

Rosefield Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 4
Appendix 10:3: Landscape Sensitivity
Appraisal

EN010158/APP/6.4
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Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1.1. This Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal has been prepared on behalf of Rosefield Energyfarm Limited ('the Applicant') to assess the value, susceptibility and overall sensitivity of landscape character in relation to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Rosefield Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').

1.2. The Order Limits

- 1.2.1. The extent of the Order Limits are shown in **Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinate Plans [EN010158/APP/2.1]** and the Proposed Development is described in full in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**.

1.3. The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1. The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of solar photovoltaic ('PV') development and energy storage, together with associated infrastructure and an underground cable connection to the National Grid East Claydon Substation.
- 1.3.2. The Proposed Development would include a generating station with a total exporting capacity exceeding 50 megawatts ('MW').
- 1.3.3. The location of the Proposed Development is shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits (the land shown on the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** within which the Proposed Development can be carried out). The Order Limits plan is provided as **ES Volume 3, Figure 1.2: Order Limits [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Land within the Order Limits is known as the 'Site'.
- 1.3.4. The principal components of the Proposed Development include:
- Solar PV development consisting of:
 - Ground mounted Solar PV generating station. The generating station would include Solar PV modules and mounting structures; and
 - Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises: Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear; Combiner Boxes; acoustic barriers and cabling.

- A project substation (the 'Rosefield Substation') compound comprising: Transformers; Switchgear; reactive power compensation bays; disconnectors; circuit breakers; busbars; control equipment; lightning surge arrestors; building(s) including office, control, functions, material storage, material laydown areas and welfare facilities; firewalls; fencing and acoustic fencing; a security cabin; parking as well as wider monitoring, maintenance and emergency equipment;
- A Main Collector Compound and two Satellite Collector Compounds comprising: Switchgear; Transformers; ancillary equipment; operation and maintenance and welfare facilities; material storage; material laydown areas; fencing and acoustic fencing; and security cabins;
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound comprising: batteries and associated Inverters; Transformers; Switchgear, ancillary equipment and their containers; office, control and welfare buildings; fencing and acoustic fencing; monitoring, maintenance and emergency systems; air conditioning; electrical cables; fire safety infrastructure; operation (including maintenance) security facilities; material storage; and material laydown areas;
- Interconnecting Cabling Corridor(s) to connect the Solar PV modules and the BESS to the Satellite and Main Collector Compounds to the Rosefield Substation;
- A Grid Connection Cable Corridor to connect the Rosefield Substation to the National Grid East Claydon Substation via 400kV cabling;
- Ancillary infrastructure works comprising: boundary treatment; security equipment; lighting; fencing; landscaping; internal access tracks; works to facilitate vehicular access; earthing devices; earthworks; surface water management; utility connections and diversions; and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development;
- Green and blue infrastructure, recreation and amenity works comprising: landscaping; habitat management; biodiversity enhancement; the creation of three permissive footpaths; and works to permanently divert four PRow Footpaths in five instances;
- Site-wide operational monitoring and security equipment; and
- Highways infrastructure improvements and safety works comprising: minor junction improvement works; road widening; passing places; and works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

1.4. Landscape Context

- 1.4.1. This appendix considers the sensitivity of landscape character within the defined landscape study area of the Proposed Development as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The concluding judgements

regarding landscape sensitivity are carried through into the assessment of landscape effects presented in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

- 1.4.2. In the context of LVIA, landscape sensitivity as described in paragraph 5.39 of The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) **[Ref 1]** is not absolute. It is specific to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape, it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular type of change likely to result from the Proposed Development.
- 1.4.3. The appraisal of sensitivity in this appendix draws upon observations contained within National Character Area Profiles 108 (NCA 108) **[Ref 2]** and NCA 109 **[Ref 3]** and the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment (AVLCA) **[Ref 4]** as summarised in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Extracts from Published Landscape Character Assessments [EN010158/APP/6.4]**; as well as observations made in the field during the baseline assessment of landscape character. Where relevant, extracts from the two documents above are reproduced in the appraisal below (in *italics*). In addition, the Steeple Claydon **[Ref 5]** and North Marston **[Ref 6]** Neighbourhood Plans have been consulted where relevant as have the Areas of Attractive Landscape (AAL) as reported in the document, Defining the Special Qualities of Local Landscape Designations in Aylesbury Vale District **[Ref 7]**.
- 1.4.4. The landscape value criteria below are based on guidance contained within Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02-21 - Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations **[Ref 8]**; specifically Table 1 within that document.
- 1.4.5. The AVLCA identifies a series of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) which are further sub-divided into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The Proposed Development falls across three LCT and four LCA within the study area as follows:
- Parcel 1 and the northern section of Parcel 2 are located within LCT 7 Wooded Rolling Lowlands and specifically LCA 7.3 Claydon Bowl;
 - The southern section of Parcel 2 is located within LCT 9 Low Hills and Ridges, and specifically LCA 9.1 Finemere Hill;
 - The central/eastern section of Parcel 2 is within LCT 5 Shallow Valleys and specifically LCA 5.7 Hogshaw Claylands;
 - Parcel 3 is within LCT 5 with the majority in LCA 5.7, and the northern most field in LCA 5.6 Claydon Valley.
- 1.4.6. These four LCAs are considered to be 'host landscape character areas'. In addition to these four LCA, a further four LCA have also been included as

indirectly affected landscapes potentially experiencing effects approaching the threshold of a likely significant effect during either the construction, operational (including maintenance) or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development:

- LCA 5.4 Twyford Vale is located to the north west of Parcel 1;
- LCA 5.8 North Marston Undulating Claylands is located to the east of Parcel 3;
- LCA 9.2 Quainton Hill is located to the east of Parcel 2;
- LCA 9.3 Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge to the east of Parcel 2.

1.4.7. It has been determined that there would be no greater than a negligible effect on any other LCAs. Therefore, the appraisal of sensitivity in this appendix focuses solely on the eight LCAs identified above. The district LCAs are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

1.4.8. As noted above, part of the process of determining landscape sensitivity requires a judgement regarding the susceptibility of the LCAs to the specific type of change likely to result from the Proposed Development. It should be noted that whilst Solar PV development is proposed across all four host LCA, the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and BESS would only be located within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands; the Satellite Collector Compounds would all be located in LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl.

1.4.9. The judgements below therefore take into account the difference in direct and indirect effects upon the LCA based on the ancillary energy infrastructure typical of the Rosefield Substation, BESS, Collector and Satellite Collector Compounds as well as the Solar PV modules.

1.5. Structure of this Report

1.5.1. The Tables below consider the value and susceptibility of each landscape character area before making a judgment regarding the overall sensitivity of the landscape:

- **Table A10.3.1** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to host LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley;
- **Table A10.3.2** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to host LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands;
- **Table A10.3.3** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to host LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl;
- **Table A10.3.4** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to host LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill;

- **Table A10.3.5** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale;
- **Table A10.3.6** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands;
- **Table A10.3.7** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill;
- **Table A10.3.8** summarises the value, susceptibility and sensitivity judgments relating to LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge.

2. LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley

Table A10.3.1: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Ecological interest is relatively limited and the landscape is primarily occupied by arable farmland together with areas of largely improved grassland as found in the site. There are no larger woodlands but smaller pockets remain as do the majority of hedgerows with some hedgerow trees.</p> <p><i>“Another broad habitat type is found in the aquatic habitats provided by brook and streams, which thread through the agricultural habitats and in conjunction with the hedgerows and woodlands</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>provide good habitat connectivity. Small areas of standing water habitat are also present as ponds.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>Underlying geology results in a gentle landform sloping up to the valley sides.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>The area contains no notable historic buildings and the landscape is <i>“predominantly parliamentary enclosure land and dispersed areas of other 19th century enclosure.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The large electricity grid substation is noted but does not contribute positively to landscape character.</p> <p>Heritage assets Winslow Hall and Biggin Moated Grange are noted and provide localised heritage interest but are not widely visible across the landscape as a whole.</p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p>Whilst managed effectively as a productive landscape, in terms of its landscape fabric and structure, this is a landscape generally in fair to good condition albeit the <i>“Five pylon lines radiating out of the electricity sub-station northwest of Granborough are the most significant detracting feature of the area.”</i> (AVLCA)</p> <p><i>“The hedgerow pattern remains largely intact although in places hedges have been removed to create large arable fields.”</i> (AVLCA)</p>	Community
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No known associations with notable people, events and the arts.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a farmed landscape but is not specifically valued as such beyond the local community.	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	principally by local communities.	more widely by society.		
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	<p>Landscape provides some recreational offering with a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) through the area, which local residents use for walking.</p> <p><i>“The landscape has a good amenity value with several promoted rights of way running through the area.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>A generally pleasant rural landscape with variable visibility valued locally by residents and appreciated by travellers passing through the landscape but no characteristics which elevate the scenic qualities of the landscape above other similar landscapes.</p> <p><i>“Five pylon lines radiate from the electricity sub-station to the west of Granborough beyond the boundary. Some cross the LCA, others are visible from it and in combination have a</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>significant negative visual impact.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p>A working arable landscape; sparsely settled but with little sense of wildness or detachedness due to the presence of electricity infrastructure and neighbouring settlement.</p> <p><i>“The area is notable for its lack of settlement. There are no villages within the valley; the only settlements are isolated farms on slightly higher ground close to the valley floor and a few cottages.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	The overriding function of this landscape is farming and food production, and although it contains some strong hedgerows and watercourses, it contributes little else beyond the local community in terms of other ecosystem services.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is medium to small scale with varying openness largely dependent on local topography and field boundary vegetation.</p> <p>The scale of Proposed Development within the LCA is relatively small and would reflect the scale of the landscape. The Rosefield Substation located in the neighbouring LCA 5.7 would be of a similar scale to the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation structures.</p>	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	A gentle landscape with slopes rising to the valley sides and more prominent landform lying outside the LCA.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	A landscape varying in openness with the proposed Site benefiting from established tree belts around the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation.	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>“Visibility is variable depending on location and is rated as moderate” (AVLCA)</i>	
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Simple patterns in the landscape with notable linear features (e.g. the electricity pylons) and some woodland blocks/plantations which provide a backdrop to views but overall there is limited vegetation cover.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<p>A generally sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms. The electricity pylons are a prominent linear feature to the southern edge of the landscape.</p> <p><i>“Five pylon lines radiating out of the electricity sub-station northwest of Granborough are the most significant detracting feature of the area.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The greatest visual detractors are the seven pylons lines, particularly in the Claydon Valley, where they converge.” (AVLCA LCT5)</i></p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.6 – Claydon Valley				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Some more open views from the valley sides but views across farmland are often enclosed by field boundary vegetation with no clear vistas or focal points and no prominent horizon. <i>“Visibility is variable depending on location and is rated as moderate.” (AVLCA)</i> <i>“There are particularly good views out over the Shallow Valleys from the edges of Winslow.” (AVLCA LCT5)</i>	Medium/Low
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	A low lying landscape with skylines typically defined by field boundary vegetation and or the sloping valley sides. Solar PV modules would generally sit below the tree line and not define the skyline.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low

3. LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands

Table A10.3.2: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Ecological interest is primarily focussed on small areas of woodland, intact hedgerows and streams; otherwise habitats are largely limited to arable farmland and small areas of improved pasture.</p> <p><i>“The agricultural habitats are relieved by a few fragments of woodland habitat - both broadleaved and coniferous are present the most significant area being associated with the line of the disused railway where scrub also occurs. The broad habitat types of rivers and streams and standing open water are</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>well represented by the streams and the ponds across the area.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>Underlying geology results in a gentle landform and there is no discernible evidence of geomorphological change or physiographic interest.</p> <p><i>“This is a small shallow valley area surrounded on the east, south and west by distinctly higher ground.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>The farmed landscape consists predominantly of <i>“pre 18th century regular enclosures and is likely a product of the improvements made by such families as the Verneys at Middle Claydon.”</i></p> <p>There are no Conservation Areas and only one historic farmstead within the landscape.</p> <p><i>“There is very little settlement within the area just a scattering of farms some with large barns. A disused railway line</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>passes north-south through the area.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p>Farmland management throughout the LCA varies. Locally, the farmland is well maintained and much of the landscape fabric is in good condition but elsewhere the hedgerows have been removed and agriculture intensified.</p> <p><i>“The condition of the landscape is moderate. It has a unified pattern of elements with a strong hedgerow pattern and little settlement and only minor roads... and the hedgerow pattern, is in good condition but the condition of the hedgerow trees is generally mature or over mature... the rural integrity of the landscape is maintained.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No specific associations have been identified other than the local association with Verneys at Middle Claydon.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as agricultural farmland and locally there are associations with the Verneys estate but identity is valued primarily at a local to regional scale.	Regional/Community
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape is well served by PRow and the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way passes through the landscape broadly north to south. Whilst these are well used by residents/communities in Aylesbury there are no recreational opportunities which attract wider interest.	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	A pleasant rural, landscape with a pleasing combination of farmland and field boundary vegetation; understandably valued locally by residents but no characteristics which elevate the scenic qualities of the landscape above other similar landscapes.	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	A working, predominantly arable landscape; sparsely settled with some sense of tranquillity in places but not wild. <i>“The area is quiet but not wild or remote.” (AVLCA)</i>	Community
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	The overriding function of this landscape is farming and food production, but it also provides local recreational opportunities. <i>“Ecological integrity is weak due to suboptimal connectivity and the low area of designated sites and habitats of District significance present compared</i>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>to other parts of the District. Overall the functional integrity is considered to be weak.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Overall Judgement of Value				Community
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is generally mid-scaled with fields of mixed shape and size.</p> <p>Large scale Solar PV modules, the Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound would appear somewhat dominant in scale within the landscape to Parcel 3. However, the location of the Rosefield Substation adjacent to the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and Proposed Development close to existing electricity pylons would provide a vertical and horizontal scale comparison that would contextualise its location. The BESS and Satellite Collector Compound would be notable</p>	High/Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			additions to the agricultural landscapes of Parcel 2.	
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	Generally low lying but with distinctive valley sides rising to low hills. <i>“This is a small shallow valley area surrounded on the east, south and west by distinctly higher ground. The ground falls gently away from the higher ground to the lowest area in the north.”</i> (AVLCA)	Medium
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	Openness varies across the landscape but locally the landscape is relatively well enclosed due to mature hedgerows. <i>“The landform is apparent and the tree cover intermittent with very little in the way of woodland. This produces an area with a moderate level of visibility.”</i> (AVLCA)	Low
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns	A mosaic of farmland which provides opportunities for some existing natural screening. Solar PV modules would fit within the existing landscape field	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	mosaic of vegetation cover	or with limited vegetation cover	pattern whilst the larger Rosefield Substation and Collector Compound although more apparent, would be associated with the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging electricity pylons in Parcel 3. The BESS and Satellite Collector Compound would be notable additions to the simpler agricultural landscapes of Parcel 2.	
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<p>Locally and away from the roads, a relatively quiet landscape.</p> <p><i>“There is very little settlement within the area just a scattering of farms some with large barns. A disused railway line passes north-south through the area” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The two pylon lines through the area are visually intrusive. There is an electricity grid sub-station just to the north of the area, within Claydon Valley LCA 5.6, which these lines join. The sub-station and other pylon lines are</i></p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>visually intrusive in the very north of the area. The area is quiet but not wild or remote.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The greatest visual detractors are the seven pylons lines, particularly in the Claydon Valley, where they converge.” (AVLCA LCT5)</i></p>	
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<p>A variable landscape open in places enabling views across arable farmland to hillsides which are the focus of predominantly mid-distance views. Locally views are foreshortened by hedgerows.</p> <p><i>“Views tend to focus on the surrounding higher ground.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“There are particularly good views out over the Shallow Valleys from the edges of... Steeple Claydon and Padbury.” (AVLCA LCT5)</i></p>	Medium
Landscapes that form settings,	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive	Areas with strong features, focal points that define	A low lying landscape and skylines formed by hillsides creating a distinct horizon. The Proposed Development	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
skylines, backdrops, focal points	landform or horizon	the setting or skyline	would sit in lower lying areas and would not generally define the skyline.	
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/Low

4. LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl

Table A10.3.3: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Much of the land cover is arable farmland of little ecological interest, albeit the hedgerow structure is relatively strong. Ecological interest is found in areas of woodland, which form almost a tenth of the land cover, such as Sheephouse Wood SSSI, ancient woodland and areas of woodland at Claydon House. Other ecological interest is provided by areas of open water and fields containing unimproved and neutral grassland.</p> <p><i>“The main biodiversity interest in the area lies within the parkland at Claydon House with its open water body, and in</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>the woodlands. Both key and broad habitat types are present - lowland mixed deciduous and wet woodlands, and broad leaved deciduous woodland respectively.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Various other woodlands are designated as County Wildlife Sites.” (AVLCA 7)</i></p> <p>Underlying geology results in a central bowl with high ground on the edge and a gently undulating landform sloping east to west.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	The area contains Claydon House and Parkland which is also a Conservation Area and described as being of national importance. The influence of the parkland extends into the wider landscape with the <i>“ancient woodland of Home Wood and Romer Wood to the south of the park, [which] forms a setting for the house as they contain a</i>	National/Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
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number of woodland rides aligned.” (AVLCA)

“A high proportion of the type is identified as historic landscape of the highest sensitivity this particularly relates to ancient woodland, parkland, assarts, fossilised strips and small areas of pre eighteenth century meadow. The woodland is mostly remnants of Bernwood medieval hunting forest... at Claydon particularly the influence of the historic estate can be seen in the landscape well beyond the present parkland boundary. (AVLCA 7)

The surrounding settlements of Botolph Claydon, Steeple Claydon, and East Claydon, each contain a number of listed buildings.

“The village of Boltoph Claydon has been designated a conservation area, and contains a number of attractive timber ‘box’ framed buildings. There are also a handful of isolated farmsteads in

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p><i>the area some such as Muxwell Farm and Knowhill Farm are associated the Claydon House.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The landscape is described as being, <i>“generally in a very good condition. It is a harmonious landscape unified by a good hedgerow pattern and a higher level of woodland cover than in most of the surrounding landscape... good hedgerow pattern and woodland cover” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The landscape has been adversely affected by the national infrastructure projects of East West Rail (EWR) to the north and HS2 to its south western boundary, albeit the associated large scale construction effects would reduce in the long term. The landfill and associated energy from waste plant at Calvert are also noticeable detracting features to the south western boundary.</p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	The Parkland at Claydon House was originally designed by the early landscape architect, Lancelot Capability Brown and reflects his classic repertoire of serpentine lake, ha-ha, use of trees and long vistas and drives.	National
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	A distinctive landscape with a strong sense of identity predominantly as a result of its historic continuity. <i>“The cultural integrity of the area is good with strong historic association given by Claydon House, parkland and estate along with the historic villages, good hedgerow pattern and good woodland cover.” (AVLCA)</i>	Regional
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	The landscape is served by a good number of PRow which local residents use for walking. Its amenity value is further raised by, <i>“Claydon House being... in the custodianship of the National Trust and open to the public. The Rights of Way and the surrounding landscape is also promoted in the</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>Bernwood Jubilee Way guide books. Iconic views of the steeple of the church at Steeple Claydon are characteristic.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>An attractive rural landscape with variable visibility valued locally by residents and by visitors to the Claydon House and Park with some characteristics which elevate the scenic qualities above other similar landscapes but not designated for its scenic quality.</p> <p><i>“There are few visual detractors, although the landfill operations at Calvert are just beyond the high ground on the south western side and can sometimes be seen close to this boundary.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	A well settled arable landscape with little sense of wildness but with some level of tranquillity and dark skies, albeit currently influenced by substantial construction activity associated with the national rail projects. Outside of these areas, however, the remote character of the landscape is retained.	Community
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	A predominantly farmed landscape but with strong elements of woodland and hedgerows which are generally well interconnected. <i>“Overall the functional integrity is considered to be very strong.” (AVLCA)</i>	Regional
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is	The landscape is medium to small scale with varying openness largely dependent on local topography and field boundary vegetation.	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
		larger than scale of receiving landscape	The scale of Proposed Development within the LCA is relatively large but would not be visible in its entirety and is set within generally lower lying areas and would reflect the scale of the landscape. Associated Satellite Collector Compounds of the scale proposed would be in scale with the existing agricultural structures in the landscape.	
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	A gentle landscape with slopes rising to the edges, albeit Knowl Hill is somewhat prominent locally.	Medium
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	A landscape varying in openness with the Proposed Development benefiting from undulating topography and relatively large established woodlands and tree belts and intact hedgerows that generally enclose views. Rising topography to the north affords some mid distance views of the area around Knowl Hill.	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Primarily a farmed landscape but with strong elements of parkland and woodland that create a more intimate and irregular pattern.	Medium
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<p>A generally settled landscape with a clear link to the historic landscape.</p> <p><i>“Settlements along the ridge to the north are a feature of the area and they have retained their historic character. Vernacular houses many with timber frames and thatch roofs, and historic farm buildings and ponds are common in the villages. Claydon House and parkland is a National Trust property the house and terrace has fine views over parkland to the west and south.”</i> (AVLCA)</p>	High
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Some more open views from the elevated sides of the bowl but views across farmland are often enclosed by woodland and field boundary vegetation. <i>“Views within the area tend</i>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>to focus on the parkland, woodland on the southern edge and villages on the ridge.”</i></p> <p><i>“Claydon House and parkland is a National Trust property the house and terrace has fine views over parkland to the west and south... Iconic views of the steeple of the church at Steeple Claydon are characteristic.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan notes that views of open countryside to the south of Queen Catherine Road are valued.</p>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<p>A landscape with topographic variation and a designed element that affords views and vistas within it.</p> <p><i>“Views within the area tend to focus on the parkland, woodland on the southern edge and villages on the ridge.”</i></p> <p><i>“Claydon House and parkland is a National Trust property the house and terrace has fine views over parkland to</i></p>	High/Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>the west and south... Iconic views of the steeple of the church at Steeple Claydon are characteristic.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development would generally sit below the ridge lines and not define the skyline.</p>	
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium

5. LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill

Table A10.3.3: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The landscape is locally designated as an AAL, which are defined as areas that have a special quality or qualities and are large enough to warrant identification at the county wide scale but <i>“not extensive enough or of such outstanding natural beauty as to merit national recognition under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the countryside Act.”</i> (AAL)	Regional
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes	Ecological interest is primarily focussed on areas of woodland, intact hedgerows and some unimproved pasture and calcareous grassland to the south, outside of the Site area. <i>“The area has a very high level of woodland cover at about 40% most of this is broadleaved but about a quarter is coniferous... Finemere Wood is an SSSI and the designation corresponds to the area of ancient woodland. The nearby woodlands of</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
		positively to the landscape	<p><i>Runts Wood, Balmore Wood, Greatsea Wood and Romer Wood are... also ancient woodlands displaying a range of habitat and species.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p> <p><i>“The hill has strong steep slopes on the southern side but the surrounding land on the other sides is higher so the hill landform is less steeply (sic).” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Distinctive landform of low, generally open limestone hills and ridges, enhanced by field boundaries which accentuate the shape of the undulating landform.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest	The area formed part of the Bernwood medieval hunting forest. <i>“The historical connection with Bernwood Forest is emphasised by the large surviving blocks of ancient woodland... The other significant characteristic of landscape is the</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	contributes positively to the landscape	which contributes positively to the landscape	<p><i>irregular shaped fields, some of which are assarts, created as a result of woodland clearance in medieval period. It is likely historically this area was influenced by land improvement by the Verneys at Middle Claydon.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p> <p>There are no Conservation Areas and only one historic farmstead within the landscape.</p>	
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p>Locally, the farmland is well maintained and much of the landscape fabric is in good condition but in places the hedgerow pattern has been lost or hedgerows are very fragmented.</p> <p><i>“The landscape of this area is generally in a very good condition there is a unified pattern of woodland and hedgerows across the strong landform. The only real visual detractors are the pylon line on the eastern side and the small areas</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>of prairie farming which fragment the sense of unity..” (AVLCA)</i>	
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No specific associations have been identified other than the local association with Verneys at Middle Claydon.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a result of its strong landform and wooded character valued primarily at a local to regional scale. <i>“This area has a distinct landscape character from the variety and quality of landscape features it also has a good sense of historic continuity giving it a moderate sense of place.” (AVLCA)</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	<p>Landscape is well served by PRow and the Bernwood Jubilee Way passes through the landscape broadly north to south. Whilst these are well used by residents/communities in Aylesbury there are no recreational opportunities which attract wider interest.</p> <p><i>“Public rights of way and road network which enable views of and appreciation of the landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Regional
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>An attractive rural landscape with a pleasing combination of woodland, hedgerows and farmland across a strong landform which is appreciated from the wider surrounding countryside.</p> <p><i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p>A mixed landscape of farmland and woodland, sparsely settled with some sense of tranquillity and dark skies, albeit affected by the pylon lines to its southern extents.</p> <p><i>“In some locations particularly on the top of the hill or within woodland there is a remote and wild character.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and a coherent landscape character. A lack of intrusion from developments that are out of character”. (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Regional
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	<p>The landscape is strongly wooded and benefits from generally moderate connectivity by hedgerow boundaries although some are locally missing. It also provides local recreational opportunities.</p> <p><i>“Ecological integrity is moderate because of the areas of designated sites and broad habitats of District significance present relative to the rest of the District, and because connectivity is not at a maximum.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is made up of larger areas of woodlands interspersed with small scale fields, however the topography and visual openness of the landscape create a larger sense of scale to the south.</p> <p>The extent of Proposed Development would be limited to the “<i>small flat ridge along the top of the hill</i>” and would be well set back from woodlands and PRoW to minimise impacts of scale within the landscape. Although the scale of Proposed Development within the LCA is relatively large it would not be visible in its entirety.</p>	High/Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	<p>A distinct landform where it rises from the valley to the south. The Proposed Development would only be viewed within the plateau landscape itself.</p> <p><i>“The hill has strong steep slopes on the southern side but the surrounding land on the other sides is higher so the hill landform is less steeply. This is particularly evident in views from the north within Claydon Bowl LCA 7.3.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Narrow ridges and small hills with steep sides are distinctive features on the south west side of Aylesbury Vale... The landforms stand out of the lower clay vale.” (AVLCA 9)</i></p>	Medium
Openness/ enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	<p>Openness varies across the landscape, but it is locally well enclosed to the plateau due its topography, mature woodland and hedgerows which minimise views in and out.</p> <p><i>“Although the area has a much higher level of woodland cover than in most of the surrounding countryside the tree cover is considered to be intermittent as there are large areas where the only cover is from fairly widely spaced hedgerow trees.</i></p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>This gives the area a high level of visibility.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	A coherent landscape of farmland and woodland which provides opportunities for some existing natural screening. The Proposed Development would fit within the existing pattern of the landscape by avoiding ridge lines where they would be more visually intrusive.	Medium
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	A quiet landscape away from roads and built development whilst the “... <i>only real visual detractors are the pylon line on the eastern side</i> ” (AVLCA)	High
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	A variable landscape; intimate and enclosed in places, such as to the northern plateau and within woodland whilst open in places enabling panoramic views into and out of the area to the south. <i>“Although the area has a much higher level of woodland cover than in most of the surrounding countryside the tree cover is considered to be</i>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>intermittent as there are large areas where the only cover is from fairly widely spaced hedgerow trees. This gives the area a high level of visibility.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The clearly defined small hills and ridges are of interesting character and afford spectacular views over the surrounding lower ground and across to the Chilterns escarpment... Views out are a major feature of this area.” (AVLCA 9)</i></p> <p><i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<p>A distinctive hill rising from lower ground to the south, creating a distinct horizon and skyline. The Proposed Development would be situated in areas that would not define the skyline from within the wider surrounding landscape.</p> <p><i>“The landform is a dominant feature in the character of the area.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>“The importance of the hills in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				High/ Medium
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium

6. LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale

Table A10.3.5: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	There are no national or local landscape designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Ecological interest is relatively limited and the landscape is primarily occupied by arable farmland together with areas of largely improved grassland. There are no larger woodlands, but there are tree belts along watercourses.</p> <p><i>“Aquatic habitats are a common thread throughout this LCA associated with the two brooks and their tributaries and the ditches that drain into them. A number of ponds are also found in the western part to the south of the watercourse. The streams which area broad habitat type, and the hedgerow</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>network combine to provide a high degree of habitat connectivity.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>Underlying geology results in a gentle landform sloping up to the valley sides.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>The area contains one conservation area at Adstock and the “<i>hedgerow pattern in this area is predominantly the result of 18th and 19th century enclosure.</i>” (AVLCA)</p> <p>Ridge and furrow earthworks can be found to the east of Twyford village and south of Adstock, whilst the alignment of a Roman road runs past the east of Adstock.</p>	Community
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Whilst managed effectively as a productive landscape, in terms of its landscape fabric and structure, this is a landscape generally in fair to good condition albeit the construction activities associated with EWR and HS2 are a detracting feature in the	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			area to the north-west of the site. The <i>“historic hedgerow pattern”</i> (AVLCA) is described as a unifying element.	
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No known associations with notable people, events and the arts.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a farmed landscape but is not specifically valued as such beyond the local community.	Community
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape provides some recreational offering with a number of PRoW and long distance trails through the area, which local residents and visitors use for walking. <i>“The landscape has a good amenity value and it is served by several promoted Rights of Way, including the</i>	Regional/Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p><i>Bernwood Jubilee Way and Cross Bucks Way.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>A generally pleasant rural landscape with variable visibility valued locally by residents and appreciated by travellers passing through the landscape but no characteristics which elevate the scenic qualities of the landscape above other similar landscapes.</p> <p><i>“The landscape is distinct and has a good sense of historic continuity emanating from the historic hedgerow pattern the meandering watercourses and the low level of settlement... the only visual detractor that has a wide visual impact is a pylon line in the east of the area.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	A working arable landscape, sparsely settled but with some sense of tranquillity away from the construction activity associated with EWR and HS2. <i>“The area has a low density of settlement; the only villages are Twyford in the far west and Adstock in the east... large areas with little road access.” (AVLCA)</i>	Community
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	The overriding function of this landscape is farming and food production, and although it contains some strong hedgerows and watercourses, it contributes little else in terms of other ecosystem services.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Community
Susceptibility				

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is medium scale with varying openness largely dependent on local topography and field boundary vegetation.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is located within the immediately adjacent LCA and the level of intervisibility is small. The Solar PV modules would be in scale with the existing vegetation and built structures in the landscape.</p>	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	A gently undulating landscape with slopes rising to the valley sides and more prominent landform lying outside the LCA.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	<p>A landscape varying in openness dependent on local landform and hedgerow cover.</p> <p><i>“The landform is apparent and the tree cover intermittent reflecting the lack of woodland and the widely spaced hedgerow trees away from the</i></p>	Medium/Low

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>watercourses. This gives the area a moderate visibility.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Simple patterns in the landscape predominantly in agricultural use and with overall limited vegetation cover.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	A generally sparsely settled landscape with isolated farms and settlement. The electricity line to the east and EWR and HS2 developments are prominent linear features in the landscape. <i>““The only visual detractor that has a wide visual impact is a pylon line in the east of the area.” (AVLCA)</i>	Medium/Low
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Some more open views from the valley sides but views of the rising ground of Knowl Hill within the neighbouring LCA are often screened by field boundary vegetation.	Low

Host Landscape: LCA 5.4 – Twyford Vale				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>“There are good views across the valley, which often focus on villages and church spires on the valley sides. There is little woodland and tree cover in hedgerows is variable.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	A low lying landscape with skylines typically defined by field boundary vegetation and or the sloping valley sides. The Proposed Development would generally sit below the line of view and would not define the skyline.	Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low

7. LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands

Table A10.3.6: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	<p>There are no national designations covering any part of the LCA within the study area.</p> <p>A very small proportion of the landscape is locally designated as an AAL, however there is no intervisibility with the Site from this area and the landscape is not considered to be of significant value in local landscape terms.</p>	Community
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes	Ecological interest is relatively limited and the landscape is primarily occupied by arable farmland together with areas of largely improved grassland. There are no larger woodlands but smaller pockets remain as do the majority of hedgerows with some hedgerow trees.	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	positively to the landscape	positively to the landscape	<p><i>“Grassland habitats dominate – much is improved, but some is unimproved or neutral.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>Underlying geology results in an <i>“...undulating character created by streamlines cutting into higher ground. There are a number of small distinct hills and ridges.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>The area retains an historic landscape of rectilinear parliamentary enclosure fields. Granborough and North Marston contain important listed buildings and <i>“North Marston’s conservation area contains the very fine perpendicular church of St Mary’s which is a Grade 1 listed building.”</i></p> <p>The area contains, <i>“... fine examples of ridge and furrow ... at Granborough and North Marston. The latter is on the English Heritage list as one of the best examples to be found in England. There are also well preserved deserted medieval settlement earthworks at</i></p>	National/Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>Hogshaw, which is classified as a scheduled ancient monument and also good examples at Granborough and Hoggston. The landscape also has the earlier feature of Carter's Lane Roman road which runs along the western boundary of the area as well as a few Roman findspots." (AVLCA)</i>	
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Whilst managed effectively as a productive landscape, in terms of its landscape fabric and structure, this is a landscape generally in good condition. <i>"This landscape is generally in a good condition it has a strong hedgerow pattern over an undulating landscape there is little in the way of interruption or fragmentation. There are few visual detractors and their impact tends to be fairly localised." (AVLCA)</i>	Community
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with	Landscape which has well recognised connections with	No known associations with notable people, events and the arts.	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	notable people, events and the arts	notable people, events and the arts		
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a farmed landscape but is not specifically valued as such beyond the local community.	Community
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	<p>Landscape provides considerable recreational offering with a number of PRow through the area, which local residents use for walking.</p> <p><i>“The area has a high amenity value the Swan Way promoted as a recreational footpath. North Marston in particular contains a plethora of Rights of Way radiating from the village. This unusual density of footpaths may be attributable to the village’s past as a place of medieval pilgrimage to the healing well of John Schorne.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>A generally pleasant rural landscape with variable visibility valued locally by residents and appreciated by travellers passing through the landscape but no characteristics which elevate the scenic qualities of the landscape above other similar landscapes.</p> <p><i>“Five pylon lines radiate from the electricity sub-station to the west of Granborough beyond the boundary. Some cross the LCA, others are visible from it and in combination have a significant negative visual impact.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	A working arable landscape sparsely settled but with little sense of wildness; a settled character to the west becomes somewhat more detached in the west albeit influenced by settlement in neighbouring LCA.	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
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“There are few visual detractors and their impact tends to be fairly localised.” (AVLCA)

Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	<p>The overriding function of this landscape is farming and food production and it contributes little else in terms of other ecosystem services.</p> <p><i>“Ecological integrity is weak due to suboptimal connectivity and the low area of designated sites and habitats of District significance present compared to other parts of the District.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	Community
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Overall Judgement of Value

Community

Susceptibility

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is medium to small scale with varying openness largely dependent on local topography and field boundary vegetation.</p> <p>The scale of Proposed Development would be notable in the neighbouring LCA in wider panoramic views from the western extent of the LCA. The Solar PV modules, Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound would be notable in scale within the landscape to Parcel 3. However, the location of the Rosefield Substation adjacent to the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and Proposed Development close to existing electricity pylons would provide vertical and horizontal scale comparison that would contextualise its location. The BESS and Satellite Collector Compound would be somewhat notable but distant additions to the agricultural landscape of Parcel 2.</p>	Medium/Low

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	An undulating landscape with “...a number of small distinct hills and ridges” with gently sloping valley sides. (AVLCA)	Medium/Low
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	A landscape varying in openness with the Proposed Development visible from the elevated western edge of the LCA. Elsewhere topography and intact hedgerows reduce openness.	Medium/Low
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	Simple patterns of hedgerows and fields with limited vegetation cover in the landscape.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Settlement is focussed towards the western edge of the LCA and elsewhere is limited to isolated farms. Electricity pylons and the National Grid East Claydon Substation are prominent features within the neighbouring LCAs	Medium/Low

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p>5.6/LCA 5.7 from the western edge of the landscape.</p> <p><i>“The settlement tends to focus on areas of higher ground with the villages of North Marston and Granborough being notable for their strong historic character.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“There are few visual detractors and their impact tends to be fairly localised.” (AVLCA)</i></p>	
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<p>A landscape with some outward views towards the Proposed Development from the elevated western edge of the LCA.</p> <p>The North Marston Neighbourhood Plan identifies two potential views towards the Site on Policy Map 1: Key Views. The landscape guidelines for the LCA include:</p> <p><i>“Identify key views to surrounding higher ground from publicly accessible land</i></p>	High/Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 5.8 – North Marston Undulating Claylands				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>and promote the preservation and enhancement of these views.”</i>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	An undulating landscape with skylines typically defined by distinctive hills or sloping valley sides. The Proposed Development would sit below the skyline in neighbouring lower lying landscapes.	Medium/Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Low

8. LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill

Table A10.3.7: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The landscape is locally designated as an AAL, considered to be of significant value in district/local landscape terms.	Regional
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Ecological interest is “<i>limited as it is almost exclusively grassland, about two thirds of which is improved but one third is unimproved. Aquatic habitats are limited to very small occurrences of standing water relating to the moated sites and a small number of minor streams.</i>” (AVLCA)</p> <p>Hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide some interest but there are no biodiversity designations or priority habitats present.</p> <p>Underlying geology results in a landform of gentle hills rising to 187m AOD at Quainton Hill.</p> <p>“<i>Distinctive landform of low, generally open limestone hills and ridges, enhanced by field</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>boundaries which accentuate the shape of the undulating landform.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>The area formed part of the Bernwood medieval hunting forest but has been an historically open farmed landscape.</p> <p>The area is archaeologically rich with ridge and furrow that “<i>are amongst the finest surviving examples to be found in England.</i>” (AVLCA)</p> <p>There are no Conservation Areas and only one historic farmstead within the landscape but two deserted settlements are associated with the ridge and furrow earthworks.</p>	Regional
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p>Locally, the farmland is well maintained and much of the landscape fabric is in good condition but in places the hedgerow pattern has been lost.</p> <p>“<i>Tree cover is a feature of the hedgerow network however it is not consistent and is considered to be intermittent.</i>” (AVLCA)</p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No specific associations have been identified which would have connections with the landscape.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a result of its strong landform and historic field pattern valued primarily at a local to regional scale. <i>“The dominance of the landform combined with the strong field pattern contributed to the area’s distinctiveness.” (AVLCA)</i>	Regional
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape is well served by PRoW and a number of long distance trails and regional routes including the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way passes through the landscape broadly north to south. <i>“Public rights of way and road network which enable views of and appreciation of the landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>An attractive rural landscape with a pleasing combination of strong landform and field pattern which is appreciated from the wider surrounding countryside.</p> <p><i>“The irregular pattern of pastoral fields is supported by mature hedgerows over a distinctive steeply sloping landform. These factors support the assessment of a unified pattern of elements and contribute to a strong sense of visual unity.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Regional
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p>A landscape of farmland, sparsely settled with some sense of tranquillity and dark skies, with <i>“...few visual detractors other than the telecommunications mast on top of the hill and the underground reservoir.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and a coherent landscape character. A lack of</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>intrusion from developments that are out of character". (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	The exposed hills are used for water storage but are not of any particular ecological interest. It also provides local recreational opportunities.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape consists of medium to small scale fields, however the elevated topography and visual openness create a larger sense of scale to the within the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There is no Proposed Development within the LCA itself but it would appear a notable feature within the surrounding landscape from the elevated north south ridge. In particular the Solar PV modules, BESS and Satellite Collector</p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			Compound would be notable additions to the agricultural landscapes of Parcel 2. However, the location of the Proposed Development in Parcel 3 would be more distant and predominantly screened by Conduit Hill to the north. Any views of Rosefield Substation would be viewed in context of the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation, which, together with existing electricity pylons, would provide a vertical and horizontal scale comparison that would contextualise its location.	
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	<p>A landform which rises from the valley floor to form distinct hills which are notable within the wider landscape. The Proposed Development would be located in lower lying neighbouring LCA which are somewhat more uniform in character.</p> <p><i>“The elevation of the hill over the surrounding areas allows for high visibility and long distance views.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Narrow ridges and small hills with steep sides are distinctive features on the south west side of</i></p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>Aylesbury Vale... The landforms stand out of the lower clay vale.” (AVLCA 9)</i>	
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	An historically open landscape with wide panoramic views to the surrounding open countryside. The Proposed Development would be notable in Parcel 2 whilst views to the lower lying landscapes to the north in Parcel 3 would be limited. <i>“There are long distance views over surrounding open countryside including to Waddesdon.” (AVLCA)</i>	High/Medium
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or with limited vegetation cover	A coherent landscape of open farmland with a regular pattern of land cover. The Proposed Development would fit within the wider field pattern of the landscape but would add to its complexity of pattern and land cover.	Medium
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings	Established, traditional or historic built character	A landscape of historic continuity, largely unsettled with exception of a number of farmsteads. It contains “...few visual detractors other than the telecommunications mast on top	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	infrastructure, settlements		<p><i>of the hill and the underground reservoir.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The perception of Proposed Development in Parcel 2 would be largely in the context of traditional agricultural built character albeit the landscapes contain existing large pylons, whilst Parcel 3 contains the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging lines of pylons.</p>	
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<p>A landscape enabling panoramic views into and out of the wider area including views of the Proposed Development in neighbouring LCA.</p> <p><i>“There are long distance views over surrounding open countryside including to Waddesdon. Quainton Windmill, located within Quainton is a local landmark and in the foreground of views to the south.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The clearly defined small hills and ridges are of interesting character and afford spectacular views over the surrounding lower ground and across to the Chilterns escarpment... Views out are a major feature of this area.” (AVLCA 9)</i></p>	High/Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.2 – Quainton Hill				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<p>A distinctive hill rising from lower ground creating a distinct horizon and skyline. Proposed Development would be situated in areas that would not define the skyline to within the wider surrounding landscapes would be situated in areas that would not define the skyline to within the wider surrounding landscape.</p> <p><i>“The dominance of the landform combined with the strong field pattern contributed to the area’s distinctiveness.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The importance of the hills in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Medium
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium

9. LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

Table A10.3.8: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal for LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Value attached to Landscape				
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	The landscape is locally designated as an AAL considered to be of significant value in district/local landscape terms.	Regional
Natural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p>Ecological interest is “<i>limited as it is almost exclusively grassland, about two thirds of which is improved but one third is unimproved. Aquatic habitats are limited to very small occurrences of standing water relating to the moated sites and a small number of minor streams.</i>” (AVLCA)</p> <p>Hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide some interest but there are no biodiversity designations or priority habitats present.</p> <p>Underlying geology results in a landform of gentle hills rising to over 160m AOD at Oving.</p> <p>“<i>Distinctive landform of low, generally open limestone hills and ridges, enhanced by field</i></p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>boundaries which accentuate the shape of the undulating landform.” (Special Qualities)</i>	
Cultural Heritage	Landscape with little evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Landscape with strong evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	<p><i>“A complex area with a multi-layered history of enclosure...Both Whitchurch and Oving are designated as conservation areas and contain a high concentration of listed buildings many of them timber framed.”</i></p> <p>The area is archaeologically rich with the landscape containing “...a good concentration of archaeological sites, some of which are designated as scheduled ancient monuments... The landscape also has some good surviving ridge and furrow... there is some evidence for Roman occupation” (AVLCA)</p>	Regional
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a poor physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure	<p>Locally, the farmland is well maintained and much of the landscape fabric is in good condition but in places the hedgerow pattern has been lost.</p> <p><i>“Further habitat interest and biodiversity potential is provided by the mature tree cover associated with the settlements and by the</i></p>	Community

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>hedgerows again often with mature trees.” (AVLCA)</i>	
Associations	Landscape which has few recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	Landscape which has well recognised connections with notable people, events and the arts	No specific associations have been identified which would have connections with the landscape.	Community
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a weak sense of identity or a sense of identity that is appreciated principally by local communities.	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity and is valued more widely by society.	The landscape has a strong sense of identity as a result of its strong landform and historic field pattern valued primarily at a local to regional scale. <i>“The area has a distinctive character deriving from the relationship of the ridge to the surrounding landform.” (AVLCA)</i>	Regional
Recreational	Landscape offering few recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape offering many recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important	Landscape is well served by PRoW and the Outer Aylesbury Ring. <i>“This area has good amenity value, the heritage of Whitchurch is visibly promoted with a number of walks and illustrated information boards placed at various points in the village; Oving also has signage promoting the</i>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>settlement's past. The landscape is served by a number of Rights of Way."</i> (AVLCA)</p> <p><i>"Public rights of way and road network which enable views of and appreciation of the landscape."</i> (AAL Special Qualities)</p>	
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that has little that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Landscape that appeals strongly to the senses, primarily the visual sense	<p>An attractive rural landscape with a pleasing combination of strong landform and field pattern which is appreciated from the wider surrounding countryside.</p> <p><i>"The irregular pattern of pastoral fields is supported by mature hedgerows over a distinctive steeply sloping landform. These factors support the assessment of a unified pattern of elements and contribute to a strong sense of visual unity."</i> (AVLCA)</p> <p><i>"Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape."</i> (AAL Special Qualities)</p>	Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Perceptual (Wildness and Tranquillity)	Landscape with a weak perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	<p>A landscape of settled farmland with some sense of tranquillity and dark skies, with <i>“...There are few visual detractors, notably these are mainly associated with small pockets of horse paddocks enclosed by post and rail fencing concentrated around the fringes of the main settlements.”</i> (AVLCA)</p> <p><i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.”</i> (AAL Special Qualities)</p>	Regional
Functional	Landscape which does not perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	The ecological integrity is weak due to poor connectivity but it provides recreational opportunities.	Community
Overall Judgement of Value				Regional

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
Susceptibility				
Scale	Landscapes where scale of development is similar to or smaller than scale of receiving landscape	Landscapes where scale of development is larger than scale of receiving landscape	<p>The landscape is of a medium scale subdivided into fields of medium to small scale, however the topography and visual openness of the landscape create a larger sense of scale to the within the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There is no Proposed Development within the LCA and it would be a distant feature within the surrounding landscapes to the west. The Solar PV modules, BESS and Satellite Collector Compound would be notable but distant additions to the agricultural landscapes of Parcel 2 whilst the Rosefield Substation would be viewed together with the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging pylons, which would provide a vertical and horizontal scale comparison that would contextualise its location.</p>	Medium/Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, or uniform landscapes	Dramatic and rugged landscapes	A landform which rises from the valley floor to form distinct hills which are notable within the wider landscape.	Medium/low

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<p><i>“The elevation of the hill over the surrounding areas allows for high visibility and long distance views.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“Narrow ridges and small hills with steep sides are distinctive features on the south west side of Aylesbury Vale... The landforms stand out of the lower clay vale.” (AVLCA 9)</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be located in lower lying neighbouring LCA which are somewhat more uniform in character</p>	
Openness/enclosure	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	Open and exposed landscapes	<p>An historically open landscape with wide panoramic views to the surrounding open countryside.</p> <p><i>“There are long distance views over surrounding open countryside including to Waddesdon.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be notable in distant views.</p>	Medium
Land cover, complexity and patterns	Areas of simple or regular land cover, linear features and	Complex, intimate or irregular patterns or	A coherent landscape of open farmland with a regular pattern of land cover. The Proposed Development would fit within the wider field	Medium/Low

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
	patterns or with a mosaic of vegetation cover	with limited vegetation cover	pattern of the landscape but would add to its complexity of pattern and land cover.	
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	<p>A landscape of historic continuity, largely unsettled with exception of a number of farmsteads. It contains “...<i>few visual detractors other than the telecommunications mast on top of the hill and the underground reservoir.</i>” (AVLCA)</p> <p>The perception of Proposed Development in Parcel 2 would be largely in the context of traditional agricultural built character albeit the landscapes contain existing large pylons, whilst Parcel 3 contains the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging lines of pylons.</p>	Medium/Low
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	<p>A landscape enabling panoramic views into and out of the wider area including views of the Proposed Development in neighbouring LCA.</p> <p><i>“There are distant views in all directions and the church towers are local landmarks.”</i> (AVLCA)</p>	Medium

Host Landscape: LCA 9.3 – Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge				
Factors affecting sensitivity	Indicators of Lower Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Indicators of Higher Sensitivity to Solar PV development	Explanation	Judgement
			<i>“Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points, providing picturesque views across the undulating rural and agricultural landscape.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i>	
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	<p>A distinctive hill rising from lower ground creating a distinct horizon and skyline. The Proposed Development would be situated in areas that would not define the skyline to within the wider surrounding landscapes.</p> <p><i>“The dominance of the landform combined with the strong field pattern contributed to the area’s distinctiveness.” (AVLCA)</i></p> <p><i>“The importance of the hills in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale.” (AAL Special Qualities)</i></p>	Medium/Low
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility				Medium/Low
Overall Judgement of Sensitivity				Medium/Low

10. References

Ref. 1: *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition* (GLVIA3) (2013). Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.

Ref. 2: *National Character Area Profile 108 – Upper Thames Clay Vales* (2014) Natural England. Available online: [Upper Thames Clay Vales - National Character Area Profiles](#)

Ref. 3: *National Character Area Profile 109 – Midvale Ridge* (2013) Natural England. Available online:
<https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/midvale-ridge/>

Ref. 4: *Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment* (2008) Jacobs. Available online: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/landscape-policy-and-assessments/landscape-character-assessments/>

Ref. 5: *Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan, May 2017*. Available online: <https://www.steepleclaydonparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

Ref. 6: *North Marston Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2035, Draft Plan December 2021*. Available online: <https://northmarston.org/neighbourhood-plan.php>

Ref. 7: *Defining the Special Qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District* (2016), Land Use Consultants

Ref 8: *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (2021) Landscape Institute Available online: [Assessing landscape value outside national designations - Landscape Institute](#)



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