character;
- very open and exposed character;

- distinctive elevated and expansive character in higher areas with dominant sky and sweeping views across surrounding areas;
- high intervisibility.

8.6.21 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *the large scale and generally simple form and land cover could potentially accommodate the large structure of turbines without notable detriment to the key characteristics of the landscape type however the high degree of intervisibility would require sensitive siting. Similarly, solar development may be readily accommodated although the open landscape offers little opportunity for screening without the introduction of less characteristic vegetation.*

Semi-enclosed limestone wolds (large-scale)

8.6.22 Key characteristics:

- large-scale, smoothly rolling farmland occupying the limestone plateau and dipslope;
- land use dominated by intensive arable cultivation with only occasional pasture;
- generally large-scale fields with rectilinear boundaries formed by dry-stone walls and low hawthorn hedges with occasional trees, typical of later enclosures;
- some visual containment provided by large blocks and belts of woodland creating a semi-enclosed character,
- thin, well-drained calcareous soils and sparse natural vegetation cover and a somewhat impoverished 'upland' character;
- ash, hazel, field maple etc. conspicuous in hedgerows;
- distinctive elevated and expansive character in higher areas, with dominant sky;
- moderate intervisibility.

8.6.23 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *likely that solar development could be readily accommodated in some areas due to scale and enclosure, and consequent opportunity for screening although more intimate areas are more susceptible.*

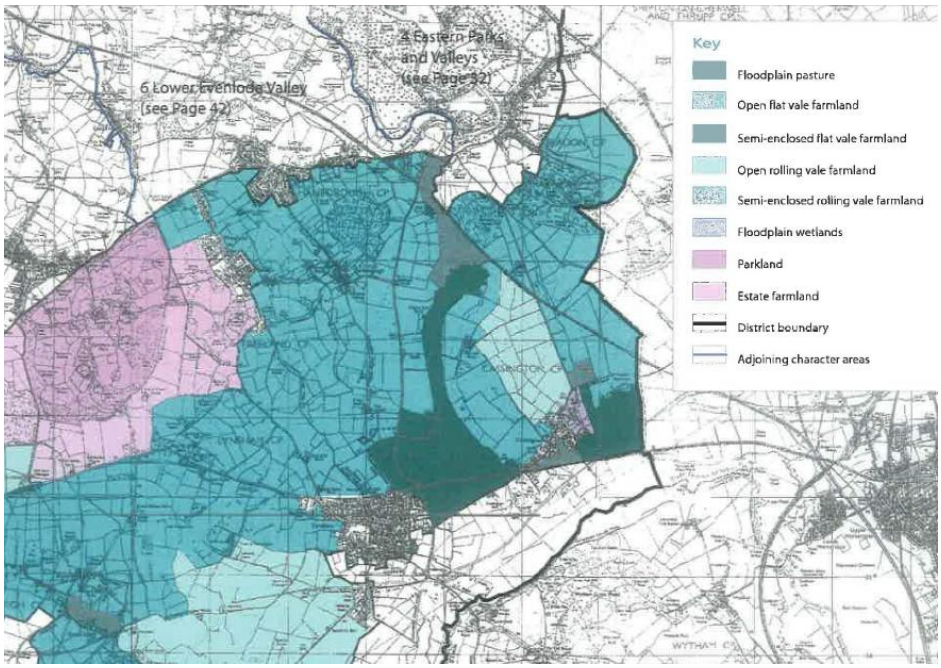
8.6.24 Although the Eastern Parks and Valleys LCA accommodates Blenheim world heritage site, it is not covered by any statutory landscape designations. The West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment identifies several features, mainly of conservation significance, which contribute to the overall value of the landscape. It considers parkland landscapes, including estate farmland and its component features, which have high scenic quality and high landscape value, and are therefore very sensitive to development. The West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment considers that unspoilt valley floor farmland and the minor valleys are of particularly high quality.

8.6.25 On this basis, **high landscape value** has been applied to the parkland LCT, estate farmland LCT, valley floor farmland LCT and the minor valleys LCT. The other LCTs are considered to have a **medium value**.

Eynsham Vale LCA

8.6.26 "*This area forms a low-lying area characterised by large-scale, subtly rolling farmland, with a strong landscape structure. This is particularly distinguished by extensive areas of woodland and a well-treed character dominated by the formal parkland and well-managed farmland of Eynshan Park and other large estates. The typical character of this area is defined by its low-lying and gentle relief and the patchwork of large, regularly shaped fields and comparatively strong structure of hedgerows and trees*".

8.6.27 The centre section of the Project lies within the vale farmland LCT and Semi-enclosed flat vale farmland LCT. The Floodplain pasture LCT within the application boundary is proposed for new planting / areas for enhancement (Illustrative Masterplan Figure 2.2C).



Extract from West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment showing Eynsham Vale LCA

Floodplain pasture LCT

8.6.28 Key characteristics:

- typically located immediately adjacent to rivers and minor watercourses on land prone to flooding, particularly in winter;
- distinctively flat, low-lying land (below 70m AOD);
- predominantly under permanent pasture with only occasional cultivated land;
- riparian character, with a strong pattern of ditches often lined by willow;

- landscape structure provided by lines and groups of mature trees, with willow and alder conspicuous;
- intimate, semi-enclosed and pastoral character,
- remote and tranquil with limited intrusion by people or buildings;
- moderate to low intervisibility.

8.6.29 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *there is limited scope to accommodate renewables development in this type. Some modest solar development may be able to be accommodated without causing undue consequences.*

Semi-enclosed Flat Vale Farmland

8.6.30 Key characteristics:

- drained and cultivated land (arable or reseeded grassland) within the floodplain;
- distinctively flat and low-lying;
- network of ditches;
- strong landscape structure of willow-lined ditches, hedgerows and occasional woodland blocks;
- semi-enclosed character with moderate to low intervisibility.

8.6.31 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *the extent of vegetation is likely to offer notable screening and degraded land associated with gravel extraction may provide opportunity, particularly for solar development*.

Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland LCT

8.6.32 Key characteristics:

- low-lying land off floodplain floor (generallyabove 70m AOD) with a discernible raised landform;
- well-drained, productive land underlain by river terrace gravels ;
- mostly large-scale fields under arable with regular field boundaries but some smaller scale pattern and pasture (especially around settlements) ;
- stronger structure of hedgerows, trees and occasional belts or blocks of woodland;
- semi-enclosed character;
- moderate intervisibility.

8.6.33 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *solar development may be more readily accommodated in areas of lower scenic quality.*

Open rolling vale farmland LCT

8.6.34 Key characteristics:

- low-lying land off floodplain floor (generally above 70m AOD) with a discernible raised landform;
- well-drained, productive land underlain by river terrace gravels ;
- large-scale, cultivated fields (arable predominant) with regular field boundaries;
- weak structure of tightly clipped hedges and hedgerow trees (dry-stonewalls absent);
- open, denuded character and high intervisibility, including church spire of Hanborough;
- 'two-dimensional', expansive landscape with dominant sky**.**

8.6.35 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *the large scale of the landscape type could potentially accommodate both turbine and solar farm development although the open nature and slight elevation relative to adjacent landscapes could result in a high degree of visibility.*

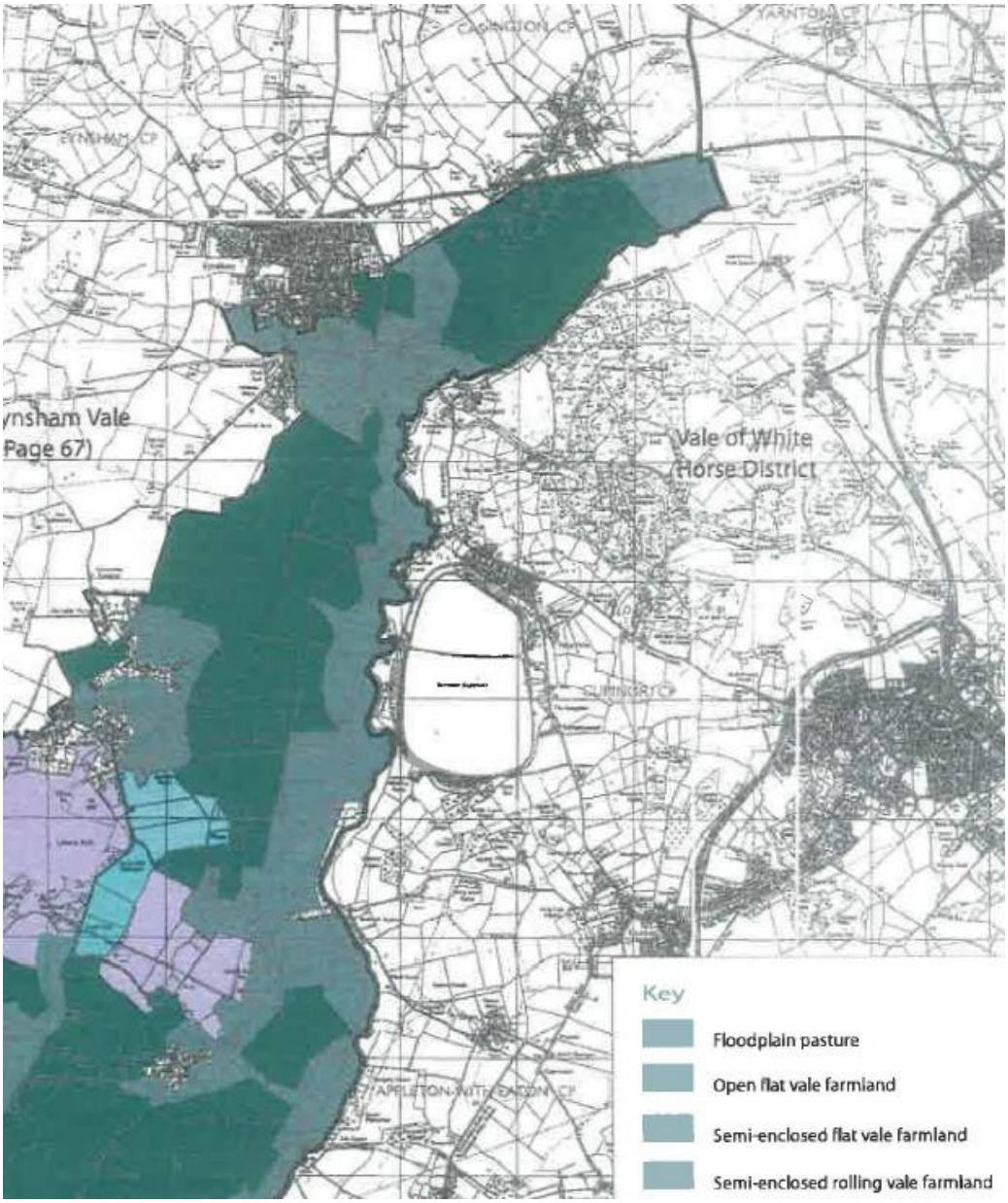
8.6.36 The Open rolling vale farmland LCT, which extends to the south east of Eynsham accommodates Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm (19/02516/FUL) and Eynsham Solar Farm, both approximately 2.5 km from the Project.

8.6.37 The Eynsham Vale LCA is not covered by any statutory landscape designations, the West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment identifies several features, mainly of conservation significance, which contribute to the overall value of the landscape. It considers parkland landscapes, including estate farmland and its component features, which have high scenic quality and high landscape value, and are therefore very sensitive to development. The West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment considers that the unspoilt floodplain pasture is of particular high quality and sensitive to development, whereas, the semi-enclosed clay vale landscape may offer limited opportunities to absorb small-scale development within a strong structure of trees and woodland or with other buildings.

8.6.38 On this basis, **high landscape value** has been applied to the parkland LCT, estate farmland LCT and floodplain pasture LCT. The other LCTs are considered to have a **medium value**.

Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fingers LCA

8.6.39 "*An area of distinctively flat, low-lying landscape which occupies the 'floodplain' of the River Windrush and the margins of the River Thames to the east and west of their confluence. The area overlies extensive river gravel deposits and its character has been heavily modified by mineral extraction. The overall character of this area is defined by its low-lying, extremely flat and wetland character*".



Extract from West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment showing Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fingers LCA

Floodplain pasture LCT

8.6.40 The Floodplain pasture LCT accommodates the 275 kV Cable Corridor.

8.6.41 The key characteristics of the Floodplain pasture LCT are listed under the Eynsham Vale LCA above.

8.6.42 The Lower Windrush Valley and Eastern Thames Fingers LCA is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

8.6.43 The West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment considers that the unspoilt floodplain pasture is of particularly high quality and sensitive to development.

8.6.44 On this basis, **high landscape value** has been applied to the floodplain pasture LCT.

8.6.45 According to the Renewable Energy And Low Carbon Energy Assessment And Strategy For West Oxfordshire 2016); *there is limited scope to accommodate renewables development in this type. Some modest solar development may be able to be accommodated without causing undue consequences.*

Landscape Character Assessment For Cherwell District (2024)

8.6.46 Part of the northern section of the Project is within the Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA.

8.6.47 "*The Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA encompasses the landscape around the lower end of the River Cherwell, where the narrower valley to the north opens out into a broader vale which merges with the Thames Valley on the northern edge of Oxford*."

8.6.48 Key characteristics:

- A fairly level and low-lying vale.
- Large, flat fields are generally under arable cultivation, surrounded by hedgerows and occasional trees.
- Settlement is focused at Kidlington and Yarnton, with smaller road and riverside settlements scattered across the landscape and often covered by Conservation Areas.
- The Oxford Canal, with associated bridges and locks, is an important feature running north-south through the landscape.
- Rural character in the areas of higher ground to the north and west of the lower vale contrasts with lower-lying land closer to Oxford and Kidlington, where large-scale development and the convergence of infrastructure have a significant urbanising influence.

8.6.49 The Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA is not covered by any statutory landscape designations. Due to development pressure, the area is criss-crossed by roads and services and erosion of vernacular character, **medium landscape value** has been applied to the Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA.

8.6.50 In addition, the following LCAs appear within the Study Area:

- Ironstone Hills and Valleys LCA,
- Cherwell Valley LCA,
- Upper Heyford Plateau LCA,
- Oxfordshire Estate Farmlands LCA,
- Main urban areas of Kidlington and Yarnton LCA, and
- Otmoor Lowlands LCA.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse (2024)

8.6.51 The southern section of the Project lies within the boundary of the LCT9G Northern Vale Edge Slopes.

8.6.52 In addition, the following LCTs appear within the Study Area:

- LCT 7 Ridge Hilltops,
- LCT 8 Ridge Slope; and
- LCT14 River Valley.

Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT

8.6.37 Key characteristics:

- This is a rural landscape with a pleasing combination of parkland, arable fields and areas of woodland.
- A gently sloping landform, with local hills providing topographic variety.
- The field pattern is generally medium-scale, with open arable fields and hedgerows around smaller pasture fields.
- Proximity to the urban edges of larger settlements.
- High levels of intervisibility between the LCT and adjacent landscapes.
- Skylines are generally undeveloped, with the local hills forming distinctive visual landmarks.

River Valley LCT / Farmoor Reservoir Lower Valley LCT 14A

8.6.53 Key characteristics:

- A flat landscape, centred on the River Thames, River Thame, associated tributaries and their valleys.
- Riparian vegetation and existing small woodlands and hedgerows create an enclosed character.
- Numerous historic features including parklands and historic villages
- Although the landscape has limited long-distance views and does not have prominent skylines, it is often visible from higher areas of land.
- The LCT is crossed by popular promoted routes including the Thames National Path, Chiltern Way and Oxfordshire Greenbelt Way

8.6.54 South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Renewable Energy Study Landscape Sensitivity Assessment states that both the Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT and River Valley LCT generally have ‘high’ landscape sensitivity to large scale solar energy development. It is, however, noted that there may be opportunities to accommodate smaller-scale solar development in areas where existing hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodland blocks could be used to screen development to reduce landscape and visual impact.

The Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT has been evaluated as having 'Moderate-high' landscape sensitivity to medium-scale solar energy development, and River Valley LCT having medium sensitivity.

Identification of designated sites

8.6.55 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 8.14.** They are illustrated on Figures 8.4 to 8.6.

Table 8.14: 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.

8.6.56 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

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

8.6.58 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]**.

8.6.59 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.

8.6.60 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

8.6.61 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.

8.6.62 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.

8.6.63 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.

8.6.64 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).

8.6.65 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.

8.6.66 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.

8.6.67 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.

8.6.68 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.

8.6.69 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

8.6.70 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 8.15** below. Other potential visual receptor groups are summarised below.

Views from Public Rights of Way

Long Distance Recreational Routes

Oxford Canal Walk

8.6.71 Oxford Canal Walk, a walk which connects Oxford and Coventry along the canal towpath, is outside the ZTV and therefore is not considered further in the assessment.

Oxfordshire Way

8.6.72 The Oxfordshire Way (footpath 379/1) is 109km long-distance walk from Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, to Henley-on-Thames. It passes from the Cotswolds to the Chiltern Hills.

8.6.73 3.5km of the path falls within the ZTV at the southern end of the northern section of the site.

8.6.74 (Representative Viewpoint 9, 10) The solar panels would be seen in the proximity to the path, where it overlaps with Stratford Lane within a 260m section. Otherwise, the solar panels would be difficult to discern at a distance of 170m to 550m from the paths through the intervening vegetation. As the section of the way which passes the solar panels is lined by existing vegetation, the potential visibility of the Project would be minimal, and therefore, the way is not considered further in the assessment.

Shakespeare's Way

8.6.75 Shakespeare's Way is 235 km waymarked route which runs from Stratford-upon-Avon to the Globe Theatre, on the south bank of the River Thames in London.

8.6.76 The route (including 132/5, 124/4, 124/3, 420/1) falls within the ZTV, when it emerges from the woodland of Bladon Heath. The route extends within a 100m long section in between a hedgerow and the solar panels. It then passes Hall Farm, Begbroke Wood and joins with Frogwelldown Lane to the west of Yarton. To the south of Begbroke Wood the way passes the solar panels, which are located around the Sewage Works at a distance of 300m.

8.6.77 As presented by Representative Viewpoint 34, 35, the potential visibility of the Project would be minimal, and therefore, the way is not considered further in the assessment.

Thames Path National Trail

8.6.78 The Thames Path is a long-distance walking trail, which follows the river for 298 km from its source in the Cotswolds into London.

8.6.79 Sporadic visibility is indicated on the trail to the west of Farmoor Reservoir, at a distance of approximately 1.7km from the southern section of the Project. Due to the distance and limited visibility this trail is not considered further in the assessment.

Oxford Green Belt Way

8.6.80 The Oxford Green Belt Way is an 80 km long-distance path which circumvents the Oxford Green Belt surrounding the city of Oxford.

8.6.81 The path falls within the ZTV within a 2km section (including 184/30, 184/50, 184/22, 184/15) on the south eastern shore of Farmoor Reservoir, passing the southern section of the Project site and on the north facing slope of Smith Hill to the north of Cumnor.

8.6.82 (Representative Viewpoint 47, 48, 50, 53)

Access Land

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

Public Rights of Way

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

8.6.85 The following Public Rights of Way (PRoW) have the potential to be affected by the Project and have been mapped within 2km from the site.

Northern Site

8.6.86 Figure 12.3.1 illustrates that the densest network of the PRoWs is related to the Oxford Canal, Oxford Canal Walk and settlements to the east of the northern section of the site. The area to the north west, west and south west of Blenheim Palace is criss-crossed by several long-distance routes such as Shakespeare's Way, Oxfordshire Way, Wychwood Way, all of which remain outside the ZTV.

Dornford Lane

8.6.87 Dornford Lane (bridleway 416/11, 413/6) runs due south from Barton Abbey to Woodstock. The hedgerows on either side of the path are 4 to 6m deep a mix of hawthorn and elder. An approximately 2.3km long section of this path extends through the northern section of the Project (Representative Viewpoint 2, and 11).

Footpath 416/22

8.6.88 Another south north direction route is PRoW 416/22, approximately 2km long path, which extends along the western boundary of the northern section of the Project, in between Upper Dornford Farm and Milford Bridge (Representative Viewpoint 4).

Footpath 416/5

8.6.89 Footpath 416/5 (including 416/6, 379/7) runs between Wootton and Tackley, crossing agricultural fields. Due to the Project, a 1.3km long section of the route would be lined by solar panels which would cover the fields (Representative Viewpoint 5, 6).

Bridleway 416/21

8.6.90 Bridleway 416/21 runs from B4027 on the western boundary of the northern section of the site to A4260 on its eastern boundary. This 1.7 km long route is flanked by dense high vegetation and therefore not considered further in the assessment.

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

Footpath 416/24

8.6.91 Footpath 416/2 (416/2, 416/23, 413/5) extends from the southern end of Wootton, crosses River Glyme, and 1.5km further on it intersects with Dornford Lane. A 720m long section of the footpath crosses the agricultural field on the south-western corner of the northern section of the site. An approximately 110m long section of the footpath would extend between solar panels (Representative Viewpoint 8).

Sansoms Lane Bridleway

8.6.92 Sansoms Lane Bridleway 413/5 extends from the eastern end of Woodstock and intersects with Dornford Lane Bridleway 1.6km to the north. The route is flanked by dense vegetation. The route passes the south eastern part of the northern section of the Project, where 315m long section and 190m long section of the rout abuts with the Project site boundary. This route is flanked by dense high vegetation and, therefore, is not considered further in the assessment.

Bridleway 342/1

8.6.93 Bridleway 342/1 extends between Sansoms Lane Bridleway and A4095. It crosses the south eastern part of the northern section of the Site, where it extends 640m along the hedgerow. The solar panels would align with the route on the agricultural field to the north (Representative Viewpoint 13, 14).

PRoW 342/6

8.6.94 PRoW 342/6 is a 1.7km long route, which extends from the eastern end of Woodstock, crosses an agricultural field and then turns east to Shipton Slade Farm, where it crosses the fields to the north, and intersects with Bridleway 342/1.

8.6.95 The route extends next to the Project site boundary within a 1.1 km long section, 360m of which would have open views into the solar farm (Representative Viewpoint 15).

PRoW 413/1

8.6.96 PRoW 413/1, 416/4 runs between Wootton and Woodstock, and is at its closest to the project site at a distance of 440m, where it intersects with Stratford Lane/ Oxfordshire Way to the west of River Glyme. Due to the distance, this route is not considered further in the assessment (Representative Viewpoint 7, 12).

Central Site PRoWs

Footpath 206/12

8.6.97 Footpath 206/12 (including 238/6, 216/4, 216/2, 216/3) which runs from Church Hamborough to Eynsham. The route is at its closest to the solar panels

at a distance of 460m, north of Cuckoo Wood Farm (Representative Viewpoint 28, 29).

8.6.98 Due to the direction of views and distance from the Project, with minimal opportunity to experience significant effects, this footpath has not been considered further in the assessment.

Footpath 238/5

8.6.99 Footpath 238/5 (including 206/10) is 3km long, and it runs from Dreydon House on the southern edge of Church Hamborough to Eynsham. Within a 370m section, the footpath would extend next to the solar panels (Representative Viewpoint 24, 25, 26, 27).

Bridleway 206/11

8.6.100 Bridleway 206/11 (including 206/3, 152/5) is 1.7km long and runs from Evenlode Farm to Eynsham Mill. When crossing Lower Road, the way is at its closest to the Project Substation and solar panels at a distance of 380m.

8.6.101 The Project would be discernible across the open field within a 300m section (Representative Viewpoint 30).

Footpath 238/1

8.6.102 Footpath 238/1 (including 238/2) runs from the eastern edge of Long Hansborough to Church Hansborough.

8.6.103 To the east of Pinsley Wood the path runs through, and alongside, the solar panels within a 1 km section (Representative Viewpoint 21, 22, 23).

Footpath 152/6

8.6.104 Footpath 152/6 is 2.5km long path and extends from the northern edge of Cassington through agricultural fields up to the River Evenlode.

8.6.105 The vegetation flanks 700m of the path, the rest of it extends alongside the field boundary vegetation, with views across fields on one side. Approximately 1.2km of the path would have close proximity views of solar panels (Representative Viewpoint 37a, 37b, 38, 39, 40).

Frogwelldown Lane/ Footpath 420/14

8.6.106 Footpath 420/14 (including 152/7, 420/14, 420/14) runs from Cassington Road, where Burleigh Wood and Bladon Heath meet, southwards to Yarton. It overlaps with Shakespeare's Way to the south of Begbroke Wood.

8.6.107 The route extends through the Project site within a 900m long section to the south west of Bladon Heath. The route would extend in between the existing hedgerow and the solar panels (Representative Viewpoint 33, 34, 35).

Footpath 132/4

8.6.108 Footpath 132/4 (including 132/2, 132/2, 124/5) is 2.7 km long and extends from Baldon to Begbroke. The route crosses agricultural fields to the north east of Baldon Heath, where it would run through the solar panels within a 860m long section (Representative Viewpoint 18, 32).

Footpath 265/26

8.6.109 Footpath 265/26 (including 265/34, 265/24) extends around agricultural fields to the east of Bladon/ Bladon Pits and to the west of the A44.

8.6.110 Part of the route runs alongside an existing hedgerow, whereas other sections cross the fields (Representative Viewpoint 17).

Southern Site

8.6.111 Figure 12.3.3 illustrates that the densest network of PRoWs is related to the area to the west , south west of Farmoor Reservoir and its western side. The Oxford Green Belt Way (including PRoWs 184/30, 184/50, 184/22, 184/15) runs around the reservoir and crosses the Project site to the north of Cumnor. The rest of the PRoWs within the ZTV, with potential visibility of the Project, branch out from the settlement of Cumnor, and extend along the north facing slope of Smith Hill.

Footpath 184/29

8.6.112 Footpath 184/29 (including 184/30) is 1.5km long and extends from Leys Road to the west of Cumnor via Upper Whitley Farm to link with a local road to the south east of the reservoir. The path runs within the site for 370m, passing the solar panels and NGET Substation and extends along the local road and the Project site boundary. This 420m section immediately next to the site is sparsely vegetated and allows views of the site (Representative Viewpoint 51).

Footpath 184/15

8.6.113 Footpath 184/15 extends between Cumnor and Eynsham Road 2.7 km to the north. The route overlaps with Oxford Greenbelt Way on the northern slope of Smith Hill within a 1.8 km section. The solar panels would be seen close to the route within a 550m section to the west of Denman's Copse (Representative Viewpoint 46, 48 and 53).

Footpath 184/16

8.6.114 Footpath 184/16 is approximately 2.2km long, and is another route between Cumnor and Eynsham Road. The route extends through the Project site within a 780 m section. Although the route extends next to the existing hedgerow, the solar panels would appear on the other side of the route (Representative Viewpoint 54, 49).

Footpath 184/22

8.6.115 Footpath 184/22 is a 2km route between the B4017/ Cumnor Road west and the A420 to the east. The route follows vegetated field boundaries in a west-east direction. It abuts the Project site boundary within a 420m section, where the solar panels would be seen in the proximity (Representative Viewpoint 49).

Footpath 184/48

8.6.116 Footpath 184/48 (including 184/52, 1184/53) falls within the ZTV on the western side of Farmoor Reservoir at a distance of 1.4km m the Project site boundary. Due to the distance this footpath has not been considered further in the assessment (Representative Viewpoint 45).

8.6.117

Views from the Surrounding Roads Network

8.6.118 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

8.6.119 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

8.6.120 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

8.6.121 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

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

- Blenheim Palace Registered Park and Gardens (immediately to the north of the Central site of the Project at its nearest point);
- Bladon play area and recreation ground;
- Begbroke play area and recreation ground (part);
- Cassington recreation ground;
- Worton Park;
- Eynsham recreation ground (part);
- Freeland recreation ground (part); and,
- Long Hanborough play area and recreational ground.

8.6.123 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.

8.6.124 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

8.6.125 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.

8.6.126 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.

8.6.127 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.

8.6.128 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.

8.6.129 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

8.6.130 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.

8.6.131 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.

8.6.132 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

8.6.133 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 02/2019).

8.6.134 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.

8.6.135 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 Step 4 of an RVAA being required.

8.6.136 A RVAA (Steps 1 to 3) has been carried out, in accordance with LI TGN 02/2019 **[EN010147/APP/17.13]**.

Representative Viewpoints

8.6.137 The visual assessment includes an assessment of 55 Representative Viewpoints described in **Table 8.15** 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.

8.6.138 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 8.15: Description of Views from Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate 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 (to Project Site boundary)	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)	544 m (to Project Site boundary); 571 m (to nearest built element)	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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.130 and 8.131 (summer)			
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 (to Project Site boundary); 16 m (to nearest built element)	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 Claude Duval Way / NCN Route 5 Figures 8.20 and 8.21 (winter) Figures 8.136 and 8.137 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site); 18m (to nearest built element)	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 heavily filtered glimpses available of the ground beyond the vegetation.
5b Footpath 416/5/20 Figures 8.22 and 8.23 (winter)	0 m (within Project Site); 18 m (to nearest built element)	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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.138 and 8.139 (summer)			
5c Footpath 416/5/10 Figures 8.24 and 8.25 (winter) Figures 8.140 and 8.141 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site); 28 m (to nearest built element)	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 (to Project Site boundary); 528 m (to nearest built element)	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)	66859 m (to Project Site boundary); 677 m (to nearest built element)	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.
8 Footpath 416/24/10 Figures 8.30 and 8.31 (winter) Figures 8.146 and 8.147 (summer)	5930 m (to Project Site boundary); 70 m (to nearest built element)	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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
9 Footpath 379/1/10 Oxfordshire Way Figures 8.32 and 8.33 (winter) Figures 8.148 and 8.149 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site); 173 m (to nearest built element)	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)	0221 m (adjacent to cable route corridor); 230 m (to nearest built element)	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 (to Project Site boundary); 153 m (to nearest built element)	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 413/1/10 Figures 8.38 and 8.39 (winter)	500 m (to Project Site boundary); 521 m (to nearest built element)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 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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.154 and 8.155 (summer)			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 (within Project boundary); 27 m (to nearest built element)	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 (to Project Site boundary); 310 m (to nearest built element)	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 (adjacent to cable route corridor); 286 m (to nearest built element)	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)	36341 m (to cable route corridor); 360 m (to nearest built element)	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 of centre and residential properties of Bladon are visible

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.162 and 8.163 (summer)			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 (within Project Site boundary); 17 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary); 67 m (to nearest built element)	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)	31412 m (to Project Site boundary); 343 , (to nearest built element)	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)	724 m (to Project Site boundary); 746 m (to nearest built element)33 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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
			Great Wood visually connects with Pinsley Wood in the middle ground to the right of the view.
21 Footpath 238/1/10 Figures 8.56 and 8.57 (winter) Figures 8.172 and 8.173 (summer)	1334 m (to Project Site Boundary); 148 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site Boundary); 9 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary); 12 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary); 10 m (to nearest built element)	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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
			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 Footpath 238/5/20 Figures 8.64 and 8.65 (winter) Figures 8.180 and 8.181 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site boundary); 7 m (to nearest built element)	Walkers: High	Close open view looking south from footpath at Project Site boundary, at approximately 90 m AOD. The view is 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 (within Project Site boundary); 8 m (to nearest built element)	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 (to Project Site boundary); 192 m (to nearest built element)	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)	969970 m (to Project Site Boundary); 989 m (to nearest built element)	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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
29 Footpath 206/12/10 Figures 8.72 and 8.73 (winter) Figures 8.188 and 8.189 (summer)	79081 m (to Project Site boundary); 1 km (to nearest built element)	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 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)	102 m (to Project Site boundary); 410 m (to nearest built element)	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)	0 m (within Project Site boundary); 820 m (to nearest built element)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)	2610 m (to Project Site boundary); 276 m (to nearest built element)	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	0 m (within Project Site	Walkers:	Close channelled view looking southeast from footpath within Project Site boundary near Worton Heath, at

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Footpath 152/7/10 Figures 8.80 and 8.81 (winter) Figures 8.196 and 8.197 (summer)	boundary); 20 m (to nearest built element)	High	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 Footpath 420/14/10 Shakespeare's Way Figures 8.82 and 8.83 (winter) Figures 8.198 and 8.199 (summer)	3079 m (to Project Site boundary); 320 m (to nearest built element)	Walkers: High	Close open view looking west from footpath at Spring Hill, approximately 96 m AOD. The view is over a slightly 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 (to Project Site boundary); 363 m (to nearest built element)	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 (to Project Site boundary and nearest built element)	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	0 m (within Project Site	Walkers: High	Close open view looking east from footpath at Project Site boundary on east bank of River Evenlode, near

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.88 and 8.89 (winter) Figures 8.204 and 8.205 (summer)	boundary); 110 m (to nearest built element)		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) Figures 8.206 and 8.207 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site boundary); 110 m (to nearest built element)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 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 (within Project Site boundary); 20 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary);	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.

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
40 Footpath 152/6/10 Figures 8.96 and 8.97 (winter) Figures 8.212 and 8.213 (summer)	148 m (to Project Site boundary); 164 m (to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary); 15 m (to nearest built element)	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.
42 Footpath 419/1/10 Oxford Green Belt Way Figures 8.100 and 8.101 (winter) Figures 8.216 and 8.217 (summer)	1.89 km (to Project Site boundary); 1.9 km (to nearest built element)	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 k0 m (within Project Site boundary, cable corridor); 2.3 km (to nearest built element)	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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
			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 (to Project Site boundary); 1.8 km (to nearest built element)	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 Figures 8.106 and 8.107 (winter) Figures 8.222 and 8.223 (summer)	1.4 km (to Project Site boundary); 1.5 km (to nearest built element)	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 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 (to Project Site boundary); 860 m (to nearest built element)	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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
			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 (adjacent to cable route corridor); 309 m to nearest built element)	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 (within Project Site boundary); 6 m (to nearest built element)	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.
49 Footpath 184/22/20 Figures 8.114 and 8.115 (winter) Figures 8.230 and 8.231 (summer)	0 m (within Project Site boundary); 46 m (to nearest built element)	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	60 m (to Project Site boundary); 90 m (to nearest built element)	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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Figures 8.116 and 8.117 (winter) Figures 8.232 and 8.233 (summer)			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 (to Project Site boundary); 153 m (to nearest built element)	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)	1596 m (to Project Site boundary); 173 m (to nearest built element)	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.
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 (to Project Site boundary); 143 m (to nearest built element)	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	0 m (within Project Site boundary); 15 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

Viewpoint and Location	Approximate Distance from Project Site (metres/km, at its nearest point)	Receptor and Sensitivity	Description
Footpath 184/16/20 Figures 8.124 and 8.125 (winter) Figures 8.240 and 8.241 (summer)	(to nearest built element)		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)	5430 m (to Project Site boundary); 562 m (to nearest built element)	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

8.6.139 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.

8.6.140 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.

8.6.141 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.

8.6.142 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.

8.6.143 The Photomontage Methodology is provided in Appendix 8.4.

8.6.144

Future baseline conditions

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

8.6.146 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).

8.6.147 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

8.6.148 **Table 8.16** identifies the receptors taken forward into the assessment.

Table 8.16: 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 8.17** 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 8.17: 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); • 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; • Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern site is approximately 46 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
		• 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

8.8.1 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.

8.8.2 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').

8.8.3 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]**.

8.8.4 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.

8.8.5 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]**.

8.8.6 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]**.

8.8.7 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.

Design Approach in Respect of Landscape and Visual Matters

8.8.8 Consideration of potential long-term landscape character and visual effects has formed an integral role in the design of the Project.

8.8.9 While the Project will inevitably result in a change to the character of the site and its immediate surroundings, the design of the Project has been informed by its local landscape and visual context.

8.8.10 The site design approach and objectives aimed to develop the layout with mitigation being built into the design itself, as set out in the main design principles as follows:

- Landscape Integration and Local Character:
  - To respond to the setting, scale and character of the site and to provide screening to the Site from within the local area and from elevated areas to the west.
  - Provide an appropriate setting for the proposals, responding to adjacent pastoral/arable land uses where appropriate, ensuring that the landscape proposals include native species planting appropriate to the local area.
  - Enhancing and protecting the existing landscape fabric.
- Landscape Amenity:
  - Maintain and enhance, where possible, the local residents and visitors experience within this landscape, including the retention and enhancement of public access along waymarked footpaths and the introduction of interpretation boards.
- Biodiversity:
  - To protect, manage, enhance and monitor the nature conservation value of the site, creating a biodiversity rich environment – in line with all biodiversity objectives listed in Section 10 below.
  - Provision of designated Biodiversity Enhancement Areas, which are areas designed for native habitats and species and have low human intervention.

8.8.11 In landscape and visual terms, several inherent or industry practice measures reduce the effects attributable to the type of development proposed. The following measures are considered to minimise the landscape and visual impact of the Project.

- Minimised ground excavation:
  - The panels would be mounted upon a prefabricated alloy metal frame. The module frames will be anchored to the ground via steel piles, which will be driven approximately 1.5 m- 3 m below ground. The framed mounting system would be pile-driven. Therefore, no foundations would be required.
- Areas of new hardstanding would be limited to the Project Substations, and inverter foundations.

- Existing structure vegetation, such as field boundary hedgerows and woodlands such as Pinsley Wood, Burleigh Wood, Bladon Heath, Smith Hill Copse, Denman's Copse, Saddle Copse, Whitley Brake helps to screen and break up the Project in views to it and helps to integrate the Project into the surrounding landscape;
- Existing vegetation along the site's perimeters and within it have been identified as being important landscape elements in the existing landscape character and will be retained and enhanced with new and appropriate planting where vegetation is presently sparse. This will avoid direct landscape effects and reduce visibility of the Project.
- Vegetation removal will be kept to a minimum as far as practicable, as shown on the hedgerow removal plans [EN010147/APP/2.10].
- The temporary diversion and / closure of PRoWs will be required for the delivery of the Project throughout the construction phase.
- Utilising a sensitive colour palette for built structures, such as the PCS units, to aid assimilation into the landscape
- Implement advanced planting, where agreed, in order to minimise visual effects.

8.8.12 The Illustrative Masterplan, Figures 2.1a to 2.4d [CR2-026] and the Landscape, Ecology and Amenities Plan [CR2-043] have been prepared and developed as an iterative process, underpinning the design principles of the Project.

8.8.13 Existing field boundary vegetation would be augmented and reinforced, and new planting would line the field boundaries and existing PRoWs in order to protect recreational amenity and enhance the biodiversity of the site, connecting with other areas of existing and proposed planting which would surround the Project and contribute to the overall enhancement of visual containment around the site and improvement of biodiversity.

8.8.14 A Green Way Plan has been produced, in consultation with the OCC Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Officer, to ensure that the PRoWs are returned to their definitive map route/alignment. PRoW routes/corridors are to be 15m, in width (including hedgerows) throughout the Project with natural variation, e.g. through existing retained field gates and entrances where there is an existing pinch point. This is part of a compensation package to enable improvements to the off-site PRoW network.

8.8.15 Mitigation measures relevant to this chapter are summarised in Table 8.18

Table 8.18: 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 **[CR2-026]** and the Landscape, Ecology and Amenities Plan **[CR2-043]** illustrate the landscape and ecological strategy for the Project. This includes: • Creation of woodland belts;	These measures would be secured as a requirement of the DCO, committed via the oLEMP **[EN010147/APP/7.6.3]**.

- 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.

8.9 Assessment of effects

Introduction

8.9.1 This section provides an assessment of the likely significance of the landscape and visual effects of the Project during the construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases, assessing the effects on completion, at Year 1, and the residual effects at Year 15 when the proposed planting will be established and starting to mature, and the new infrastructure has weathered and 'dulled' over time.

8.9.2 Section 8.7 summarises the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

8.9.3 The assessment is supported by the detailed Representative Viewpoints Assessment, presented in Appendix 8.7, and the detailed Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Assessment, presented at Appendix 8.6. Alongside visualisations in Figures 8.248 to 8.371. Representative Viewpoint locations are shown on Figure 8.9 to 8.11, on the ZTV overlay within the Study Area.

8.9.4 Effects upon each of the 55 Viewpoints at Year 1 and Year 15 have been summarised in Table 8.22, within the summary of effects (Section 8.14).

8.9.5 Based on the Viewpoint Assessment, the extent of High magnitude of impact where the Project would constitute a major alteration to key elements, features, qualities and characteristics of the view such that the baseline will be substantially changed, would generally be limited to locations within the Site and its immediate context.

8.9.6 Beyond the Site's immediate proximity, the magnitude would vary from Medium to Negligible. By approximately 300-500m from the Site boundary, effects would generally reduce to Low magnitude as the landform and wooded nature of the landscape combine to filter views.

8.9.7 Once the mitigation/ enhancement planting along the Site boundaries has matured, breaking up the edge of the built form, filtering and screening views of the project, as a result, the magnitude of impact would considerably reduce.

8.9.8 Beyond 800m from the Site boundary, the development would either be screened or heavily filtered from visual receptors by the landform and vegetation, or the development would form a limited change in views, being seen in the wider landscape context.

8.9.9 The Viewpoint Assessment general findings present the following:

- All close-proximity views illustrate a good setback of the low-lying development from the PRoWs;
- Solar panels do not form a skyline feature. The existing landscape features take prominence;
- The closest parts of the development would occupy a limited angle of the view;
- Solar panels do not appear as prominent features.

8.9.10

Construction Phase Effects

8.9.11 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 8.17: Maximum design scenario considered for the assessment of potential impacts above, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

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

8.9.13 Due to written representations received, post submission, a more detailed assessment of potential effects upon landscape character areas (Appendix 8.5) and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) (Appendix 8.6) has been included. In addition, the assessment of effects from the 55 No. Representative Viewpoints has been included as a separate appendix (Appendix 8.7) which supplements the assessment of effects from visual receptors detailed below.

Construction Phase Landscape Effects

Landscape Sensitivity

8.9.14 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.

8.9.15 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

8.9.16 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.

8.9.17 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

8.9.18 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.

8.9.19 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.

8.9.20 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

8.9.21 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

8.9.22 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.

8.9.23 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

8.9.24 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

8.9.25 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

8.9.26 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.

8.9.27 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.

8.9.28 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.

8.9.29 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.

8.9.30 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.

8.9.31 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)

8.9.32 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.

8.9.33 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.

8.9.34 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.

8.9.35 Due to written representations received, post submission, a more detailed assessment of effects from specific Public Rights of Way (PRoW) potentially affected by the Project is included at Appendix 8.6. This supplements the assessment of effects upon PRoW detailed below.

Northern Site

8.9.36 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.

8.9.37 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.

8.9.38 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.

8.9.39 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

8.9.40 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.

8.9.41 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

8.9.42 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.

8.9.43 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.

8.9.44 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

8.9.45 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.

8.9.46 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.

8.9.47 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.

8.9.48 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

8.9.49 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.

8.9.50 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.

8.9.51 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.

8.9.52 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

8.9.53 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.

Operation and Maintenance Phase Landscape Effects

Sensitivity of Receptor

8.9.54 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.

8.9.55 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.

8.9.56 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

8.9.57 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.

8.9.58 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).

8.9.59 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.

8.9.60 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

8.9.61 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.

8.9.62 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.

8.9.63 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.

8.9.64 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.

8.9.65 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.

8.9.66 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

8.9.67 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

8.9.68 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.

8.9.69 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

8.9.70 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

8.9.71 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

8.9.72 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

8.9.73 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.

8.9.74 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.

8.9.75 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 significant.

8.9.76 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.

8.9.77 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.

8.9.78 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

8.9.79 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.

8.9.80 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

8.9.81 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 significant.

8.9.82 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

8.9.83 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.

8.9.84 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.

8.9.85 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.

8.9.86 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.

8.9.87 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

8.9.88 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.

8.9.89 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.

8.9.90 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.

8.9.91 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.

8.9.92 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.

8.9.93 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

8.9.94 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.

8.9.95 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.

Decommissioning Landscape and Visual Effects

8.9.96 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.

8.9.97 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

8.9.98 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 Assessment

8.10.1 Cumulative assessment relates to the assessment of the effects of more than one development.

8.10.2 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

Other existing and, or approved development

  - 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

Other existing and, or approved development

  - Scoping report has been submitted.

- Tier 3

Other existing and, or approved development

  - Scoping report has not been submitted.

8.10.3 Scenarios provide an understanding of the different levels of cumulative effects around how cumulative developments are brought forward.

8.10.4 This tiered approach is adopted to provide a clear assessment of the Project alongside other projects, plans and activities.

8.10.5 It is acknowledged that 54 cumulative schemes were identified, forming the CEA short list (ref. Table 20.5, ES Chapter 20: Cumulative Effects and Inter-relationships). This list of developments has been reviewed as part of the LVIA, with 23 discounted for one or more of the following reasons:

- The cumulative development is outside the 5 km Study Area identified for the LVIA;
- The ZTV(s) (Figures 8.7 to 8.11) demonstrate limited or no potential intervisibility with any part of the Project and cumulative scheme(s) (15/00761/FUL, 18/01009/RES, 22/01330/OUT, 13/1277/P/FP, 23/00517/F, 23/01233/OUT, 23/03307/OUT, P23/V0306/SCR, 18/03403/FUL, 17/03155/RES, 22/00747/OUT, 15/00761/FUL) are excluded from the assessment.
- The cumulative scheme has already been built out (19/02516/FUL Twelve Acre Farm - Solar Farm, 2.5 km to the southwest of the central section of

the Project at its nearest point**)** and therefore forms part of the baseline situation for the LVIA.

8.10.6 The specific projects, plans and activities scoped into the CEA, are outlined in **Table 8.19**.

Table 8.19: 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						
21/00189/FUL Land East Of Hill Rise Woodstock Oxfordshire	**Granted on appeal** Allocation (approved)	Approximately 1.3 km to the west of the Projects northern site and solar panels.	planning permission for 48 dwellings, 57 sqm of community space, a parking barn, means of access from the A44, associated infrastructure, open space, engineering and ancillary works; up to 132 dwellings, up to 57 sqm of community space, a parking barn, with associated infrastructure, open space, engineering and ancillary works	unknown	unknown	unknown
21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock	**Approve** subject to Legal Agreement Outline Planning Application	Approximately 250m to the south west of the solar panels	Proposed residential development of some 235 dwellings.	unknown	unknown	unknown
21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane Yarnton	**Granted on appeal** Outline Planning Application Appeal Allowed	Approximately 320m from the solar panels in the central section of the Project.	The erection of up to 540 dwellings, up to 9,000sqm GEA of elderly/extra care residential floorspace, a Community Home Work Hub, 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	2027 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
			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.			
16/01364/OUT Land east of Woodstock	**Approved** subject to Legal Agreement Outline Planning Application	Abuts with the cable corridor and is located 730m from the solar panels, which are located to the south of Bladon Road	Outline application for 300 residential dwellings, up to 1100sqm of A1/A2/B1/D1 floorspace, associated infrastructure, engineering and ancillary works; provision of public open space; formation of vehicular accesses.	unknown	unknown	unknown
20/01734/OUT (EW1) Salt Cross Garden Village	**Under consideration** Outline Planning Application	Eastern edge of Application Site is immediately adjacent to the southernmost parts of the central section of the Project; 160m to the south west from the project Substation and solar panels.	Proposed residential led mixed use development, including 2,200 dwellings and comprising residential, retail, food and drink, health and community facilities, hotel, employment uses, education provision, burial ground, public open space with sports pitches together with ancillary facilities, landscaping and associated infrastructure and works..	unknown	unknown	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
22/01715/OUT Land south of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road	**Outline Planning Application (June 2025)**	Abuts cable corridor between northern and central Project sections. Approximately 900m to the north of the solar panels, east of Bladon.	Erection of up to 500 dwellings with associated access, open space and infrastructure	unknown	unknown	unknown
Tier 2						
P23/V2624/SCR Red House Farm, Botley	Scoping Opinion 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
P18/V2796/SCR Farmoor Reservoir, Farmoor	Screening	Project Site approximately 1.2km to the north of the southern section of the Project.	Installation of floating solar photovoltaic arrays on northern part of Farmoor Reservoir.	unknown	unknown	unknown
Tier 3						
P25/V1685/SCR Primary substation	Screening	Adjacent to the Project Substation in the southern section of the Project	New 400kV gas-insulated electricity substation (GIS) (anticipated to be SF6 free) with ancillary equipment and associated infrastructure, on land located south of Farmoor Reservoir, Cumnor.	unknown	unknown	unknown

Maximum design scenario – cumulative effects assessment

8.10.7 The maximum design scenario of the Project as identified in **Table 8.20** has been selected as having the potential to result in the greatest effect on identified receptors or receptor groups.

8.10.8 The information available on the cumulative developments is described in Table 8.22.

Table 8.20: Maximum design scenario for the assessment of cumulative effects

Potential cumulative effect	Phase			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
The cumulative impact of the Botley West Solar Farm assets on landscape character and visual amenity during the operation phase.	✓	✓	✓	Maximum design scenario as described for the Project (Refer to Chapter 6: Project Description) assessed cumulatively with the cumulative developments listed in Table 8.22. •	It is expected that the outcome of the CEA would be greatest when the largest number of other schemes are considered. In landscape and visual terms, this would not always be the case.

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

8.11 Cumulative effects assessment

Cumulative effects

Introduction

8.11.1 Cumulative effects are assessed on the same landscape and visual receptors as the assessment for the Project against the baseline. Landscape and visual receptors that are considered to receive effects of Low-Negligible or Negligible magnitude (both localised and overall) from the Project are not included in this assessment, as an effect of such low magnitude manifestly adds nothing or very little regardless of the effects of other developments. If significant cumulative effects arise on those receptors, they would be as a result of other developments and as such are not relevant for consideration as part of this application.

Construction Cumulative Impacts

8.11.2 The residual effects arising as a result of the construction of the Project are assessed as being of the same magnitude and significance on all landscape and visual receptors as those arising due to their operation and maintenance, however the residual effects arising as a result of the construction are assessed as being temporary, occurring during the length of the construction phase, and differing in nature from the operational effects mainly due to the influence of the various construction machinery, earthworks, construction compound(s), that will not be present or result in effects during the operational phase.

8.11.3 In addition, it should be noted that the time of the construction period of the cumulative developments is unknown, and it is unlikely that all developments would be under construction concurrently.

8.11.4 Therefore, the effects attributable to the construction stage of the Project are not assessed further.

Landscape Effects

8.11.5 The LCTs are described in Section 8.6 and shown in Figure 8.5.

Operational Cumulative Impacts

8.11.6 The above-described cumulative future baseline developments are located within the same landscape character areas as are the sections of the Project site and therefore they retain a certain direct impact upon landscape fabrics. The cumulative loss of landscape elements is not considered in this assessment, as it is expected that the approved mixed-use housing developments will represent high-quality design and utilise appropriate building heights and materials, introducing structural planting and extensive areas of semi-natural green space.

8.11.7 For this assessment, the potential cumulative impact is considered in relation to the perceptual qualities of the relevant landscape character areas.

Tier 1 Projects

Open limestone wolds LCT

8.11.8 The following developments fall within the Open limestone wolds LCT:

- 21/00189/FUL Land East Of Hill Rise Woodstock (1km to the west of the Project);
- 21/00217/OUT Land North of Banbury Road, Woodstock (250m to the south west of the solar panels); and
- 16/01364/OUT Land east of Woodstock (abuts with the cable corridor and is located 730m from the solar panels, which are located to the south of Bladon Road)

8.11.9 The detailed assessment presented in Appendix 8.5 concludes a Low magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon the Open limestone wolds LCT of Medium-Low sensitivity, resulting in a Minor adverse (not significant) level of effect on completion, which in the long term would reduce to a Minor/negligible neutral not significant effect.

8.11.10 These consented developments are housing developments of various scales. The developments of Land North of Banbury Road (see Viewpoints 13 and 15) and Land east of Woodstock form extensions to the settlement of Woodstock. The Land East of Hill Rise forms an extension to the village of Old Woodstock (see Viewpoint 12). Due to the distance, intervening vegetation and low-lying nature of the solar panels and (siting of the Project Substations), potential perceptual change attributable to combined visibility is considered to be negligible.

8.11.11 A housing development is a permanent and more prominent development in a rural environment, whereas the Project would be decommissioned in x years' time. Therefore, the perceivable change in landscape character would be mostly attributable to the housing developments within the landscape of large-scale fields and arable farmland, which has relatively little vegetation and an open, exposed, and elevated character, with sweeping views and high visibility.

8.11.12 The perception of cumulative effects upon the wider landscape of Open limestone wolds LCT would be perceived as a **low magnitude** of impact resulting in **Minor** adverse and not significant effects.

8.11.13 The permitted and Projects would extend the developed nature of the existing agricultural land. However, it is expected that due to the proposed comprehensive mitigation measures/ landscape strategies, it is expected that the developments would be fully integrated into the local landscape.

Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA

8.11.14 The following development falls within the Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA:

- 21/03522/OUT West of Rutten Lane Yarnton (320m to the north west and 500m to the west of the solar panels); and,
- 22/01715/OUT Land south of Perdiswell Farm, Shipton Road

8.11.15 The detailed assessment presented in Appendix 8.5 concludes a Low-negligible magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon the Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA of Medium-Low sensitivity, resulting in a Minor adverse (not significant) level of effect on completion, which in the long term would reduce to a Minor/negligible neutral not significant effect.

8.11.16 The 22/01715/OUT development is located adjacent to the cable corridor between the northern and southern sections of the Project. At some 900m or more from the solar panels, within the central section of the Project, and other built elements, there would be limited intervisibility. At this distance the perceived change in landscape character in the local area would be attributable to the proposed housing development. The perception of cumulative effects on the wider landscape of Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA would be perceived as a **low magnitude** of impact, resulting in **Minor** adverse and not significant effect.

8.11.17 The 21/03522/OUT development fills the area between Begbroke and Yarnton, next to the A44. The entire development is located within the Cherwell Strategic Development Site, which has low susceptibility to this type of development. The solar panels of the Project would be located 320m to the northwest, next to Bladon Heath at their closest (see Viewpoint 32). Therefore, the perceivable change in the landscape character would be mostly attributable to the housing developments. The perception of cumulative effects on the wider landscape of Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA would be perceived as a **low magnitude** of impact, resulting in **Minor** adverse and not significant effects.

8.11.18 The outline schemes and Project would extend the developed nature of the existing agricultural land. However, due to the proposed comprehensive mitigation measures/ landscape strategies, it is expected that the developments would be fully integrated into the local landscape.

Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland

8.11.19 The following development falls within the Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland LCT:

- 20/01734/OUT Salt Cross Garden Village (160m to the south west of the project Substation and solar panels).

8.11.20 The detailed assessment presented in Appendix 8.5 concludes a Low magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon the Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland LCT of Medium-Low sensitivity, resulting in a Moderate/minor adverse (not significant) level of effect on completion, which in the long term would reduce to a Minor/negligible neutral not significant effect.

8.11.21 The proposed mixed-use development to the north of Eynsham forms an extension to the village of Eynsham. The entire development is located within the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area, which has low susceptibility to the type of development.

8.11.22 The proposed site of the Garden Village is located to the north of the village of Eynsham and covers an area of approximately 185 hectares, consisting

predominantly of farmland. The site is bordered by the A40 to the south, by Lower Road to the east, and by farm tracks and field boundaries to the west.

8.11.23 The centre section of the Project would abut the consented housing development next to Lower Road, with areas allocated for Food Growing and landscape enhancement. The proposed Project Substation and solar panels would be located at a distance of 160 m from the sports fields, which are part of the proposed housing development. Due to the intervening vegetation, there would not be any intervisibility between the developments (see Viewpoints 25, 27, 29, 30, 31).

8.11.24 The mixed use development with building heights of up to 16m is a permanent and more prominent looking development in a rural environment, whereas the Project would be decommissioned in 42 years' time. Therefore, the perceivable change in the landscape character would be mostly attributable to the large scale housing development. The perception of cumulative effects upon the wider landscape of Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland LCT would be perceived as a **medium magnitude** of impact, resulting in **Moderate/minor adverse and not significant effects.**

8.11.25 The permitted and Projects would extend the developed nature of the existing agricultural land. However, due to the proposed comprehensive mitigation measures/ landscape strategies, it is expected that the developments would be fully integrated into the local landscape.

Tier 2 Projects

River Valley LCT / Farmoor Reservoir Lower Valley LCT 14A

8.11.26 The following development falls within the River Valley LCT:

- P23/V2624/SCR Red House Farm, Botley; and,
- P18/V2796/SCR Farmoor Reservoir, Farmoor.

8.11.27 The detailed assessment presented in Appendix 8.5 concludes a Low magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon the River Valley LCT of Medium sensitivity, resulting in the level of effect as a Moderate/minor adverse (not significant) effect in completion, which would reduce in the long term to a Minor neutral not significant effect.

8.11.28 The proposed Red House Farm Solar Farm of 95 hectares, located immediately to the north of the southern section of the Project, would comprise a lower, flatter land, which gently falls towards Farmoor Reservoir. The area of the lower-lying vale is overlooked by the landforms to the north and south, which form a strong backdrop to the valley landscape.

8.11.29 The proposed Farmoor Reservoir scheme is a small photovoltaic scheme located on the reservoir itself, approximately 1.2km to the north of the southern section of the Project. Due to its location, within the reservoir, there would be no cumulative effect upon the physical landscape characteristics of the host LCT.

8.11.30 Only the northernmost edge of the southern section of the Project, including 1.6km cable corridor, is located within the River Valley LCT, and the Red

House Farm Solar Farm would cover the fields to the south of the B4044 and to the west of the A420. All these developments are low-lying and therefore well screened by intervening vegetation. Viewpoints 45, 46, 47, 49 within the LCT and Viewpoints 52, 53 and 54 on the north facing slope of the adjacent Vale Edge Slope LCT, which overlook the River Valley LCT, illustrate the landscape context for this future cumulative situation.

8.11.31 Due to the relatively small scale of the River Valley LCT, as the reservoir covers most of the LCT, and due to the proximity of the main transport corridors, urban edge, and relatively minimal effects attributable to the Project, the cumulative effects upon the wider landscape of River Valley LCT would be perceived as a **low magnitude** of impact, resulting in **Minor adverse and not significant effect.**

Tier 3 Project

Vale Edge Slopes/ Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT 9G

8.11.32 The following development falls within the Vale Edge Slopes/ Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT 9G

- P25/V1685/SCR Primary substation

8.11.33 The detailed assessment presented in Appendix 8.5 concludes a Low magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon the Vale Edge Slopes LCT of High-medium sensitivity, resulting in the level of effect as a Moderate adverse (significant) effect in completion, which would reduce in the long term to a Moderate/minor not significant effect.The proposed NGET Substation, if consented, would be located on the bottom slope of Smith Hill, next to Bushy Leaze Lane immediately to the west of the Project Substation, both of which are within the context of the existing transmission line. The location is backed by mature vegetation to the north west, which provides screening in views across the Farmoor Reservoir. Smith Hill Copes to the south provides screening in views from Cumnor Road /B4017. Therefore, the perceptual imprint of the substations, and therefore their combined visibility and impact on the perceptual qualities of the landscape, would be limited.

8.11.34 Although there would be an enhanced perception of the electricity infrastructure within the Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT, due to the well-contained location of substations, the cumulative magnitude of impact is considered low upon the wider landscape of Northern Vale Edge Slopes LCT, resulting in **Moderate adverse** and **significant effect** in medium term**.**

8.11.35 Long-term effects, it is expected that comprehensive landscape mitigation measures would be applied in relation to the NEGET substation, including the use of muted colours pattern and appropriate materials to reduce the magnitude of impact to Low-negligible, resulting in **Moderate/Minor** and not significant effects.

Visual Effects

Tier 1 Projects

Settlements and Residential receptors

8.11.36 All of the approved cumulative developments on the list (Table 20.5, ES Chapter 20: Cumulative Effects and Inter-relationships) are applications relating to mixed use residential developments. These residential developments are located in the proximity of existing settlements, such as Old Woodstock, Woodstock, Yarnton, and Eynsham, and therefore form extensions to these settlements. None of these settlements were included in the assessment through the baseline analysis apart from the construction effects attributable to the cable corridor. In visual amenity terms the approved residential developments should be considered as recipients of potential effects.

8.11.37 It has been considered that the cumulative, combined visual effects with the approved housing developments, would not to be higher than the effects attributable to the Project individually as assessed in section 8.10.

Public Rights of Way

8.11.38 With regard to the PRoWs, then several routes will be directly affected by the approved developments for example PRoW 413/1 to the north of Old Woodstock, PRoW 413/7 and Bridleway 413/6 to the north of Woodstock, Bridleway 206/11, 206/3 and Footpaths 206/12, 206/10, which fall within the approved development area to the north of Eynsham.

8.11.39 It has been considered that the cumulative, combined visual effects with the approved housing developments, would not to be higher than the effects attributable to the Project individually as assessed in section 8.10.

Tier 2 Project

Settlements and Residential receptors

8.11.40 Two properties, Denman's Farm and Jumpers Farm, were identified in relation to the southern section of the Project.

8.11.41 Due to the distance of Jumpers Farm from the proposed Red House Farm, potential cumulative effects would not be higher than the effects attributable to the Project individually, which are Minor and not Significant.

8.11.42 The main assessment presented in section 8.10 concludes a Medium-high magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon Denmar's Farm, resulting in a Major/moderate adverse (significant) level of effect on completion, which in the long term would reduce to a Moderate not significant effect.

8.11.43 The proposed Red House Farm would also appear in views to the north, extending the view of solar panels up to and as far as the B4044 at a distance of 800m. The magnitude of impact would be high, resulting in major and significant effects, which in the long term would reduce to a Moderate not significant effect.

Long Distance Recreational Route

Oxford Green Belt Way

8.11.44 Due to the distance and intervening vegetation the proposed Red House Farm would not be visible from the Oxford Green Belt Way until the point where it reaches the upper slope to the north of Cumnor. In elevated views as illustrated by Representative Viewpoint 53, or more distant views as illustrated by Representative Viewpoint 47, cumulative magnitude would be reduced due to the vast scale of the landscape and intervening vegetation and the distance factor.

8.11.45 Therefore, cumulative magnitude of impact is considered Low, resulting in Moderate and not significant effects.

Public Rights of Way

Footpath 184/29

8.11.46 Footpath 184/29 (including 184/30) would not be affected cumulatively, due to its distance from the proposed Red House Farm.

Footpath 184/15, Footpath 184/16 and Footpath 184/22

8.11.47 The main assessment presented in section 8.10 concludes a Medium-Low to Low magnitude of impact attributable to the Project upon these routes, resulting in a Moderate/ minor to Minor adverse (not significant) level of effect on completion, which in the long term would reduce to a Moderate not significant effect.

8.11.48 Footpath 184/15, Footpath 184/16 and Footpath 184/22 would extend through both developments. Therefore additional sections of these routes would be affected by the development, increasing the overall magnitude of impact to medium-high, indicating to Moderate and Significant adverse effects in the medium term. In the long term, with established mitigation planting, it is expected that the effects will reduce to a Moderate/ minor not significant effect.

Tier 3 Project

Settlements and Residential receptors

8.11.49 There are no properties close enough to the Project and the adjacent proposed NGET Substation which would be affected cumulatively.

Long Distance Recreational Route

Oxford Green Belt Way

8.11.50 The path (184/30) on the south eastern shore of Farmoor Reservoir, passes the proposed NGET Substation and Project Substation, both of which are located on the bottom slope of Smith Hill. The location provides good containment in views from the wider landscape. It is therefore expected that

cumulative visibility would occur along a 200m long section, where the Way overlaps with Bushy Lease Lane (Viewpoint 50).

8.11.51 Due to the distance and intervening vegetation the proposed Red House Farm would not be visible from the Oxford Green Belt Way (Footpath 184/50, 184/22) (Viewpoint 47) until it reaches the upper slope to the north of Cumnor (Footpath 184/15). In elevated views as illustrated by Representative Viewpoint 53, cumulative magnitude would be reduced due to the vast scale of the landscape and intervening vegetation and the distance factor.

8.11.52 The overall cumulative magnitude on the Oxford Green Belt Way is considered Medium-Low, resulting in Moderate adverse and not Significant medium term effect. In the long term the proposed woodland planting along the site's perimeter would screen the Project Substation. It is expected that the NGET Substation application would incorporate a comprehensive mitigation proposal and that the overall cumulative magnitude on the Way would reduce to Low, resulting in Moderate/ minor and Neutral long-term effects.

Public Rights of Way

8.11.53 The location of the substations is backed by mature vegetation to the north west, which provides screening in views across the Farmoor Reservoir. Smith Hill Copes to the south provides screening in views from Cumnor Road /B4017. Therefore, the perceptual imprint of the substations, and therefore their combined visibility would be limited to their proximity. Representative Viewpoints 46, 50 and 51 are looking in the general direction of both schemes.

Footpath 184/29

8.11.54 Footpath 184/29 and Footpath 184/30, both overlap with Bushy Leaze Lane, which defines the northern boundary of both the substation sites. Views of the substations would be available from the proximity, however, only within a short section of these routes. Both substations would appear within the context of the existing transmission line.

8.11.55 Cumulative magnitude of impact is considered Medium-high upon Footpath 184/29 and Footpath 184/30, resulting in Moderate adverse and significant effect in the medium term**.**

8.11.56 In the long term the proposed woodland planting along the site's perimeter would screen the Project Substation. It is expected that comprehensive landscape mitigation measures would be applied in relation to the NEGET substation, including the use of a muted colours pattern and appropriate materials which will reduce the cumulative magnitude of impact to Medium-Low, resulting in **Moderate/Minor** and not significant effects.

Decommissioning phase

8.11.57 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.

8.11.58

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 8.21** 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 8.21: 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	✓	✓	✓	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	Minor adverse

Description of impact	Phase C	Phase O	Phase D	Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
approximately 706.3 linear metres.				and potential intervisibility with the Project where removal occurs in the 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.

Table 8.22

8.14.2 Table 8.22 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 15 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, 23, 25, 26, 33, 38, 39, 41, 48, 49, 50 and 54 arising from the Project during the operation and maintenance phase.

8.14.3 **Table 8.23** 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 15 Moderate or 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, 23, 25, 26, 33, 38, 39, 41, 48, 49, 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. With the exception of Representative Viewpoint 23, 48 and 50.

- In accordance with the LVIA methodology, landscape and visual effects has been assessed at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15. Although 15 significant effects have been identified, as detailed above, by Year 15 these are anticipated to be not significant, other than those identified above. 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 managed, would have achieved a height of approximately 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 15 significant effects, detailed above, have been identified. Of the remaining 40 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 8.22: 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
Open limestone wolds LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Semi-enclosed limestone wolds LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Lower Cherwell Floodplain LCA	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low-Negligible O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Floodplain pasture LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate 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
Semi-enclosed rolling vale farmland LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Open flat vale farmland LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Semi-enclosed flat vale farmland LCT	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate to Major adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Vale Edge Slopes	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Medium to High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate 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

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
Oxford Green Belt Way (including 184/30, 184/50, 184/22, 184/15)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium D: Low to Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Dornford Lane	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible to Low O: Negligible to Low D: Negligible to Low	High	C: Negligible to Minoradverse O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Negligible to Minor adverse	n/a
PRoW 416/22	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium D: Low to Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 416/5 (including 416/6, 379/7, 379/8)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 416/2 (416/2, 416/23, 413/5)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to 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
Bridleway 342/1	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium D: Low to Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
PRoW 342/6	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Footpath 238/5 (including 206/10)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low to Medium O: Low to Medium D: Low to Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Bridleway 206/11 (including 206/3, 152/5)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Footpath 238/1 (including 238/2)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate 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
Footpath 152/6	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 420/14 (including 152/7, 420/14, 420/14)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 132/4 (including 132/2, 132/2, 124/5)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 265/26 (including 265/34, 265/24)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate 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
Footpath 184/29 (including 184/30)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Moderate adverse O: Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 184/15	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium to High O: Medium to High D: Medium to High	High	C: Minor to Moderate adverse O: Minor to Moderate adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor to Moderate adverse	n/a
Footpath 184/16	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse	n/a
Footpath 184/22	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: 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

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
Northern Site							
Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south from bridleway 365/4/30	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D:	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 4: View east from footpath 416/22/20, near Lower Dornford Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low to Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate adverse (significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 5a: View looking south from bridleway 416/11/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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
(Claude Duval Wau) part of NCN Route 5							
Representative Viewpoint 5b: View looking east from footpath 416/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 5c: View looking west from footpath 416/5/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking west from footpath 379/7/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking southeast from footpath 416/17/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking southeast from footpath	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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
416/24/10, near Hordley House							
Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north from footpath 379/1/10 (Oxfordshire Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)		O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking west from footpath 379/1/20 (Oxfordshire Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low to Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking west from bridleway 379/19/20 (Claude Duval Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Medium D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking northeast from footpath 413/1/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking northeast from	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)	None	O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	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
bridleway 342/1/10, near Banbury Road							
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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from footpath 342/6/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Central Site							
Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking south from A44, near Bladon	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	Low to Medium	C: Negligible adverse (not significant) O: Negligible adverse (not significant)	None	O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Negligible adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking west from footpath 265/24/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 19: View looking southeast from the A4095 local road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: No Effect to Negligible D: Negligible	Low to Medium	C: Negligible adverse (not significant) O: Negligible adverse (not significant)		O: No Effect D: Negligible adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Negligible adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 21: View looking southeast from footpath 238/1/10 near Pinsley Wood	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
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 (not significant) O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	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 (significant) O: Moderate adverse (significant)	None	O: Moderate adverse (significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	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 24: View looking east from footpath 238/5/20 near Church Hanborough	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low to Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 25: View looking south from footpath 238/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate to Major adverse (significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Minor to Moderate adverse D: Moderate adverse	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 26: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate to Major adverse (significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 27: View looking north from footpath 238/5/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 29: View	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low	High	C: Negligible adverse (not significant)	None	O: Negligible adverse (not significant)	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 northeast from footpath 206/12/10, at Acre Hill		D: Negligible		O: Minor adverse (not significant)		D: Negligible adverse (not significant)	
Representative Viewpoint 30: View looking northeast from footpath 206/12/10 at Ace Hill	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Low D: Negligible	High	C: Negligible adverse (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		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 (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant) D: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 32: View looking northeast from footpath 124/5/10, near Begbroke	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible to Low O: Negligible to Low D: Low	High	C: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 33: View looking southeast from footpath 152/7/10	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 34: View looking west from	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible to Low	High	C: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)	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 420/14/10 (Shakespeare's Way)		D: Low					
Representative Viewpoint 35: View looking west from footpath 420/14/20 (Shakespeare's Way)	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		O: No Effect D: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 37a: View looking east from footpath 152/6/10 near Goose Eye Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)		O: Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: No Effect D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	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 39: View looking southeast from footpath 152/6/10 near Purwell Farm	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant)		O: Minor to Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 41: View looking west from Yarnton Road on the outskirts of Cassington	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	Low to Medium	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 43: View looking northwest from permissive path	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Negligible D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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
through Wytham Woods							
Southern Site							
Representative Viewpoint 44: View looking southwest from permissive path through Wytham Woods	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 46: View looking south from footpath 184/15/10 near Eynsham Road	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	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 48: View looking south from footpath 184/15/30, Oxford Green Belt Way	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Low D: Low	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate adverse (significant)	None	O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 49: View looking southwest from footpath	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Moderate adverse (significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 50: View looking southeast from footpath 184/50/20, Oxford Green Belt Way adjacent Farmoor Reservoir	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: High D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (significant) O: Major adverse (significant)	None	O: Moderate to Major adverse (significant) D: Moderate adverse (significant)	n/a
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 (not significant) O: Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 52: View looking north from the	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Low O: Low D: Low	Low to Medium	C: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant) O: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Negligible to Minor adverse (not significant)	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
B4017 Tumbledown Road							
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 (not significant) O: Moderate adverse (not significant)	None	O: Minor adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 54: View looking north from footpath 184/16/20	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Medium O: Medium D: Medium	High	C: Moderate adverse (not significant) O: Major adverse (significant)		O: Moderate adverse (not significant) D: Moderate adverse (not significant)	n/a
Representative Viewpoint 55: View looking northwest from footpath 184/18/20 near Cumnor	✓ ✓ ✓	C: Negligible O: Negligible D: Negligible	High	C: Minor adverse (not significant) O: Negligible adverse (not significant)		O: Negligible adverse (not significant) D: Minor adverse	n/a

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

8.15 References

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