

Botley West Solar Farm

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

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1 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document provides a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) of the Environmental Statement prepared for the development of Botley West Solar Farm (referred to hereafter as 'the Project').
- 1.1.2 This assessment identifies potential effects attributed to the Proposed Development on residential visual amenity through the completion of **Steps 1** to **3** of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). The assessment aims to identify properties with the greatest magnitude of change, to determine whether any properties require further assessment and are to be taken forward to **Step 4** of the RVAA.
- 1.1.3 The methodology section below provides further details of the RVAA process.
- 1.1.4 The assessment is supported by the following Figures and Appendices:
 - Appendix A: Figures 1.1 to 1.66
 - Appendix B: Figures 2.1 to 2.28
 - Appendix A: Residential Property Data Sheets
 - Appendix B: PVDP Buffer Zone Analysis

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The purpose of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is to identify potential effects of the Development on residential visual amenity of such nature and / or magnitude that it potentially affects "living conditions" or residential visual amenity. This is referred as the residential visual amenity threshold. RVAA requires assessors to reach a conclusion on whether the effect of the development on visual amenity and / or views from the property reaches the threshold.
- 1.2.2 Residential amenity is a planning matter that involves a wide number of effects (such as noise) and benefits, of which residential visual amenity is just one component. The RVAA is limited to the consideration of visual effects on residential amenity and the methodology accords with the advice in GLVIA3 and the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.
- 1.2.3 Planning law contains a widely understood principle that the outlook or view from a private property is a private interest and not therefore protected by the UK planning system. However, the planning system also recognises situations where the effects on residential visual amenity are considered as a matter of public interest. This matter has been examined at a number of public inquiries in Wales (as well as in Scotland and England) where the key determining issue was not the identification of significant effects on views, but whether the proposed turbines would have an overbearing effect and/or result in unsatisfactory living conditions, leading to a property being regarded.





objectively, as an unattractive (as opposed to a less attractive) place in which to live.

- 1.2.4 "The planning system is designed to protect the public rather than private interests, but both interests may coincide where, for example, visual intrusion is of such magnitude as to render a property an unattractive place in which to live. This is because it is not in the public interest to create such living conditions where they did not exist before. Thus I do not consider that simply being able to see a turbine or turbines from a particular window or part of the garden of a house is sufficient reason to find the visual impact unacceptable (even though a particular occupier might find it objectionable)." (TGN 2/19 paragraph A1.14).
- 1.2.5 The RVAA consequently provides a detailed assessment of the most affected residential properties by the Project. This allows the assessor and the determining authority to make a judgement as to whether the residents at these properties and communities would be likely to sustain unsatisfactory living conditions which it would not be in the public interest to create. Reviews of decisions demonstrate that significant visual effects or changes to the views available from residential properties and their curtilage are not the decisive consideration, rather it is the residential amenity and, with regard to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), visual amenity that is determinate. In any event RVAA can be considered supplementary to LVIA following on from, and informed by, the latter's findings and conclusions. It is, however, important to note that the assessment of residential visual amenity is separate and distinct from the LVIA. RVAA focuses on private visual amenity at individual properties whilst LVIA focusses on public amenity and views. TGN2/19 makes it clear that 'combined effects on a number of residents', by means of 'aggregating properties within a settlement' is a matter of LVIA and not of RVAA.

Preliminary appraisal of buffers

- 1.2.6 During the evolution of the design and layout of the Project, the Applicant (initially comprising Mr C Lecointe and Ms Jane Betts (CMLI)), using their combined planning and landscape experience of over 70 years) decided that it would be necessary to include buffer zones between residential properties and the solar arrays. They took this view in order to protect amenity from a planning perspective and from a visual amenity perspective.
- 1.2.7 There is no 'rule' as to what such a buffer should be; instead, it is ultimately a matter for professional judgement. They applied this judgement.
- 1.2.8 That initial judgement eventually settled on a distance of a minimum of 25m from the curtilage of residential properties. They took the view that if a property had a view of the arrays, that distance was a good starting point to mitigate any unacceptable adverse effects.
- 1.2.9 As a default, therefore that buffer distance was adopted by the Project.
- 1.2.10 Importantly that 'starting point' continued to be tested and refined, mostly through the addition of additional planting within the buffer, in order to avoid or offset what might be judged to be unacceptable landscape and visual effects.





- During this process it was decided the increase the buffer distance around Purwell Farm, to remove panel of the slopes to the west of that property, and to introduce woodland planting and hedgerows, which combined, achieved the protection of the amenity of that property. The landscaping solution incorporated in this area was also designed to avoid or minimise views across the Evenlode valley in this general area.
- 1.2.111.2.12 It should be noted that overall the built elements of the Project are set back by more than 25 m from the perimeters of the properties.
- 1.2.121.2.13 As evidence of this approach, the enclosed document produced by PVDP, set out a record of how such buffers would look like of some potentially affected properties (see Appendix B).

1.3 Assessment Methodology

- 1.3.1 The RVAA is based on the process of four 'steps' as set up in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 as follows:
 - Step One: Definition of study area and scope of the assessment informed by the description of the proposed development, defining the
 study area extent and scope of the assessment with respect to the
 properties to be included.
 - Step Two: Evaluation of baseline visual amenity at properties to be included having regard to the landscape and visual context and the development proposed.
 - Step Three: Assessment of likely change to visual amenity of included properties in accordance with GLVIA3 set of principles.
 - Step Four: Further assessment of predicted change to visual amenity of properties to be included forming a judgement with respect to the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold.
- 1.3.2 This is the process by which informed professional judgement is engaged to reach a conclusion regarding the residential visual amenity threshold (RVAT).
- 1.3.3 The following section sets out the methodology and the factors considered in more detail.

Step One: Definition of study area and scope of assessment

- 1.3.4 Step One of the assessment comprised a desk study of address data, OS mapping, aerial imagery utilising Google Earth Pro and the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) to identify residential properties which are inside the viewshed (ZTV) within the 1 km study area.
- 1.3.5 Figure 1.1 to 1.66: 'Residential Properties and Zone of Theoretical Visibility' shows a total of 330 residential properties on the ZTV overlay within a 50 to 250m buffer of built elements of the Project.





Step Two: Evaluation of baseline visual amenity at properties

- 1.3.6 Step 2 involved evaluation of the baseline visual conditions at the properties within the ZTV.
- 1.3.7 In considering baseline visual amenity, the following were examined:
 - The nature and extent of the available existing views (including main/principal and secondary/ peripheral views) from the property and its garden/ domestic curtilage, including the proximity and relationship of the property to surrounding landform, landcover and visual foci; and
 - Views experienced when approaching or departing from the property via its driveway and/or access roads, if applicable.
- 1.3.8 OS maps, aerial imagery and Google Streetview and field survey were used to record information such as:
 - The location of the residential elements of each property,
 - The type of the property and its use (detached, semidetached, terraced property, single or two storey etc, plus details of grounds and any outbuildings);
 - Layout and orientation of the gardens and property curtilage;
 - Access location, and likely views from private or shared driveways or access tracks; and
 - Potential screening provided by local variations in topography, the built environment and vegetation/tree cover within the surrounding landscape.

Step Three: Assessment of likely change to visual amenity of included properties in accordance with GLVIA3 set of principles

- 1.3.9 Step Three assesses the magnitude and significance of likely visual effect at the included properties and identifies any properties requiring further assessment to identify the likelihood of these effects to approach the RVAA threshold.
- 1.3.10 A judgement on the magnitude of visual change which would be experienced has been made with reference to the following factors:
 - Distance of property from the proposed development and the visibility of development in views from the property;
 - The elevation of the property relative to the proposed development and angle of view, proportion of the view occupied by the Project;
 - The extent of development visible, and its position within views from the property e.g. whether in key views from the property, secondary views, gardens and/ or private drives and whether subject to any screening or filtering;
 - The viewing experiences in different directions: the availability of other views from the property, including those that would not be affected by the Project.





1.3.11 The magnitude of visual impact (change) is set out in table 1 below and is derived from the LVIA methodology as set out in ES Chapter 8 (table 8.9).

Table 1: Magnitude of Impact upon Views and Visual Amenity

Magnitude of impact	Visual change description
High	Complete or very substantial change in view(s) – the Project appears as a dominant or focal element in prime views from the property occupying a considerably wide angle, in close-proximity view(s), resulting in a substantial change to prime views from the property's amenity area(s).
Medium	Moderate change in view(s) – The Project appears as a noticeable or even prominent feature, occupying a moderate angle of the available view. The Project would not substantially alter the prime views from the property.
Low	Minor change in baseline view(s) – The project is distinguishable or occupying a small angle of available view(s) or visible to some extent, not in prime views, overall resulting in a small change.
Negligible	Very slight change in baseline view(s) — the Project is slightly distinguishable from the surroundings or appears as a distant and subsidiary element.
No change	No visibility of the Project from the property and its surrounding curtilage, amenity and utility areas.

Step Four: Assessment of predicted change to visual amenity of properties to be included forming a judgement with respect to the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold.

- 1.3.12 The Step Four Assessment considers the likelihood of whether significant effects identified in the assessment would be 'overbearing' or 'overwhelming' and whether, in terms of the wider public interest, the visual effects would result in unsatisfactory living conditions, leading to properties being regarded, objectively, as an unattractive (as opposed to a less attractive) place in which to live.
- 1.3.13 A property experiencing significant visual effects will not necessarily experience effects on residential visual amenity which are judged to breach the residential visual amenity threshold. For the purposes of this assessment such impacts are considered to occur when solar panelsthe built elements of the Project are present in such number, size and proximity that they represent an unpleasantly overwhelming and unavoidable presence in main views from a house or garden.
- 1.3.14 For example, the development would form a dominant element in close proximity to the majority of key locations, thereby representing a pervasive impact on the quality and character of views out from the property/ group of properties, and on the visual amenity of the /properties as a whole. Such impacts could be considered to be **oppressive**, **overbearing or overwhelming**.
- 1.3.15 The Residential Visual Amenity Threshold is judged by considering whether the development, for example:





- blocks the only available view from a property; or
- is overwhelming views in all directions; or
- is unpleasantly encroaching/ overly intrusive; or
- is inescapably dominant from the property
- 1.3.16 Very Large impacts may also occur where the proposed development would cause encirclement or the completion of the encirclement of a property or group of properties by similarly visually dominant developments, thereby making cumulative effects truly pervasive oppressive, overly intrusive or overbearing.
- 1.3.17 For <u>Stage 4this</u> assessment the most significantly affected properties <u>wereare</u> to be visited in order to identify and describe in detail the extent of external and internal areas of the property affected by views of the development.
- 1.3.18 Specific terms used to describe the impact of the Development on the visual amenity of a property are listed below and a definition provided:
 - Overbearing: Tending to overwhelm. Of such scale and dominance relative to the residential environment and views that the development can be said to be represent a significant detractor from views and the character of the environment of the property.
 - Overwhelming: Impacts are of such scale and dominance relative to the residential environment and that the development can be said to be 'overpowering and/ or oppressive'. Such effects are pervasive and largely unavoidable in main views and main/ principal locations in the property.
 - **Oppressive**: Effects may be considered intolerable or of such an extent that they result in a sense of ill-ease and discomfort.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 1.3.19 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies (refer to Figures 1.1 to 1.66) have been produced and used as a tool to inform the professional judgements made in this assessment.
- 1.3.20 The ZTV studies haves been modelled on the maximum development parameters available. Viewshed analysis was run in ArcGIS Pro for the main substation, secondary substations, PCS and panels separately. The eye-level of the viewer was modelled at a height of 2m (an over-estimation of average eye-level heights). Structures are modelled at heights of 2.3m for solar panels, 11m for main substation, 6m for secondary substations, and 3.5m for PCS.
- 1.3.21 <u>Toln order to provide a more realistic indication of the potential visibility, in contrast to a bare ground/earth ZTV which would only take into account landform only, more precise LiDAR data was acquired and processed.</u>
- 1.3.22 The ZTV was run using the ArcGIS Pro Viewshed tool. This takes a Digital Surface Model (DSM) as input and identifies where a set of origin points representing built structures will be visible. The DSM divides the study area into grid cells and assigns an elevation to each grid cell. The elevation represents a measurement of the elevation of ground or land cover, such as vegetation and buildings.





1.3.23 A DSM is constructed from available data to model land cover at an appropriate level of detail for the assessment being undertaken. Data was used from the freely available from the Environment Agency (EA) National Lidar Programme (NLP). The EA NLP data was sourced as a 1m first return model which gives an optimal approximation of vegetation height. A limitation of the LIDAR DSM models is that power lines appear in the model 1.3.24 which would show as obstructing views in the ZTV. Where this was the case, the model was replaced with the EA DSM model to correct this issue rather than using first return. 1.3.25 A limitation of viewshed analysis on surface models is that the output will include visibility from 2m above rooftops or the canopy of vegetation. To filter out this effect visibility from those locations was masked out. A dataset was developed using LiDAR lidar to identify land cover taller than 50cm. This was validated and some artifacts removed where vegetation was incorrectly detected. This dataset was then used to remove those areas of vegetation and buildings from the ZTV. 1.3.26 The effects of earth curvature and light refraction are considered. ZTV calculation does not use mathematically approximate methods. ZTV is not calculated beyond 500m from modelled structures. 1.3.27 The ZTVs exercise is only meaningful if the limitations of the ZTV production have been considered. The main factor to the magnitude of change/impact, is the effect of distance and the field of view occupied by the Proposed Development, this however cannot be modelled in the ZTV and as a result, the extent of actual visibility experienced on the ground would be considerably less than is suggested by the ZTV coverage pattern. 1.3.28 While the produced ZTVs provide a good indication from where visibility of the Proposed Development might be experienced, it should be noted that just a fraction of the modelled structure used in the ZTV generation may give rise to the burst of fragmented, speckled colour pattern indicating visibility. Therefore, the ZTV could at the same time indicate visibility of the whole development or only a fraction of it. Therefore, it should be borne in mind that even such a precise data-based ZTV still represents a theoretical model of the potential visibility of the Proposed Development. As a result, the extent of actual visibility experienced on the ground will be less than suggested by the computergenerated ZTV-study. 1.3.29 It should be noted that the produced ZTVs do not take into account the proposed mitigation planting, i.e. they are based on the vegetation at the time that the LiDAR data was captured.

In addition, the datasheets have been provided in Appendix A, showing the list of properties, based on the address data within a 250–m radius of the development. The table indicates if the dwellingproperty/house falls within the ZTV and in relation to what type of development, i.e. solar panels, PCSs or substations. The ZTV columns in the table are based on the unmasked ZTV

In total, there are 320 properties within a 250m radius, of which 75 properties

so would show visibility from 2m above tree-tops and rooflines.

fall within the ZTV and 245 remain outside the ZTV.

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1.3.30

1.3.31





Dataset used in identifying residential properties

- 1.3.32 The Applicant notes It has to be explained that property names shown on the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:25,000 maps are not an exact match with the AddressBase dData, used in identifying residential properties. Therefore, for locating properties, the dataset of the Ordnance Survey (OS) AddressBase Plus product was used. This is a chargeable product and is the best source of data on properties available.
- 1.3.33 The dataset gives a location based postal address, so if a property has several buildings but is considered one property it will only show a single location. As for example in the case of College Farm/ Pelican House (see Table 2).
- 1.3.34 It does differentiate between different types of property, e.g. residential properties and commercial properties, e.g. Owls Leat/ Willow Farm (see Table 2).

1.3.30

1.4 RVAA Findings – Steps 1 to 3

- 1.4.1 Based on the field survey verifications, it was concluded that the potentially significant visibility of the Project would primarily be concentrated in the immediate vicinity of the site, from the residential properties.
- 1.4.2 The following main settlements fall outside of the ZTV, as shown in Figures 1.1 to 1.66:
 - Wootton 830m to the west of the northern part of the Site;
 - Woodstock 350 m to the southwest of the solar panels in the northern part of the Site and abutting the cable corridor on its eastern boundary;
 - Begbroke 210m to the east of the centre section of the Site;
 - Yarton 650m to the east of the centre section of the Site:
 - Eynsham abutting the cable corridor on its eastern boundary;
 - Farmoor abutting the cable corridor on its northeastern boundary;
 - Chawley 240m to the east of the southern section of the Site;
 - Cumnor 430m to the south of the southern section of the Site:
- 1.4.3 It is judged that for those visual receptors located outside of the ZTV there would be little to no visibility of the Project, and that effects would be **Negligible** at most.
- 1.4.4 The properties which abut with the cable corridor are considered in the assessment of construction effects.
- 1.4.5 The following settlements, or parts of them, fall within the ZTV, as shown in Figures 1.1 to 1.66 and have therefore been considered further in the assessment:
 - Bladon 85m to the southwest of the centre section of the Site at Heath Lane;





- Cassington 5065-m south of the centrale section of the Site at Barrow Court;
- Church Hanborough 110m to the northwest of the centre section of the Site; Due to the distance and intervening vegetation, it is unlikely there would be visibility of the Project.
- 1.4.6 There are several scattered farms/ residential properties around the area, which fall within the ZTV, and as listed in Table 2.

 Table 2:
 Individual Residential receptors in relation to Operational Impacts

Northern areases Upper Dornford Cottage Figure 2.20	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements tion of the Pro	ject The house is approximately 55m to the north of the solar panels, at the northernmost part of the Project. The property is well contained by existing vegetation, restricting
		views to the wider landscape. The southern boundary of the property appears lease dense and there are views available to a small part of the Project site. Included in the assessment.
Upper Dornford Barn	<u>195m</u>	Upper Dornford Barn is a single-story property, approximately 195 m to the northeast of the northernmost built elements of the Project, at its nearest point. To the south and east of this property, along Dornford Lane, extensive tree and hedgerow vegetation is present which encloses the property. The north elevation is more open where views from the rear of the property would be away from the Project. The main aspects of the property are orientated internally to a central courtyard area. Although the ZTV (Figure 1.4), of the RVAA, indicates a very small area of potential intervisibility to the east of Upper Dornford Barn at its side elevation, the vegetated boundaries would restrict any potential views at a distance of 195-m of the Project and therefore the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Lower Dornford Farm and, Lower Dornford Cottage and Dornford Cottage	<u>190m</u>	The houses are approximately 190m to the west of the solar panels within the northern part of the Project Site. Included in the assessment.
(Dornford Grove) Dornford Cottage Figure 2.17	<u>6557m</u>	The house is approximately 6557m to the west of the solar panels, within the northern section of the Project. Property is well contained by existing vegetation with a more open aspect to the north from the rear of the property. Included in the assessment.
Old Man Leys Cottage (Mulberry Cottage)	250 261m	The house is 250261 m to the east of the solar panels within the northern section of the Project Site.





Receptor	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements	Distance / Description
		Due to the distance and intervening farm buildings, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Hordley Farm / Hordley Barns and Hordley House	70 67m	This group of properties are approximately 140 to 150m west and 7067 to 130m to the northwest of the solar panels within the norther section of the Project.
		Intervening buildings, among the group, would screen possible views to the Project from many of them. Along with intervening vegetation.
		Due to the distance and intervening farm buildings, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Hordley Cottages Figure 2.16	<u>35m</u>	The Cottages are 35m to the west and 80m to the north of the solar panels within the northern section of the site, next to the B4027.
		Views would be more open from first floor windows to the south for Hordley Cottages, however partially filtered by mature coniferous trees, and high hedgerows along the B4027, to the east. Included in the assessment.
Sansom's Farm and Sansom's Cottage	170 161m	The house is 470161 m to the south and 220m to the north-east of the -solar panels within the northern section of the Project Site, next to the B4027.
Figure 2.14 Figure 2.15		The main aspect of the property is orientated towards the south east. Due to the distance and surrounding vegetation, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Upper Old Weaveley Farm	<u>250m</u>	The house is 250m to the northeast of the solar panels within the northern section of the Project Site.
		Due to the distance and surrounding vegetation, the property is not considered further in the assessment (see -Figure 2.12).
Old-Upper Weaveley Farm	<u>460m</u>	Abutting the cable corridor on its western boundary, 460m to the northeast of the solar panels within the northern section of the Project Site.
		Included in the assessment in Table 3 'Residential receptors in relation to Construction Impacts of the 275kV Cable Route'.
Weaveley Farm Figure 2.13	<u>65m</u>	The house is 85m to the east and 65m to the north of the solar panels in the northern section of the Project Site.
rigure 2.10		The main orientation of the property is to the west towards agricultural fields, which would be covered by solar panels. Included in the assessment.
Shipton Slade Farm, Shipton Slade Barn, Amhurst Cottage, Reeves Cottage and Guinea Fowl Cottages	<u>40m</u>	A complex of residential properties within the curtilage of Shipton Slade Farm. Approximately 40m to the southeast of the solar panels, at the nearest point, within the northern section of the Project Site.





Receptor	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements	Distance / Description
Figure 2.11		The main orientation of Shipton Slade Farm is north and south, with substantial existing vegetation to the north. The main orientation of Shipton Slade Barn is east, away from the Project, with intervening built form and vegetation to the west preventing views. The main orientation of Guinea Fowl, Amhurst and Reeves Cottages is inwards to internal courtyards. With only rear / side elevations facing the Project Site.
		Not included within assessment due to orientation of primary views, intervening built form and existing vegetation.
Centrale areasect	ion of the Pro	<u>ect</u>
Properties next to Upper Campsfield Road		Abutting with the cable corridor, which overlaps with the A4095, which extends between the northern and central sections of the Project Site. Included in the assessment in Table 3: 'Residential receptors in relation to Construction Impacts of the 275kV Cable Route'.
Burleigh House	<u>37m</u>	The house is 37m to the north of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site. The property is accessed from Cassington Road, which extends 50m to the east of the house. Due to being surrounded by a mature tree belt, the two-storey house is not visible from the road. The property benefits from a large open space around the house.
Campsfield Farmhouse	<u>35m</u>	The house is located next to the A44/ Woodstock Road and approximately 65m to the north of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site. The solar panels are 35m from the property's perimeter, which is marked by a hedgerow. Due to mature trees in the proximity of the two-storey house, there would be no visibility of solar panels expected from the house. The open space to the southwest of the house would have limited views of the upper sections of the solar panels due to the intermittent boundary vegetation
Properties along Wolsey Court, including- Campsfield Farm Cottages Figure 2.10	<u>120110m</u>	Properties are approximately 420110m from built elements within the central section of the Project Site. Campsfield Farm Cottages have side elevation aspects towards the Project, with upper and lower storey windows. The main aspect of other properties within Wolsey Court is internal. The ZTV indicates that only a very small fraction of the Project would be visible, seen above the busy Woodstock Road and other intervening vegetation and built form further screening possible views. Campsfield Farm House located to the west of the A44 appears to be unoccupied. Properties not considered further within the assessment.
Rose Cottage	<u>80m</u>	The house is approximately 80m to the northeast of the solar panels and secondary substation, at its' nearest point.





Receptor		Distance / Description
		The main orientation of the property is southwest.
		The property has a large wall to its front, at the roadside, with only small upper storey widows with views above it. Substantial intervening vegetation and landform would prevent views to the majority of the Project.
		Due to the distance to the main elements of the Project, surrounding vegetation and property boundary, the property is no considered further in the assessment.
Mill Farm	190 176m	The house is 490176m to the north of the solar panels in the centre section of the Project Site.
		Due to the distance and surrounding vegetation, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
City Farm/Bungalow	260 231m	The house is 260231m to the south-west of the solar panels in the centre section of the site and 600m to the north-west of the Project Substation.
		Due to the distance and surrounding vegetation, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Heath Lane, Bladon	<u>9598m</u>	These properties are located to approximately 9598 m to the west of the solar panels in the central section of the Project, at the nearest point.
		Approximately four bungalows are located at the far eastern extents of heath lane and houses are located to the west of these – number 63. Oblique views to the east are filtered by tall vegetation.
		Vegetation located to the west of the farm track screens oblique views to the northeast obtained from rear elevations of the bungalows and houses located to the north of Heath Lane.
		Included in the assessment as part of the overall assessment for \the settlement of Bladon.
The Studio, Bladon	<u>400m</u>	The property is approximately 400m to the west of the solar panels within the central section of the Project Site.
		Evergreen vegetation located along boundary.
		Oblique views obtained to the northeast from front elevations beyond boundary walls. Vegetation located along the front and side boundary of the Studio largely contains views to the northeast.
		Not included in the assessment.
Village End, Begbroke Figure 2.9	205 208m	Property is approximately 205208m to the east of the solar panel in the central section of the Project, at its' nearest point.
		Open views to the west from the front elevation of Village End. Views to the north also from the front elevation of this property are partially screened by the hedgerow to the north of the Public Right of Way. Vegetation located along the rear gardens of three





Receptor	<u>Approximate</u>	Distance / Description
	<u>elements</u>	properties located to the west of Spring Hill Road filters views to the north from the rear elevations of these properties.
		Due to the distance and surrounding vegetation, the property is not considered further in the assessment.
Burleigh Lodge Figure 2.6	113 107m	This bungalow is approximately <u>107</u> 413m to the north of the solar panels within the central section of the Project, at its' nearest point.
		Conservatory and two rear windows – south facing. Mature boundary vegetation largely contains property.
		A mature garden hedge largely screens views to the south from the rear elevation of this bungalow.
		Not included in the assessment.
Burleigh Farm	<u>45m</u>	The house is 45m to the west of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site, otherwise surrounded by the Project, although more distantly.
		Vegetation located in the front garden filters views to the east from the front elevation of this property. Barns located to the west of this property screen views to the west from the rear elevation of this property.
		Included in the assessment.
Ba <u>t</u> timer, Burleigh Road <u>Figure 2.4</u>	<u>46m</u>	The bungalow is approximately 46m to the west of the solar panels within the central section of the Project. There only panels to the east of this property at this distance with all other sides of the property free of panels.
		Vegetation located along the boundary to this property and the adjacent hedgerow located to the west of the Burleigh Road filters views from the front elevation of this bungalow. Resulting in only glimpsed views to a very small part of the Project.
		Not included in the assessment.
Eynsham Road, Cassington Figure 2.1	<u>135m</u>	This row of properties, located at the southwestern edge of Cassington, are approximately 135m to the southeast of the solar panels at the nearest point.
<u>. igaio 2. i</u>		Vegetation and outbuildings located to the rear of these properties filters / screens views to the north from rear elevations. Existing vegetation further to the north further filter views.
		Not included in the assessment.
Barrow Court, Cassington Figure 2.3	<u>5765m</u>	These two storey properties, located at the eastern edge of Cassington, are approximately <u>5765</u> m to the south of the solar panels at the nearest point from the rear of the properties.
<u></u>		Vegetation located to the rear of the properties filters views to the north from rear elevations. With some more open views available.
		Included in the assessment.





Receptor	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements	Distance / Description
Williams Court, Cassington Figure 2.2	<u>116420</u> m	These two storey properties, located within the centre of Cassington near to PRoW 152/6/10, are approximately 120m to the southeast of the solar panels, at the nearest point. The main northerly aspect from the rear of these properties is a greater distance from the Project (approximately 245m to the southeast). Rear open views obtained to the north and west from rear
		elevations beyond garden fences. Included in the assessment.
College Farm and Pelican House College Farm Figure 2.26	<u>50m</u>	The house is 50m to the west of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site. It appears that views of the solar panels, 100m to the north and 80m to the south of the house, would be screened by the vegetation which surrounds the property. Included in the assessment.
Goose Eye Farm Figure 2.22	<u>30m</u>	The house is 30m to the south and 70m to the east of the solar panels in the centre section of the Project Site. Included in the assessment.
Owls Leat/ Willow Cottage (Children's Nursery and Children's	<u>45m</u>	The house is 55m to the south-west, 45-m to the east, and 55m to the north of the solar panels in the centrale section of the site. Views to the west are screened by roadside vegetation and to the north by farm buildings.
Nursery Crèche) Figure 2.23		Included in the assessment. Due to the surrounding vegetation. the property is not considered further in the assessment. Included in the assessment.
New Barn <u>Farm</u> Cottage <u>House</u> Figure 2.25	<u>3235m</u>	The house is 60m-3235m to the south east of the solar panels in the centrale section of the site at its closest, otherwise surrounded by the Project, although more distantly.
<u>ga.o 2.20</u>		Views to the south from the side elevation are filtered by garden trees and a low garden fence and views to the east from the side elevation are screened by a maintained garden hedge and filtered by garden trees. Included in the assessment.
Church Hanborough	<u>110430m</u>	ThreeFive residential properties, tho the southeastern edge of the village of Church Hanborough, fall within the 250-m buffer. As shown on Figure 1.19 of the RVAA, three out of -15 residential properties of the settlement within 250m buffer would have potential visibility of the Project from within -their curtilages-areass of three properties. These are The Paddocks, The Stables and New Barn Farmhouse. There is no potential for views of the Project from the remaining residential properties, within the 250 m buffer, or other properties within Church Hanborough. Looking at the three properties indicated above individually Included in the assessment.





Receptor	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements	Distance / Description
Southern section	n of the Project	
Purwell_Farm Figure 2.21	<u>4235m</u>	The house is 3542m to the closest solar panels and 62m to the north-east of the solar panels in the central southern section of the Project Site at its closest and 300m from ta he NGET secondary sSubstation. Included in the assessment.
Lake Vview, and Heiderbech and Tumbledowns,	204 240 m	These properties are approximately <u>204240</u> m to the south of the solar panels in the southern section of the Project, at the nearest point.
Cumnor Figure 2.27 and Figure 2.28		Both pProperties have some mature trees to the north which would filter views. With limited views to the northeast from Lakev View. However, there are largely open elevated views to the north from these properties the upper floor windows of Lakeview house. Albeit restricted by mature vegetation, particularly Heiderbech.
		Included in the assessment.
Southern Area Jumper's Farm	<u>6057m</u>	The house is 6057m to the east of the solar panels within the southern part of the Project-Site.
		Property is surrounded by mature vegetation and the Willow Park development to the south. There are glimpsed views to the west to a very small part of the Project Site. With limited or no views to the south, north or east.
		The house faces west,towards the Project and the Project lies on the far side of the Cumnor Road. directly towards the area which has been allocated for new planting. Also, tThe property's boundary with the Cumnor Road is formed by a curtilage of the house is surrounded by substantial hedgerow and the property has mature trees within its front gardendense vegetation. Buildings on the Willow Park commercial development and the mature vegetation within this development screen views to the southeast.
		Views west from first floor windows of Jumpers are would be more open but due to there are also several mature individual trees in the front garden and on the northwestern boundaries of the Willow Park development there is a degree of screening towards the Project to the west and substantial screening to the south and east., including those from first floor windows.epen area to the west of the Willow Park Development that would filter first floor views to the west / southwest. There are also a number of individual trees along the north of the Willow Park Development that would also filter first floor views to the south / southeast from first floor windows at the rear of this property.
		Buildings on the Willow Park Development and the mature hedgerow to the south / southeast screen views to the southeast and the hedge along the front garden, adjacent to Cumnor Rd screens views to the west.





Receptor	Approximate Ddistance from Projects' the built elements	Distance / Description	
		Due to the large area of intervening vegetation, including trees and hedgerows, the property is not considered further in the assessment. Included in the assessment.	
Denman's Farm	55 52m	The house is located 5255m to the east of the solar panels in the southern section of the project Site, at its closest, otherwise surrounded by the Project, although more distantly. Included in the assessment.	

Construction Phase

Construction Impacts of the Proposed Substations and Solar Panels

- 1.4.7 The residual effects arising as a result of the construction of the proposed Substations and Solar Panels are assessed as being of the same magnitude and not higher on all 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.
- 1.4.8 Therefore, the effects attributable to the construction stage of the proposed Substations and Solar Panels are not assessed further.

Construction Impacts of the 275kV Cable Route

Residential receptors

Sensitivity

1.4.9 The sensitivity of visual receptors (people) <u>infrom/on</u> settlements and recreational routes has been considered as High.

Magnitude of impact

- 1.4.10 The Cable Corridor would occupy a long tract connecting the Project Substations. The construction phase for the Cables includes the installation of temporary fencing, areas of construction compounds (up to 3 compounds, see section above), site clearance (with minimal vegetation removal), access tracks (where required), temporary haul roads, excavation of open cut trenches and stockpiling of soil. The construction phase of the Cable Corridor could take up to 24 months.
- 1.4.11 Due to the nature of the development, the construction activities within the Cable Corridor will only cause disruption during the temporary construction





phase. Once operational, the cable will <u>be</u> buried<u>underground</u>, the ground surface <u>will be</u> restored and only inspection covers will be visible at the link boxes (similar to manhole covers in appearance).

- 1.4.12 Construction activities associated with the Cable Corridor would introduce movement of large machinery (trenchers) which will attract attention to the works, which are otherwise close to ground level, with low-rise activities.
- 1.4.13 Table 3 provides an assessment of the magnitude of change upon the properties within, and next to the application boundary, and takes account of their location in relation to the corridor alignment. The distances of the properties from the indicative alignment are between 30 m and 330 m. However, these are the closest properties to the Cable Corridor, which would likely have potential to experience significant effects during construction. Due to the low -lying nature of the construction works, the rest of the properties within the Study Area would be less affected.

Table 3: Residential receptors in relation to Construction Impacts of the 275kV Cable Route

Receptor	Appraisal (main orientation of the property, screening provided by vegetation/ topography)	Magnitude of impact and Significance of effect
Woodstock	500m abutting with the cable corridor on its eastern boundary. Works along Shipton Road would be screened by roadside vegetation, which would be retained.	Negligible magnitude Negligible effect, not significant, temporary, reversible
Eynsham	800m abutting with the cable corridor on its eastern boundary. Works along the B4449 would be screened by roadside vegetation, which would be retained.	Negligible magnitude Negligible effect, not significant, temporary, reversible
Farmoor	630m abutting with the cable corridor on its north-eastern boundary. Works along the B4044/ Oxford Road would be visible at a short distance.	High magnitude impact, resulting in Major effect, which is significant, temporary, reversible
Upper Weaveley Farm	Abutting with the cable corridor on its western boundary. Works along Banbury Road would be visible at a short distance.	High magnitude -impact, resulting in Major effect, which is significant, temporary, reversible
Properties next to Upper Campsfield Road	300m abutting with the cable corridor, which overlaps with the A4095. Overall, the roadside vegetation provides sufficient screening for the works. A few houses would have views of the works. All properties have ample, well-screened outdoor spaces.	Medium-low magnitude -impact, resulting in Moderate effect, which is not significant, temporary, reversible

1.4.14 In summary, the Cable Corridor works -would affect a relatively small number of residential properties. These would mainly be properties, which lie next to the -Application Boundary, and which are likely to experience effects up to high magnitude of change.





1.4.15 The closest properties (as in Table 1) would potentially experience medium to high magnitude of change resulting in temporary **Major or Moderate** and significant adverse effects.

Operational Phase Visual Effects

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

Settlements and Residential receptors

1.4.17 Residential visual receptors within the ZTV are shown on Figure 1.1 to 1.66.

Sensitivity

1.4.18 People in settlements and scattered residential properties have been considered as high-sensitivity receptors to the type of development proposed.

Magnitude of change

- 1.4.19 Table 4 provides descriptions of the potential magnitude of change upon the properties within, and on, the Application Boundary in the proximity of the proposed Substations and Solar Panels, plus some settlements. Distances are measured from the houses to the Project. It should be noted that the assessment related to the orientation of these properties, which correlates to the main views from the properties, is based largely on field survey observations and Google aerial views.
- 1.4.20 Each property has been considered in its own context, taking account of its landscape setting, orientation of main facade, location of its curtilage area, position of its windows in relation to the project, as well as other factors, such as the nature of views (direct, indirect, restricted or open), and the importance of these views in respect of the visual amenity of the property.
- 1.4.21 Mitigation measures adopted as part of the Project are shown in Illustrative Masterplan Figure 2.1a to 2.4d [CR2-026] and Landscape, Ecology and Amenities Layer Plan [CR2-043].
- Table 4: Residential receptors in relation to Operational Impacts of solar panels / substation

Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/	Magnitude/
		Level of	Residual
		Effects	Effects

Northern section of the Project

Cottage	Upper Dornford Cottage s approximately 55m to the northeast of the solar panels in the northernmost part of the Project site. The main aspect of this property is	Medium-Low Moderate	Negligible-Low Negligible/Minor
Figure 2.20	of the Project site. The main aspect of this property is east to west, away from the Project, with intervening	not significant	not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	vegetation limiting available views to the wider landscape. Where more open views are available, these are generally away from the Project to the east and west from front and rear elevations. On the southern (side) elevation there are potentially more open views available to a very small part of the Project, where perimeter vegetation appears to be thinnest.		
	Where available, views of the Project would be to a very small part of the overall northern section.		
	New woodland planting to the northernmost point of the Project, near to this property, would over time further screen available views.		
Lower Dornford Farm_and Lower Dornford Cottage Figure 2.18 & 2.19	The property is approximately 190m to the west of the solar panels at its nearest point. The main aspect of the property is internally, with views available east towards the Project, across an open field. There are scattered trees within the field which would partially screen available views.	Low-negligible Moderate/Minor not significant	Low-negligible Moderate/Minor not significant
<u></u>	Intervening vegetation and landform in the local area is such that available views to solar panels from this property would be to a small part of it, though views would be generally open, particularly prior to mitigation taking effect, i.e. winter Year 1.		
	Hedgerow and tree planting along the Projects western boundary at this location, once established, would further minimise effects upon this property.		
(Dornford Grove) Dornford Cottage Dornford Grove Figure 2.197	Although relatively close to the solar panels within the norther section of the Project, approximately 65m to the west, the vegetation to the perimeter of the property, along with the main aspect of views being away from it, would limit the effect of the Project upon this property. There would be oblique rear elevation views and eastern elevation views available to a small part of the overall Project.	Minor not significant	Negligible Negligible not significant
	Hedgerow and tree planting along the Projects western boundary at this location, once established, would further minimise effects upon this property.		
Bladon, Heath Lane Figure 2.7 Figure 2.8	The closest property, Green Acres (number 73 Heath Lane), is approximately 98m to the southwest of the solar panels of the centre section of the Site at Heath Lane. Potential views of the solar panels would be limited to the rear garden and side elevation of his property, along with from small upper storey windows from front elevations, of a few properties on Heath Lane (numbers 60 and 62). Views would be limited due to the intervening vegetation and at an oblique angle along the public right of way (PRoW 132/3/10) as it enters the Project site off Heath Lane.	Low-negligible Moderate/Minor not significant	Negligible Negligible not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	In 15 Years, the reinforced hedgerow which binds the solar panels will have established, screening any views.		
	The majority of residential properties within Bladon have an inward facing aspect, with only rear gardens facing the Project. In addition, a mature woodland to the east of Bladon at the rear of Bladon Pits, along with other areas of mature vegetation would prevent views of the Project. Including from individual properties such as The Studio located on the edge of Bladon adjacent to PRoW 132/2/10 (see Figure 2.8).		
Hordley Cottages Figure 2.16	Located to the southeast of Wootton. The house is 35m to the west and 80m to the north of the solar panels within the northern section of the site, next to the B4027.	Low Minor not significant	Low Minor not significant
	The roadside hedgerow would screen views at ground level of the Project. Views would only be expected from first floor windows across the 1.5km fields covered by solar panels to the east.		
	Views to the south would be partially filtered and screened by the existing vegetation, particularly from ground floor windows. More open views would be available from upper storey windows to a small part of the Project. With oblique views to the western parts of the Project beyond the B4027.		
Weaveley Farm Figure 2.13	The house is 85m to the east and 65m to the north of the solar panels of the northern section of the Project Site.	Medium Moderate	Low Minor
rigule 2.15	The main orientation and curtilage area of the house is to the west towards agricultural fields, which would be covered by solar panels up to 220m. The existing vegetation would screen views of the solar panels to the south.	significant	not significant
	In 15 Years, the proposed mitigation hedgerow would be established, -screening views of the solar panels to the east. However, views from first-floor windows would remain.		
Centrale sec	tion of the Project		
Burleigh House Figure 1.16	The ZTV Figure 1.16 of the RVAA, indicates a limited visibility of the Project to the south of Burleigh House at its' side elevation. This ZTV pattern occurs due to a 10 m gap within the tree belt, that surrounds the property. Site work and further desk-based study of available data, including aerial photography baseline data used to inform the RVAA has determined that the boundary to the south of Burleigh House is well	Low/Negligible Minor not significant	Negligible Minor/negligible not significant

treed which would restrict views of the Project.





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	The main orientation of the property is to the southeast and northwest. There are large widows to the southern elevation which allow views to the south towards agricultural fields which would be covered in solar panels. There are smaller upper storey windows, with two bedroom windows looking to the south. Views to the south from the southern elevation would be filtered by the existing vegetation to the properties' southern curtilage. Hedgerow and tree planting along the Project's boundary to the south of Burleigh House, including trees and hedgerow planting, once established, would further minimise effects upon this property.		
Campsfield Farmhouse Figure 1.13Figure 2.10	The ZTV Figure 1.13 of the RVAA, indicates a very small area of potential intervisibility to the southwest garden area. Site work and further desk-based study of available data, including online and aerial photography baseline data used to inform the RVAA has determined that the main elevation of the house has southeast orientation. The boundary to the south/southeast of Campsfield Farmhouse is well treed which would restrict available views from the house and amenity area to the south of the house.	Low/Negligible Minor not significant	Negligible Minor/negligible not significant
	Hedgerow and tree planting along the Projects western boundary at this location, once established, would further minimise effects upon this property.		
Cassington	Approximately a dozen of the properties which are the closest to the solar panels in the centre section of the Site from the rear of properties at Barrow Court. Also, from the rear upper floor windows of a small number of properties at the western end of Cassington, William Court, near to PRoW 152/6/10 at a distance of approximately 120m to the solar panels at the nearest point. Solar panels would be at their closest to the rear gardens of the properties along Barrow Court, at a distance of approximately 60m. The gardens' perimeters are lined by dense vegetation. Therefore, views would only be expected from first floor windows across the 1.7km fields covered by solar panels.	Medium-Low Moderate not significant	Low Minor not significant
	Much like Bladon, the predominant aspect of remaining properties within Cassington is inwards towards the village. With intervening vegetation to the northern edge screening views from the rear of properties.		
Barrow Court, Cassington Figure 2.3	Properties along Barrow Court, numbers 1 to 8, are located approximately 60m 65m to the southeast of the Project, at the nearest point. There is existing garden vegetation to the rear of these properties, in	Medium Moderate significant	Low Minor not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	most case, with some rear elevations being having more open views.		
	Existing rear garden vegetation would filter available views from the rear elevations of these properties.		
	More open views available would be in proximity to the properties and therefore be a noticeable feature within views. Although these views would be from upper storey windows and not necessarily from the primary living spaces within the properties.		
	Over time, proposed mitigation planting to the southern edge of the Project in this location and in the field margin up to the properties, including hedgerow planting and small blocks of woodland, would further screen available views from these properties.		
Williams Court, Cassington Figure 2.2	Numbers 4 to 8 Williams Court Have generally open rear elevation views to the north. A fence to the rear gardens of these properties would screen available views from the lower floor, with the more open views available from the upper floors.	Medium-Low Moderate not significant	Low Minor not significant
	Of the remaining properties on Williams Court, available views would become increasingly oblique as the road curves around to form the development to which the properties are aligned.		
	Solar panels, within the central section of the Project, are approximately 120m to the north, at the nearest point, from those properties with the most open views.		
	Existing vegetation within the field to the south of the Project would filter available views. As it matures, proposed vegetation including hedgerow reinforcement and trees along this boundary, would further screen views.		
	Only a small part of the overall Project would be visible form these properties.		
Burleigh Farm <u>.</u> Burleigh Road Figure 2.5	The house is 40m to the west of the solar panels in the centre section of the Project Site. Roadside hedgerow would provide a partial screening effect. The perimeter of the property, which faces towards the road, is well vegetated. Views of the solar panels would be available mainly from the front garden, particularly during winter months.	Medium-Low Moderate not significant	Low Minor not significant
	Solar panels at a distance of 195m to the north would be screened by the intervening vegetation and by farm buildings 150m to the west and 85m to the south.		
College Farm and Pelican House Figure 2.26	The house is 50m to the west of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site. It appears that views of the solar panels would be partially screened by the hedgerow and trees along the eastern perimeter of the property. Views of the solar panels	Medium Moderate significant	Medium-Low Moderate not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	100m to the north and 80m to the south of the house would be screened by the vegetation which surrounds the property. There would be more distant views, from upper floors to solar panels on rising ground to the east on the Evenlode Valley sides.		
Goose Eye Farm Figure 2.22	The house is 30m to the south and 70m to the east of the solar panels in the centrale section of the Project Site. The existing hedgerow and trees would screen views to the west. Based on Google Streetview it appears that the house faces towards the solar panels to the north, where the perimeter vegetation is missing. Solar panels would appear in the proximity next to the property's perimeter. Solar panels would be seen more distantly at a distance of 320m on the west facing slope of the landform, which forms the eastern side of the River Glyme. Solar Panels to the west and south-west would be screened by field boundary vegetation. The main aspect of the property is to the south with open and untouched views across the River Evenlode valley floor. It is noted that views available from upper floor widows within the property, looking north, are from non-habitable rooms, as this follows the line of a corridor. In Year 15, the views would be screened or softened by the proposed hedgerows and tree planting along	Medium-high Moderate significant	Low Moderate/minor Not significant
	the northern perimeter of the property and also along the Project boundaries to the southwest and east of the property.		
Owls Leat/ Willow Cottage (Children's Nursery and Children's Nursery Crèche)	This commercial education facilitye house is 55m to the south-west, 45-m to the east, and 55m to the north of the solar panels in the centre section of the site. Views to the west are screened by roadside vegetation and to the north by farm buildings. From the rear of the property, elevation-open views are obtained to the south and oblique views obtained to the east. Views to the east from the side elevation are		Negligible Minor/negligible not significant
Figure 2.23	partially screened by the adjacent barn located to the east. Vegetation surrounding the facilitynursery screens views in all directions.		
New Barn Farm Figure 2.25	The house is 55m to the south west, 45 m to the east, and 55m to the north of the solar panels in the centre section of the site. The house is 32m to the east of the solar panels in the centre section of the site at its closest. However v Views to the west are screened by roadside vegetation and to the north by farm buildings.	Medium-high Major/Moderate significant	Medium Moderate Not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	The house is 55m to the southwest, 45-m to the west and 55m to the north of the solar panels. The solar panels would be seen immediately to the south from the front garden and from the first-floor windows. Solar panels would appear in the proximity next to the property's eastern perimeter, at a distance of 35 m. Solar panels would be seen more distantly at a distance of 500m on the west facing slope of the landform, which forms the eastern side of the River Glyme. In Year 15, the views would be screened by the proposed hedgerows and tree planting along the southern and also-partly along its eastern perimeter-to a certain extent.		
Church Hanborough The Paddocks, The Stables and New Barn Farmhouse	The Paddocks – Figure 1.19, of the RVAA, indicates a very small area of potential intervisibility with solar panels to the southeast of the property The Paddocks, close-near to -garden-out-buildings at the edge of the property's curtilage, with no potential intervisibility from the residential property itself. The property is surrounded by mature garden and tree vegetation which screens any possible views to the Project. The Paddocks is approximately 573-m to the west and 230 m to the north of the solar panels, at the nearest point. Existing tree and hedgerow vegetation to the east, within the adjacent fields would further limit any available views. The Stables and New Barn Farmhouse – Figure 1.19, of the RVAA, indicates a very small area of potential intervisibility near to these residential properties, within their rear gardens. These properties have mature garden and tree vegetation to the south and east, which provide screening. These residential properties are approximately 130-m to the north of the proposed solar panels, at the Projects' closest its nearest-point. It should be noted that such a fragmented ZTV pattern generally indicates visibility of a limited portion of the development, for example the top section of the solar panels, which in reality would be imperceivable due to the distance and intervening vegetation. New hedgerow and tree planting is proposed to the northern edge of the Project, to the south of Church	Minor/negligible not significant	Negligible Minor/negligible not significant
Southern se	Hanborough. ction of the Project		
Purwell Farm Figure 2.21	The farm occupies an elevated location on a shallow landform. At its closest the house is 60m to the south of the centre section of the site. Views to the north are screened by a woodland belt. Views of solar panels to	Medium Moderate significant	Low Moderate/minor not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	the south at a distance of 230m are screened by farm buildings, as are views of the solar panels at a distance of 220m to the west. Solar panels to the east would be seen at a distance of 110m. These views would be screened or softened by proposed hedgerows and tree planting in Year 15.		
Jumper <u>'</u> s Farm	The house is 35m to the north-east of the solar panels in the southern section of the Project Site at its closest and 300m from the NGET Substation.	Low-negligible Minor	Low-negligible Minor
	The western perimeter of the property screens any potential views of the development. The house faces directly towards the area which has been allocated for new planting. Therefore, no views of the Project are expected, including from first floor windows.	e faces cated for	
	Also, the curtilage of the house is surrounded by dense vegetation, and views to the east would be retained.		
Lake <u>v-Vv</u> iew <u>,</u> and Heiderbech and	These large properties are located on rising ground approximately 240m to the south of the solar panels in the southern section of the Project, at the nearest point.	Low Minor not significant	Low Minor not significant
Tumbledowns, Cumnor Figure 2.27 and Figure 2.28	MThere is mature existing trees planting and other vegetation surroundsing these propertiesm. Though there are parts of the properties' northern boundaries which are more open, allowing generally open views north towards the Project's southern section. There are largely open elevated views to the north from the upper floor windows of Lakeview house.		
	With the land falling away from these properties, the Project southern section would be below the eyeline of views available from them. With views to Farmoor Reservoir and higher ground to the north remaining the predominant feature within views. The small part of the Project visible would not form a prominent feature in the view.		
Denman's Farm	The house is located, at its closest, -55m to the east of the solar panels in the southern section of the project Site, otherwise it is surrounded by the Project, although more distantly. Views to the east at a distance of 160m from the solar panels and south east at a distance of 180m are screened by farm buildings. In views to the north the house faces towards the fields, which would be covered by solar panels at distances of 90m up to 300m. The landform of Wytham Hill is a prominent skyline feature to the north. Solar panels would be seen at a distance of 150m on the rising ground to the south. Also, the solar panels would be discernible to the west through the hedgerow. Solar panels would appear in the	Medium Moderate significant	Low Minor not significant





Receptor	Distance / Description	Year 1	Year 15
		Magnitude/ Level of Effects	Magnitude/ Residual Effects
	intensifying industrial features in views to the north west and west.		
	In Year 15, the views would be screened by the proposed hedgerows and tree planting along the southern perimeter of the property and also along its western perimeter to a certain extent.		

In summary, the Project, the built elements of would hich stretches over a distance of 17 km at operation, would affect a relatively small number of residential properties. These would mainly be the properties which lie next to, or in closethe proximity of, the Application Boundary.

Table 5: Summary of significant effects

Receptor	Distance from built element	m the Signifi Year 1	cant effect tude/ Level of	Year 15 Magnitude/ Residual Effects
Northern section	of the Project	<u>Effect</u>	<u>S</u>	
Weaveley Farm	<u>65m</u>	Medium Moderate significant	<u>Low</u> <u>Minor</u> not sign	nificant
Central section of	of the Project			
Barrow Court, Cassington	<u>65m</u>	Medium Modera significa	<u>te</u>	Low Minor not significant
College Farm and Pelican House	<u>50m</u>	Medium Modera significa	<u>te</u>	Medium-Low Moderate not significant
Goose Eye Farm	<u>30m</u>	Medium Modera significa	te	Low Moderate/minor Not significant
New Barn Farm House	<u>32m</u>	Medium-high Major/Moderate significant	<u>Mediun</u> <u>Modera</u> <u>Not sig</u>	ate
Purwell Farm	<u>35m</u>	Medium Moderate	<u>Low</u> <u>Modera</u>	ate/minor not significant





Receptor	Distance from the built element	<u>Significant effect</u> <u>Year 1</u>	Year 15
	<u>signific</u>	<u>ant</u>	
Southern section	on of the Project		
Denman's Farm	<u>55m</u>	Medium Moderate significant	Low Minor not significant

1.4.221.4.23 Based on the assessment findings, none of these properties have been considered for Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. Effects on private residential amenity are a separate matter and only require assessment when a development is likely to meet the threshold of effects becoming 'overwhelming' or 'overbearing', which is not the case in respect of this Project. Based on the assessment findings, none of these properties (Table- 5) have been considered for Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Step 4.

1.5 Conclusions

1.5.1 Based on the assessment and professional judgement, it is considered that there are no residential properties that are to be considered for Step 4 of the RVAA. It is considered that the effects resulting from the Project would fall below the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold referred to in LI TGN 02/2019 as visual effects "of such nature and / or magnitude that it potentially affects "living conditions" or Residential Amenity" (Paragraph 2.1). The guidance note further indicates that "It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern".





Figures



































































































































