# Rosefield Solar Farm

## Environmental Statement

Volume 2
Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual

APFP Regulation 5(a)(2)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

EN010158/APP/6.2
September 2025
Rosefield Energyfarm Limited

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# 10. Landscape and Visual

## 10.1. Introduction

10.1.1. This chapter presents an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development upon landscape and visual amenity. The full description of the Proposed Development is provided within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

10.1.2. This chapter is supported by the following figures presented in **ES Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]**:

- **Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations**;
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- **Figure 10.25: RVAA Property Plan – Sion Hill Farm, Off Church Way**; and
- **Figure 10.26: RVAA Property Plan – Station House, East Claydon Road**.

10.1.3. This chapter is further supported by the following technical appendices presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010158/APP/6.4]**:

- **Appendix 10.1: Rosefield LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria**;
- **Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA**;
- **Appendix 10.3: Rosefield Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal**;
- **Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis**; and
- **Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**.

10.1.4. This chapter is also supported by annotated baseline photographs and photomontages presented in the Viewpoints and Visualisations document in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.1.5. This chapter should also be read in conjunction with the following assessment chapters presented in **ES Volume 2**:

- **Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2]**;
- **Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010158/APP/6.2]**;
- **Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration [EN010158/APP/6.2]**;
- **Chapter 14: Population [EN010158/APP/6.2]**;
- **Chapter 15: Transport and Access [EN010158/APP/6.2]**; and
- **Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

10.1.6. This chapter and associated appendices constitute a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and have been prepared in accordance with the principles established in published best practice, namely the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) **[Ref. 10-14]** and associated technical guidance notes including those published by the Landscape Institute (referenced as appropriate – see **Section 10.2**).

10.1.7. This chapter considers the likely significant effects upon:

- Landscape fabric;
- Landscape character; and

- Visual receptors including residential, transport and recreational receptors.

10.1.8. Although linked, landscape and visual effects are considered separately. Landscape effects derive from changes in the landscape fabric, which may result in changes to landscape character, whereas visual effects are the effects of these changes as experienced by people (visual receptors).

10.1.9. In considering effects on landscape fabric, this chapter considers the removal or addition of elements such as vegetation in relation to landscape change, but the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on biodiversity is considered in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

10.1.10. Likewise, this chapter considers cultural heritage assets in so much as they contribute to landscape character and its perceived value (for example, Conservation Areas are treated as areas where the character and views are valued). However, the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the setting of cultural heritage receptors is considered in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010158/APP/6.2]**.

## 10.2. Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance

10.2.1. This assessment has been undertaken with regard to the following legislation, policy and guidance.

10.2.2. It should be noted that this chapter does not assess the compliance of the Proposed Development against relevant planning policy. Such an assessment is presented in the **Planning Statement [EN010158/APP/5.7]**.

### Legislation

- European Landscape Convention 2000 **[Ref. 10-1]**;
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 **[Ref. 10-2]**; and
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 **[Ref. 10-3]**.

### National planning policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (2023) – Section 4.6 sets out assessment principles relating to environmental and biodiversity net gain, Section 4.7 concerns criteria for good design in energy infrastructure and Section 5.10 concerns landscape and visual matters relating to energy infrastructure **[Ref. 10-4]**;

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (2023) – Section 2.5 provides a consideration of good design for energy infrastructure and Section 2.10 contains details on solar energy generation **[Ref. 10-5]**;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (2023) – Section 2.9 relates to the applicant assessment and addresses landscape and visual matters relating to electricity networks infrastructure **[Ref. 10-6]**; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (2024) – Section 12 'Achieving well-designed places', and Section 15 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' **[Ref. 10-7]**.

## Local planning policy

- Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) 2013 – 2033 (Adopted September 2021), specifically Policies **[Ref. 10-8]**:
  - S1 'Sustainable development for Aylesbury Vale';
  - S5 'Infrastructure';
  - T7 'Footpaths and cycle routes';
  - BE2 'Design of new development';
  - BE3 'Protection of amenity of residents';
  - NE1 'Biodiversity and Geodiversity';
  - NE2 'River and stream corridors';
  - NE4 'Landscape character and locally important landscape';
  - NE8 'Trees, hedgerows and woodlands';
  - C3 'Renewable Energy';
  - C4 'Protection of public rights of way'; and
  - I1 'Green infrastructure'.

## Neighbourhood development plans

- Buckinghamshire Council, Vale of Aylesbury Neighbourhood Plans **[Ref. 10-9]**:
  - Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan (September 2017);
  - Granborough Neighbourhood Plan (July 2022);
  - North Marston Neighbourhood Plan (February 2023);
  - Winslow Neighbourhood Plan (March 2023); and
  - Quainton Neighbourhood Plan (June 2022).

## Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment (2016, updated 2019), paragraphs 008, 036 and 037 are relevant **[Ref. 10-10]**;
- Planning Practice Guidance: Design: Process and Tools (2014, updated 2019), paragraph 001 is relevant **[Ref. 10-11]**;
- Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2015), paragraphs 005, 007 and 013 are relevant **[Ref. 10-12]**;
- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2013) **[Ref. 10-13]**;
- Landscape Institute Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (2024) ('GLVIA3') **[Ref. 10-14]**;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (2019) **[Ref. 10-15]**;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (2021) **[Ref. 10-16]**;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (2019) **[Ref. 10-17]**;
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 04/20: Infrastructure (2020) **[Ref. 10-18]**;
- Natural England. An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014) **[Ref. 10-19]**;
- Natural England. An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2019) **[Ref. 10-20]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (2024, updated 25 March 2025) **[Ref. 10-21]**; and
- National Design Guide (2019, updated 2021) **[Ref. 10-22]**.

## 10.3. Stakeholder engagement

10.3.1. **Table 10.1** provides a summary of the stakeholder engagement activities undertaken separate from the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping, Phase One Consultation, Phase Two Consultation and Targeted Consultation process. This table also details the matters raised, how such matters have been addressed, and where they have been addressed within the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application documentation.

10.3.2. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: EIA Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010158/APP/6.4]** presents the responses received in the EIA Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's response to each matter that has been raised.

10.3.3. **Appendices A4, J1, J2** and **K3** of the **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010158/APP/5.2]**, which is submitted in support of the DCO Application, sets out the feedback received during Phase One Consultation, Phase Two Consultation and Targeted Consultation and how regard has been afforded by the Applicant to each matter raised.

Table 10.1: Summary of stakeholder engagement

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 04 April and 22 May 2024<br><br>Conference call on 29 May 2024 | Buckinghamshire Council requested that Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) be prepared for bare earth and reduced screening heights (buildings to 6m and woodlands to 10m) in order to demonstrate a worst-case scenario of visibility for the Proposed Development. | Information regarding ZTVs and viewpoints issued to Buckinghamshire Council for review and comment. A conference call was held to discuss the rationale of viewpoint selection. There has been ongoing liaison with Buckinghamshire Council to reach agreement on the presentation of ZTVs and the selection of viewpoints. Final ZTVs are based on the proposed maximum height parameters with agreed screening heights of 6m for buildings and 10m for woodland. | ZTVs can be found in **ES Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 04 April and 22 May 2024<br><br>Conference call on 29 May 2024 | Buckinghamshire Council requested that all relevant landscape-related studies should be considered including the background evidence to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. | Agreed. All relevant studies are included in this assessment. It is noted that the Vale of Aylesbury Local Landscape Designations document, which defines the Areas of Attractive Landscape (AAL), had been removed from Buckinghamshire Council's website when reviewed in June 2025. Buckinghamshire Council | Appraisal of landscape sensitivity can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.3: Rosefield Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change within each landscape due |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | confirmed this was still a 'live' document and provided a PDF copy. The Quainton-Wing Hills AAL has been reviewed in this assessment. | to the Proposed Development can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024 | Buckinghamshire Council requested winter views to demonstrate worst-case scenario and as a basis for photomontages. | Agreed. Winter photography has been used as the basis for all photomontages. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024 | Buckinghamshire Council requested additional elevated views to be considered for High Speed 2 (HS2) over bridge close to Viewpoint 4/Parcel 1a and Addison Road bridge over East West Rail. | Requirement for a specific viewpoint from the HS2 over bridge to the south of Parcel 1 was considered unnecessary on the removal of Parcel 1A, with effects on visual amenity to be considered as part of the assessment of effects on users of the footpath network, as agreed with Buckinghamshire Council. An additional viewpoint from the Addison | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Road bridge over east West Rail has been included. | |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024. | Buckinghamshire Council requested the experience of users of Sustrans cycle route No. 51 between Winslow and Bicester be considered. | Agreed, Sustrans cycle route No. 51 has been included in this assessment. | Discussion of the change in views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024. | Buckinghamshire Council requested inclusion of viewpoints from within the Proposed Development and for experience of horse riders to bridleways to be considered. | Agreed, a number of viewpoints have been included from within the Proposed Development as requested. Due to the proposed hedgerow heights, the experience of riders on horseback is not assessed separately as they would experience the same degree of visibility at Year 0 and Year 10 as people on foot. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change in views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and | Buckinghamshire Council requested consideration of views identified in policy | Agreed, the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL and North Marston and Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plans | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4,** |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024. | documents such as the Vale of Aylesbury Local Landscape Designations and Neighbourhood Plans. | identified relevant views which were reviewed in the field study and included in this assessment. | **Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change in views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024 | Buckinghamshire Council requested consideration of the screening effect of hedgerows through the life of Rosefield Solar Farm as a result of management prescriptions. In particular, there were concerns that hedgerows allowed to grow to 4m in height would require periodic reduction in height over the 40 year life of the Proposed Development to maintain plant vigour. | Agreed, assessment incorporates effects as a result of plant growth rates and management strategy throughout the lifetime of the Proposed Development. Woodland trees have been proposed in locations where taller screening elements are required and hedgerow heights will be managed to between 3-3.5m as required to screen the Proposed Development which is considered a more sustainable long-term height. | Discussion of the change at each viewpoint can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and in **Section 10.10** of this chapter.<br>Management of hedgerows considered in **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Outline LEMP) [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence | Buckinghamshire Council requested provision of ZTVs | Agreed, ZTVs have been provided for different height parameters of | ZTVs can be found in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7** to |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | between 12 and 25 June 2024 following the conference call on 29 May 2024 | for different height elements of Rosefield Solar Farm following design freeze. | Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound, Satellite Collector Compounds and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) following design freeze. | **10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. |
| **National Trust and Historic England** | Conference call on 23 October 2024 and follow up emails | National Trust/Historic England primary concerns with potential views of the Proposed Development from Claydon House and also for visitors approaching along the local road network.<br><br>National Trust/Historic England stated that siting the Satellite Collector Compound in Field B10 appeared to be preferable to B23 (south).<br><br>National Trust also expressed concern about allowing the hedgerows to grow too quickly as this could result in a lack of density and potentially issues with Dutch elm disease. It was suggested that Poplars may be | Visualisations have been produced for views from Claydon House and Calvert Road.<br><br>The Satellite Collector Compound siting zone has been refined to minimise visibility from Claydon House.<br><br>It was agreed that hedgerows would be allowed to step up gradually and that tree varieties should mirror the current landscape usage including Poplars to Three Points Lane. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change in views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter.<br><br>The parameters plans presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured by **Appendix 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Parameters** and |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | appropriately planted along Three Points Lane. | | **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** and in the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**.<br>Management of hedgerows considered in **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. |
| **National Trust** | Conference call on 28 November 2024 and follow up emails | National Trust confirmed that the view from the ha-ha (Viewpoint 5) was representative of the property.<br>National Trust noted the extent of visibility of Solar PV modules to Knowl Hill and that any mitigation would need to reflect the designed landscapes and historic hedgerow pattern. | Visualisations have been produced for the view from the ha-ha at Claydon House.<br>A more designed approach has been applied to planting within Parcel 1 visible from Claydon House RPG.<br>The Satellite Collector Compound siting zone has been refined to minimise visibility from Claydon House and its cladding will reference local vernacular. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change in views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter.<br>The parameters plans presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height** |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | National Trust stated that siting the Satellite Collector Compound in Field B10 was still their preferred option compared to B23 (south) and that cladding of any buildings should reflect local materiality.<br><br>National Trust suggested the incremental growth of existing hedgerows could start before construction.<br><br>National Trust broadly approved of the recreational route to Knowl Hill and noted the potential to connect with South Lodge. | It was agreed that hedgerows would be allowed to step up gradually and that tree varieties should mirror the current landscape usage including Poplars to Three Points Lane. | **Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured by **Appendix 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Parameters** and **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** and in the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.11]**.<br><br>Management of hedgerows considered in **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. |
| **Historic England** | Conference call on 18 December 2024 and follow up emails | Historic England noted the 'serrated edge' of Solar PV modules that appeared partially in the skyline on Knowl Hill in Photomontage for Viewpoint 5. They also noted that a proposed hedgerow | An exercise was undertaken to review the visibility of the Proposed Development within Field B11 and a number of Solar PV modules were removed. The boundary between Fields B11 and B17 will not be planted with any hedgerow in order to | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints can be found in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change in |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | between Fields B11 and B17 to screen these views would not reflect any historic hedge pattern and should be avoided.<br><br>Historic England proposed that an exercise be undertaken to confirm what extent of panels would require removal from Field B11 to mitigate the serrated edge effect. | retain the historically designed landscape.<br><br>The Satellite Collector Compound siting zone was also refined as the removal of Solar PV modules from Field E11 resulted in it becoming visible from Claydon House on the skyline in Field B10. As a result, it has been located in Field B23 (South) where it is better screened as illustrated by the Photomontage for Viewpoint 5. | views can be found in **Section 10.10** of this chapter.<br><br>The parameters plans presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured by **Appendix 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Parameters** and **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** and in the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.11]**.<br><br>Management of hedgerows considered in **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 02 October 2024 and 29 January 2025 | The Applicant requested a Site meeting with Buckinghamshire Council to discuss proposed footpath diversions and additional viewpoint locations as well as an on-site review of a number of existing views to be presented in the ES. | The Applicant provided an itinerary for the site visit to be held on 11 February 2025 which included the review of footpath diversions to Parcel 1 and viewpoints covering areas of Parcels 1, 2 and 3. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints are presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and public rights of way (PRoW) and permissive routes are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Site meeting 11 February 2025 | Site meeting with Buckinghamshire Council and the Applicant to review proposed potential footpath diversions and additional viewpoints proposed following public consultations. | Five additional viewpoints confirmed at the site visit have been included in the assessment and a further meeting was requested with Buckinghamshire Council's Rights of Way Officer to review the proposed footpath diversions and permissive routes. | Visualisations relating to the viewpoints are presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and PRoW and permissive routes are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed** |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | **PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Site meeting 26 February 2025 | Site meeting with Buckinghamshire Council and the Applicant to review proposed PRoW diversions and permissive routes and clarifications of High Speed 2 (HS2) changes. | Agreement reached between Buckinghamshire Council's Rights of Way Officer and the Applicant regarding PRoW and strategic access. The temporary stopping up of three footpaths to Parcel 1 and one footpath to Parcel 3 was agreed, with suitable PRoW diversions proposed. A proposed permissive route to Knowl Hill was also discussed and endorsed by Buckinghamshire Council and the Applicant. | Existing and proposed PRoW and permissive routes are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. |
| **Buckinghamshire Council** | Email correspondence between 14 April 2025 and 07 May 2025 | Buckinghamshire Council requested inclusion of National Character Areas (NCA) Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) throughout the study area. | The Applicant provided a rationale for including the relevant LCA only; however, Buckinghamshire Council felt that, given the scale of the Proposed Development, it was important to provide a full hierarchy of effects across the different scales of available landscape and therefore that NCA, LCT and LCA should be | This chapter provides a detailed assessment of landscape and effects as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. |

| Consultee | Date of engagement | Summary of matters raised | Outcome of engagement | Where this matter is addressed in the DCO Application documentation |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | included. The Applicant provided a list which included two NCAs, three LCTs and eight LCAs to be included in the assessment which was agreed to by Buckinghamshire Council and are included in the assessment in this chapter. | |

## 10.4. Approach to identifying the scope of the assessment

### Study area

10.4.1. GLVIA3 **[Ref. 10-14]** recommends that the study area for consideration of landscape effects should "*include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner*" (paragraph 5.2). It also recommends that assessment should consider the area from which the Proposed Development will potentially be visible but that the emphasis "*must be on a reasonable approach which is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposed development*" (paragraph 6.2).

10.4.2. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** proposed that the assessment adopts a study area to include a 5km offset from the Proposed Development. The EIA Scoping Opinion received from Buckinghamshire Council dated 21 December 2023 (see **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: EIA Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010158/APP/6.4]**) requested that the study area be extended to 6km to include additional sensitive potential receptors that the ZTVs indicated would have potential visibility of the Site. A study area of 6km was then adopted for the preparation of further ZTVs to include all such potential receptors.

10.4.3. A 6km study area is considered proportionate and adequate to identify effects on landscape and visual receptors, including likely significant effects. The 6km study area is illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

10.4.4. A series of ZTVs for different elements of the Proposed Development have informed the extent of the study area and are presented in **ES Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** as follows:

- **Figure 10.7a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Bare Earth**;
- **Figure 10.8a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Standard Screening**;
- **Figure 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening**;
- **Figure 10.10a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 6m Parcel 1**;
- **Figure 10.11a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 6m Parcel 2**; and
- **Figure 10.12a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 15m and 6m Parcel 3**.

10.4.5. The standard ZTVs for the Solar PV modules, presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.8a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Standard Screening**

**[EN010158/APP/6.3]**, take account of the screening effect of blocks of woodland and buildings but not hedgerows or other vegetation in the landscape. 'Ground truthing' (i.e. on-site surveys), found that these ZTVs exaggerated the potential visibility of the Solar PV modules in the surrounding landscape. Within areas of flatter landscapes within the study area, it was found that hedgerows and other vegetation in the landscape, which is not captured in this particular ZTV model, would further restrict and limit actual visibility of the Solar PV modules.

10.4.6. The detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** are more informative and take account of the screening effect of all vegetation over 2.5m in height. Whilst these ZTVs still do not take account of some localised features such as vegetation below 2.5m in height, ground truthing of this set of plans found that they consistently provided a more accurate depiction of potential visibility of the Solar PV modules.

10.4.7. The detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** show that beyond 2km, theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development would reduce to 40% or less for these elements. When tested in the field, site work established that beyond 3km, there would be very limited views of the Solar PV modules from any location, with the exception of views from more elevated landscapes to the east of the Proposed Development.

10.4.8. Several visualisations presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** (notably Viewpoints 34, 35, 36 and 37) illustrate the view from distances over 3km from the Solar PV modules to the north, south and west and demonstrate that there would be barely any visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development at this distance. Viewpoint 33 illustrates the increased visibility afforded by the elevated landscapes to the east of the Site which predominantly focus on Parcels 2 and 3 of the Proposed Development. The ZTVs also illustrate that this increased visibility to the east of the Site is limited in extent.

10.4.9. A comparison of the ZTVs for the Satellite Collector Compounds and BESS presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.10a-b and 11a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 6m Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** with the detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** reveal that these elements of the Proposed Development would not increase the extent of visibility beyond that identified for the Solar PV modules and therefore increasing the size of study area to account for these elements is not required.

10.4.10. The ZTV for the Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.12a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 15m and 6m Parcel 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** also demonstrates that these elements of the Proposed Development would not increase the extent of visibility beyond that identified for the Solar PV modules and therefore increasing the size of study area to account for these elements is not required.

10.4.11. Several visualisations presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** (notably Viewpoints 34, 35, 36 and 37) illustrate the view from distances over 3km from the BESS, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation to the north, south and west, and demonstrate that there would be barely any visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development at this distance. Viewpoints 31-33 illustrate the increased visibility of these elements afforded by the elevated landscapes to the east of the Site from distances over 2km, demonstrating that increased visibility is limited in extent.

## Scope of the assessment

10.4.12. The scope of this assessment has been established throughout the EIA process and design of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]**.

10.4.13. This section provides an update to the scope of the assessment from that presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and re-iterates/updates the evidence base for scoping receptors/matters in or out following further iterative assessment.

### Receptors/matters scoped into the assessment

10.4.14. **Table 10.2** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped into the assessment reported within this ES, together with appropriate justification.

Table 10.2: Receptors/matters scoped into the assessment

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vale [Ref. 10-24] and NCA 109: Midvale Ridge [Ref. 10-25]** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | The location of the Site in regard to these receptors was noted within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. As set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the Planning Inspectorate advocated for the |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | inclusion of NCAs as follows, "*The ES should include an assessment of effects to NCAs, or information demonstrating absence of LSE and agreement with relevant consultation bodies.*"<br><br>In discussion of this matter with Buckinghamshire Council, the Applicant has maintained that due to the size of the NCA in comparison to the Proposed Development, there is no potential for significant effects to occur and that this working assumption has been borne out by the preliminary findings presented in the PEIR.<br><br>During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that the assessment would include the NCA on the basis of a precautionary approach, "*even if it* [the assessment] *ultimately demonstrates a limited effect.*" As a result, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** references these NCAs and **Section 10.10** of this chapter provides an analysis of the likely effects. |
| **Landscape Character Types (LCT) 5: Shallow Valleys, LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands and LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges [Ref. 10-26]** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors were proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. This was based on the justification that effects on landscape character would be assessed with regard to more local-scale LCAs rather than the more homogenous Landscape Character Types (LCTs). However, as set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the Planning |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | Inspectorate advocated for the inclusion of LCTs as follows, "*LCTs should also be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should include a justification for scoping out any LCTs within the study area, together with evidence of agreement to this approach by relevant consultation bodies.*"<br><br>During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that the assessment would include the LCT on the basis of a precautionary approach, "*even if it* [the assessment] *ultimately demonstrates a limited effect.*"<br><br>As a result, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** references the LCT and **Section 10.10** of this chapter provides a detailed assessment. |
| **Landscape Character Area 5.4 (LCA 5.4): Twyford Vale, LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley, LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands, LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands, LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl; LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill, LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill and LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge (Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The Proposed Development would be visible from within these LCAs and there would be potential for large scale change in parts of these areas. |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Assessment [Ref. 10-26]** | | |
| **Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape (Defining the Special Qualities of Local Landscape Designations in Aylesbury Vale District) [Ref. 10-33]** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor is scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The Proposed Development would be visible to within this area and there would be potential for large scale change. |
| **Users of Orchard Way/Calvert Road, Quainton Road/Claydon Road, Winslow Road/East Claydon Road, Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road, Addison Road and Queen Catherine Road** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. Traffic passing along these roads would have views across different parts of the Site. Users of these roads are generally some of the more sensitive visual receptors. |
| **Users of the PRoW and minor road network which pass through the Site and within the study area. Including users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) No.51, North Buckinghamshire Way, Matthew's Way, Midshires Way, Swan's Way and Outer Aylesbury Ring, Bernwood Jubilee Way** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. Users of the PRoW and local road network are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual receptors. There would theoretically be views of the Proposed Development from locations along these routes up to a maximum of 6km from the Site. |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Users of East West Rail** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor was proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. As stated in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, in principle, the Planning Inspectorate agreed to scope out East West Rail on the basis that final ZTVs demonstrated limited visibility; however, Buckinghamshire Council requested its inclusion based on potential elevated views and significant volume of passengers. Therefore, the route is scoped into the assessment. |
| **Residents and visitors to the villages of Botolph Claydon, Granborough, North Marston, Oving and Steeple Claydon** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The residents and visitors of villages in the surrounding landscape are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual receptors. There would be a variety of views of the Proposed Development from villages throughout the study area and these are addressed in this chapter. |
| **Scattered and isolated residential properties** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The residents of isolated properties in the surrounding landscape are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | receptors. There would be a variety of views of the Proposed Development from properties scattered throughout the study area and these are addressed in this chapter. A detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) for those properties closest to the Proposed Development, which are likely to be most affected, is presented in in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. |
| **Recreational and tourist receptors: Claydon House Registered Park and Garden (RPG) and Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped into the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. Both visitor attractions are open to the public and are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual receptors. There would be a variety of views of the Proposed Development and these are addressed in this chapter. |
| **Lighting impacts on landscape character and visual amenity** | Construction and decommissioning | These receptors were proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. This was based on the justification that any such effects would be very limited in extent and duration. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the Planning Inspectorate stated that "*An assessment of external lighting on landscape and visual receptors should be undertaken in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.*" |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | Lighting information is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** with lighting used primarily for temporary construction and decommissioning compounds. During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that any such lighting effects would be scoped in for construction and decommissioning. |

## Receptors/matters scoped out of the assessment

10.4.15. **Table 10.3** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped out of the assessment that are therefore not considered as part of this ES, together with appropriate justification.

Table 10.3: Receptors/matters scoped out of the assessment

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Chilterns National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor is scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and confirmed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The National Landscape is situated over 18km from the Site and there would be no intervisibility at this distance. |
| **NCA 88: Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor is scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*The ES should include an assessment of effects to NCAs, or information demonstrating absence of LSE and agreement with relevant consultation bodies.*" |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that the assessment would not require the inclusion of NCA 88 as field study had demonstrated no intervisibility between the Site and NCA 88 and hence there would be no likely significant effects. |
| **LCT 4: Undulating Clay Plateau and LCT 8: Vale** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*LCTs should also be assessed in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur. The ES should include a justification for scoping out any LCTs within the study area, together with evidence of agreement to this approach by relevant consultation bodies.*"<br><br>Both LCTs are located beyond 2km of the Order Limits and extensive site work has determined that they would have no discernible or very minimal views of the Proposed Development. Viewpoint 37, which is located in LCT 4: Undulating Clay Plateau is typical of views to within these LCTs. Located to the eastern edge of Hillesden Hamlet, Viewpoint 37 demonstrates the negligible scale of change that would occur as the result of the indirect landscape effects of the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would have a negligible effect on the LCTs as a whole, hence they have been excluded from further study.<br><br>During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was therefore agreed that the assessment would not require the inclusion of LCT 4 and LCT 8. |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| **Regional Character Area: Northamptonshire Vales, LCA 10: River Meadowlands and LCA 12: Rolling Farmland (Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Character Study [Ref. 10-27]** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*The ES should include an assessment of effects to the Northamptonshire Vales LCA, or information demonstrating absence of LSE and agreement with relevant consultation bodies.*"<br><br>Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development within the LCA, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible from any location within this character area. During consultation South Oxfordshire District Council had no comments to make in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and these receptors have been scoped out of the assessment. |
| **LCAs other than those listed in Table 10.2 above** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor is scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*For LCAs other than LCA 8.1, the Inspectorate agrees that these receptors can be scoped out of the ES; however, the ZTV should be reviewed with the final Proposed Development and presented in the ES to demonstrate that there is no intervisibility. LCA 8.1 should be included in the ES assessments or it should otherwise be explained why* |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | *significant effects are not likely to occur to this LCA.*"<br><br>Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development within LCA 8.1, site work has established that the Proposed Development would result in no more than negligible effects from anywhere within this character area. |
| **Locally designated landscapes other than Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL), all Local Landscape Areas** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the Planning Inspectorate agreed that other AAL, "*can be scoped out of further assessment; however, the ZTV should be reviewed with the final Proposed Development and presented in the ES to demonstrate that there is no intervisibility*." Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development within AAL 4: Brill-Winchendon Hills over 5km to the south, and Local Landscape Area 10: Poundon Hill over 4.5km to the west, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible from any location within these areas. |
| **PRoW and local roads other than those listed in Table 10.2 above** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*The Inspectorate agrees that these receptors can be scoped out of further* |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | *assessment; however, the ZTV should be reviewed according to the final Proposed Development parameters and presented in the ES to demonstrate that there is no intervisibility.*"<br><br>Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development with PRoW and local roads other than in **Table 10.2**, site work has established that intervening local landform and/or layered field boundary vegetation would largely screen any such views and they would not experience any likely significant effects. |
| **Users of High Speed Rail 2 (HS2)** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | This receptor is scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1 Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The Planning Inspectorate agreed to scope HS2 out on the basis that final ZTVs demonstrated limited visibility. However, Buckinghamshire Council requested its inclusion, "*As the volume of passengers using… HS2 are likely to be significant, there is potential for a significant effect, even though the effect may be short lived.*"<br><br>Following the removal of Solar PV modules from Parcel 1a, the potential for even short-lived views has been substantially reduced. Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible and users would not experience likely significant effects. During discussions with |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that effects would not be significant and HS2 could be scoped out of the assessment. |
| **Settlements other than those listed in Table 10.2 above** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that the "*Inspectorate notes that the ZTVs do appear to indicate for most of the listed villages/hamlets that there is limited intervisibility with the Proposed Development... The ES should include ZTVs which clearly demonstrate limited intervisibility for each village/hamlet. Otherwise the potential impacts on views and visual amenity within the ZTV should be assessed where significant effects are likely to occur.*"<br><br>Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development with settlements other than in **Table 10.2**, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible and they would not experience likely significant effects. |
| **Recreational and tourist receptors: Waddesdon Manor and Wotton Underwood RPGs** | Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated "*The Inspectorate considers that there is potential for LSE to visual receptors at Waddesdon Manor and Wotton Underwood Registered Park. The ES should include an assessment of this matter or information demonstrating* |

| Receptor/matter | Phase | Justification |
|---|---|---|
| | | *absence of LSE and agreement with relevant consultation bodies*." Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7-10.12 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and although they indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the Proposed Development over 4.5km to the south, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible from any location within this character area. During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that the effects would not be significant and these receptors could be scoped out of the ES. |
| **Lighting impacts on landscape character and visual amenity** | Operation (including maintenance) | These receptors are scoped out of the assessment as detailed within **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. **ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN010158/APP/6.4]** stated that "*An assessment of external lighting on landscape and visual receptors should be undertaken in the ES where significant effects are likely to occur.*"<br><br>Lighting information is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** with lighting used only on an ad-hoc basis for health and safety or emergency purposes during operation (including maintenance). During consultation with Buckinghamshire Council, it was agreed that any such lighting effects during operation (including maintenance) would not be significant and could be scoped out. The effects of temporary lighting during construction are included in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |

## 10.5. Environmental baseline

### Establishing baseline conditions

#### Data sources to inform the EIA baseline characterisation

10.5.1. The following data sources have been used to understand the existing landscape and visual baseline conditions:

- Magic Map available online by Defra **[Ref. 10-23]**;
- NCA Profile 108: Upper Thames Clay Vale **[Ref. 10-24]**;
- NCA Profile 109: Midvale Ridge **[Ref. 10-25]**;
- OS Maps;
- Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment, 2008 **[Ref. 10-26]**;
- Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape Study **[Ref. 10-27]**;
- Online aerial photography;
- Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan, September 2017 **[Ref. 10-28]**;
- Granborough Neighbourhood Plan, July 2022 **[Ref. 10-29]**;
- Winslow Neighbourhood Plan, March 2023 **[Ref. 10-30]**;
- Quainton Neighbourhood Plan, June 2022 **[Ref. 10-31]**;
- North Marston Neighbourhood Plan, February 2023 **[Ref. 10-32]**;
- Defining the Spatial Qualities of local landscape designations in Aylesbury Vale District, 2016 **[Ref. 10-33]**;
- The National Cycle Network available online by Sustrans **[Ref. 10-34]**; and
- Buckinghamshire Definitive Rights of Way map **[Ref. 10-35]**.

#### Site visits/surveys

10.5.2. Extensive field work has been undertaken between October 2023 and May 2025. This has included numerous visits to the Site and surrounding areas in both summer and winter months.

10.5.3. Viewpoint photography, presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, was captured on multiple dates between December 2023 and May 2025.

10.5.4. All the PRoW within the Site have been walked on multiple occasions with a considerable number of the PRoW within the study area also walked.

10.5.5. Visits were also made to individual residential properties over a number of days between December 2023 and May 2025. The purpose of the visits

was to fully understand the visual amenity experienced by the nearest residents to the Proposed Development. Further information, including whether properties were viewed internally or just observed from outside, is detailed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

## Existing baseline

10.5.6. The following section presents a summary of the baseline conditions for the receptors/matters scoped into the assessment, as detailed within the **Table 10.2** above.

10.5.7. **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]** together with **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]** illustrates the landscape and visual context for the Proposed Development, including local settlements, roads, PRoW and landscape designations. **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.2: Topography and Land Cover [EN010158/APP/6.3]** illustrates the local varied topography and land cover, which is predominantly farmland with smaller areas of woodland blocks and surface water features.

10.5.8. The full details of the baseline landscape resource are set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. A brief overview of the landscape and visual baseline in the study area is provided below.

10.5.9. As illustrated by **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.2: Topography and Land Cover [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, the local landscape of the study area is characterised by low lying vales and clay plateaus punctuated by low hills and ridgelines, ranging between *circa* 65m above ordnance datum (m AOD) and 190m AOD. The landscape has no major rivers and is drained by a series of streams and ditches with other surface water features limited to field ponds and lakes as a result of clay extraction.

10.5.10. For the most part, the three parcels of the Site fall across areas of rolling lowland and shallow valleys with relatively gentle variations in height ranging from between 90m AOD to 120m AOD. The exception to this is the western and southern area of Parcel 2. To the west, Parcel 2 lies on a low ridge of land which descends from Botolph Claydon towards Runts Wood, whilst to south the land rises again toward Finemere, to a small flat ridge that rises to a height of 137m AOD, before falling relatively steeply to the lower lying and gently undulating wooded farmland further to the south.

10.5.11. In general terms, these lower lying landscapes then extend to the southern and western extents of the study area at *circa* 75-95m AOD. In contrast, the land rises to *circa* 120-135m AOD to the clay plateau to the northern

and eastern extents of the study area, whilst a series of low hills punctuate the landscape in a line extending eastwards from Finemere via Quainton to Whitchurch.

10.5.12. The landscape is dominated by farmland consisting of generally rectilinear arable fields in the lower lying vales and grazing pasture on the more undulating and hilly land. Field boundaries mostly have intact and strong hedgerows with some hedgerow trees, albeit some field mergers have resulted in the removal of historic field boundaries. Although woodland cover is generally low across Aylesbury, the environs of the Site and the study area benefits from good local cover. In particular, the land between, and to the south, of Parcels 1, 1a and 2 contain mature and ancient woodland that was once part of Bernwood medieval hunting forest.

10.5.13. With the exception of Winslow, the settlement pattern is distinctly rural and dispersed, resulting in an often tranquil countryside. However, there has been considerable recent activity associated with the construction of HS2 and East West Rail, particularly with regard to the scale of earthworks required to create the cutting for the former. The heavy traffic associated with these construction activities has reduced the tranquillity of the local roads and lanes and associated countryside in their vicinity, albeit away from these construction activities they remain relatively quiet.

10.5.14. As with Winslow, smaller villages and hamlets generally sit towards the higher land along the gentle ridges and hills. Farmsteads, although scattered throughout the study area, are also commonly found on areas of locally higher land, sitting somewhat raised from the clay vales. The exception to this is the lower lying landscapes broadly south and west of the Site, albeit even here settlement is generally raised a few metres above surrounding farmland and considerably more so for the settlement of Waddesdon to the southern extent of the study area.

10.5.15. There are no specifically identified vistas (as referenced in VALP 2013 – 2033 or published landscape character assessments), focal points or prominent horizons. However, the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan identifies '*Key Views*' in the direction of Rosefield Solar Farm (Parcel 2), whilst the Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan notes (at Policy SC8: Design) that views into open countryside, which would potentially include views of Rosefield Solar Farm within Parcel 1, to the south of Queen Catherine Road, should be respected.

10.5.16. Further to this, long distance views, including those of the Site, are characteristic of the Landscape Character Type (LCT) 9 Low Hills and Ridges, represented by Landscape Character Area (LCA) 9.2 Quainton Hill and LCA 9.3 Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge and one of the special qualities of the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is within the study area. The energy from waste facility at Calvert is a prominent vertical feature in

the wider landscape in such views as are the overhead powerlines converging on the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation.

## Landscape designations

10.5.17. As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, no part of the Site falls within a statutorily designated landscape. The nearest National Park or National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to the Site is the Chilterns National Landscape, located more than 18km to the south east and this would not be affected by the Proposed Development. As noted in **Table 10.3** above, the Chilterns National Landscape has been scoped out of further assessment.

10.5.18. There are three Registered Parks and Gardens (RPG) within the study area; the nearest being the Claydon Estate located just over 200m to the north east which, as noted in **Table 10.2** above, has been scoped into the assessment. Wotton House and Waddesdon Manor are located over 4.5km to the south of the Site and there would be no visibility of the Site at this distance, and as noted in **Table 10.2** above, they are scoped out of further assessment.

10.5.19. As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, there are three locally designated landscapes in the study area, one of which covers part of the Site. The Quainton-Wing Hills AAL covers the southern area of Parcel 2 and extends to the east and south of the Site from where there are views back towards the Site from higher ground. Over 5km to the south of the Site, is the Brill-Winchendon Hills AAL, which largely overlaps the Wotton House and Waddesdon Manor RPG. There would be no view of the Proposed Development from Brill-Winchendon Hills AAL and it has been scoped out of further assessment. Likewise, the Local Landscape Area of Poundon Hill, located approximately 4.5km to the west of the Site, would not experience likely significant effects and has been scoped out of further assessment.

## Landscape character

10.5.20. As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.3: National Character Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, at a national level, the Site falls within NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vale with only the southern extents of the road improvements to Claydon Road and Snake Lane/Fidlers Field extending to the very north western edge of NCA 109: Midvale Ridge, as shown in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Transport and Access [EN010158/APP/6.2]**. The northern and north eastern extents of the study area lie within NCA 88: Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands, which has been scoped out of the assessment, as noted in **Table 10.3** above.

10.5.21. Relevant extracts and observations relating to NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vale and NCA 109: Midvale Ridge are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including a summary description, key characteristics relevant to the study area, details on current land use and character, and details of the *Statement of Environmental Opportunity (SEO)* within the NCA.

10.5.22. In relation to NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vale and the identified SEO, the Site benefits SEO2 by including landscape proposals which will "*Manage farmland across the Upper Thames Clay Vales to produce food sustainably and to maintain sense of place. Taking a catchment approach, improve filtration of pollutants and regulation of water flow by realising a farmland habitat mosaic that incorporates strategic areas of wet grassland, reedbed, wet woodland and ponds as well as ditches and hedgerows*".

10.5.23. In relation to NCA 109: Midvale Ridge, there are no benefits conferred by the Site with regard to any of the identified SEO.

10.5.24. As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, at a district level, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-26]** identifies 13 regional Landscape Character Types (LCTs). The Site falls within three separate LCTs whilst the wider study contains a further two. The Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment states that "*Landscape Character Types (LCT) occurring at the Local Authority level are generic in nature and have a distinct homogeneous character."*

10.5.25. Parcel 3 falls within LCT 5: Shallow Valleys as do the eastern most extents of Parcel 2 and the road improvements to Claydon Road and along Snake Lane/Fidlers Field. Parcels 1 and 1a the north western section of Parcel 2, fall within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands, which extends approximately 3km to the north of the Site and to the full extents of the study area to the south and west. The southern section of Parcel 2 falls within LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges, which wraps around Parcel 2 to a distance of *circa* 1km.

10.5.26. The ZTVs (**ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a – 10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]**) demonstrate some intervisibility with LCT 4: Undulating Clay Plateau and LCT 8: Vale. However, as set out in **Table 10.3**, these receptors have been scoped out of the assessment following site survey work.

10.5.27. The LCTs are further subdivided into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment states that "*Landscape Character Areas (LCA) occurring at the Local Authority level are discrete geographical areas within a particular LCT. Each has its own individual character and identity but shares generic characteristics with other areas within the LCT*."

10.5.28. With the exception of the road improvements described above, the Site falls within three LCAs whilst the wider study area contains a further five LCAs scoped into the assessment. Parcel 1, 1a and the north western section of Parcel 2, fall within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl, which extends *circa* 3km further to the north of the Site. The southern section of Parcel 2 falls within LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill, which wraps around the Site to a distance of *circa* 1km. Parcel 3 falls predominantly within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands, with just its northernmost extents located in LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley.

10.5.29. In addition to these 'host' LCAs, LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale, LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Farmland, LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill and LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge are located in the wider study area to the north east, east and south east of the Site respectively.

10.5.30. The proposed road access passes through LCA: 7.4 Kingswood Wooded Farmland and LCA 5.9: Westcott Claylands. However, as noted in **Table 10.3**, these have been excluded from further study.

10.5.31. Relevant extracts from the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-26]** are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.5.32. Site survey work has identified that there are notable differences in the landscape character across the three identified parcels of land that form the Site and these reflect the boundaries of the LCAs relatively accurately. Parcel 1 is more contained by topography and areas of mature woodland whereas the landscapes within Parcels 2 and 3 are generally more open with limited woodland structure except for the southern area of Parcel 2. Although land within all three parcels is almost exclusively farmed, a number of detracting features are present in the surrounding landscapes. Ongoing construction of HS2 and East West Rail is local to Parcel 1 and 1a, whilst the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and numerous tall pylons extend from the north and to within Parcel 3, passing close to east of Parcel 2.

## Visual receptors

10.5.33. The primary visual receptors identified within the study area likely to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- Residents (within settlements and at isolated farmsteads/dwellings);
- Users of PRoW;
- Users of the local road network;
- Railway users; and
- Visitors to tourist attractions/heritage assets.

10.5.34. Visual receptors within the study area, including the PRoW and roads referred to in this chapter, are identified in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Residential properties referred to in this chapter are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.13: Residential Property Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

## Settlements

10.5.35. The settlements within the study area are detailed in **Table 10.4** and identified on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]** with brief comments on location and potential visibility of the Proposed Development. All the settlements are then considered in **Section 10.10**.

Table 10.4: Settlements within the study area

| Settlement & viewpoint | Location | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| **Botolph Claydon Viewpoints 8, 9, 13 and 40** | 160m north of Field D4 | Botolph Claydon is located on a low lying ridge of land overlooking Parcel 2 to the south and Parcel 3 to the east. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development extends across much of the built form of the village particularly on its southern and eastern edges. Site work has established that the extents of visibility would be limited by intervening topography, vegetation and built form; however, views of the Proposed Development would remain and a full assessment of likely effects on Botolph Claydon is provided in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Granborough Viewpoint 28** | 0.9km east of Field E11 | Granborough is located on elevated land overlooking Parcel 2 to the south west and Parcel 3 to the west. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development extends across the western edge of the village. Site work has established that the Proposed Development would be visible above and between intervening topography, vegetation and built form from properties on the very western edge of the village. A full assessment of likely effects on Granborough is therefore provided in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **North Marston Viewpoint 32 (nearest)** | 2.5km south | North Marston is located on a low ridge of land to the east of the study area and 2.5km south east of Parcel 3 and 3km east of Parcel 2. The ZTVs |

| Settlement & viewpoint | Location | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| | east of Field E23 | presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development extends to the northern and western edges of the village. Site work has established that there would generally be very limited views of the Proposed Development including from views identified in the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan. It is acknowledged that there could be limited views of the Proposed Development from isolated locations (such as from private homes) therefore a full assessment of likely effects on North Marston is provided in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Oving Viewpoint 33** | 4.5km south east of Field E23 | Oving is located on a flat ridge of land that extends to the east of the study area, 4.5km south east of Parcel 3 and 4.8km east of Parcel 2. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development extends to the western edge of the village. Site work has established that the Proposed Development would be visible above and between intervening topography, vegetation and built form from properties on the very western edge of the village. A full assessment of likely effects on Oving is therefore provided in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |
| **Steeple Claydon Viewpoint 38** | 1.6km north of Field B13 | Located on rising land to the north of the study area and within the ZTV for Parcel 1. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development extends to the southern edge of the village. Site work has established that the Proposed Development would be visible to within Parcel 1 above and between intervening topography, vegetation and built form from properties on the very southern edge of the village. A full assessment of likely effects on Steeple Claydon is therefore provided in **Section 10.10** of this chapter. |

10.5.36. Elsewhere within the study area, there are isolated residential properties and farmsteads, which are discussed in detail in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. These isolated properties are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.13:**

**Residential Property Location Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Isolated residential properties not discussed in this appendix are considered as part of grouped receptors that are associated with nearby footpaths which are addressed below.

## Main roads

10.5.37. Main roads (linear transport routes) within the study area are identified in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Whilst the ZTV indicates that 'theoretical' visibility extends up to a number of more peripheral roads, including the A41 and A413, extensive site work has established that any potential visibility of the Proposed Development would be restricted to the following roads:

- Queen Catherine Road, east to west, to the east of Steeple Claydon and north of Parcel 1;
- Orchard Way/Calvert Road, east to west, to the northern boundary of Parcel 1 and Parcel 2;
- Quainton Road/Claydon Road, north to south, to the eastern boundary of Parcel 2;
- Winslow Road/East Claydon Road, east to west, to the north of Parcel 3;
- Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road, north to south, to the north of Parcel 2 and west of Parcel 3; and
- Addison Road, north to south, to the north of Parcel 1.

10.5.38. The effects on Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road and Addison Road are very limited and they have been considered as part of wider receptor groups. The effects on all other main roads (excluding local side roads/country lanes such as Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road and Addison Road) would be negligible and therefore they have been scoped out of the assessment (as confirmed in **Table 10.3** above).

## Main transport routes

10.5.39. Main linear transport routes are identified in **Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Whilst the ZTV indicates that 'theoretical' visibility extends for both HS2 and East West Rail, extensive site work has established that any visibility would be greatly limited from HS2, which is in cutting to the south and west of the Proposed Development and would therefore be screened by intervening topography and mature woodland and hedgerow vegetation. HS2 has therefore been scoped out of further assessment. Some potential visibility remains for East West Rail which runs east to west in an elevated position to the north of the Site and this is assessed in detail in **Section 10.10** of this chapter.

## Recreational routes

10.5.40. A review of the Buckinghamshire Council PRoW Map has shown several PRoW in the study area, including locally promoted routes. Those within 2km of the Site are identified in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

10.5.41. There are no national trails within the study area. The nearest is The Ridgeway passing approximately 20km south east of Parcel 2 at its closest. The trail falls outside the study area and ZTV for the Proposed Development and is therefore not considered further within this assessment.

10.5.42. The Bernwood Jubilee Way and North Buckinghamshire Way are popular promoted routes which run within the Site and wider study area. The Bernwood Jubilee Way passes through Ludgershall and Waddesdon in the south, then extends to Preston Bisset and Steeple Claydon in the north, running within and around much of the length of Parcel 2 to the south of Botolph Claydon. The North Buckinghamshire Way runs north to south through the study area, to the east of the Bernwood Jubilee Way, albeit briefly overlapping at East Claydon. Matthew's Way is a third promoted route that lies entirely beyond the Site, but lies within the study area. It follows the North Buckinghamshire Way across Simber Hill and Quainton Hill and returns in a loop to Quainton via North Marston. It has not been considered separately as views are only possible from this route where it overlaps the North Buckinghamshire Way.

10.5.43. The Midshires Way long distance trail also runs north to south through the study area, to the east of the Bernwood Jubilee Way, which it briefly overlaps at East Claydon. The Swan's Way and Outer Aylesbury Ring long distance trails extend from Waddesdon in the south, via Quainton, overlapping on Quainton Hill to the south of the Site. The Cross Bucks Way long distance trail runs east to west from Swanbourne to Stratton Audley, approximately 2km from the Site at its closest point at Winslow. However, it falls largely outside of the ZTV and has very limited potential visibility of the Proposed Development and is therefore not considered further within this assessment.

10.5.44. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route No. 51 **[Ref. 10-34]** uses the local road network between Bicester and Milton Keynes via Winslow to the north of the Site. It is located in the study area passing within 1km of Parcel 1 along Queen Catherine Way at its closest point and falls partially within the ZTV.

10.5.45. NCN Route No. 50 extends to the north of Route No. 51 but falls predominantly outside the ZTV for the Proposed Development. Field study has confirmed that there would be no views of the Proposed Development and it is therefore not considered further within this assessment.

10.5.46. The PRoW within the study area to 2km are identified by name in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Those that pass within and close to the Site, and most likely to be impacted, are as follows:

- Footpath (PRoW SCL/12/1) between Calvert Road and Pond Farm in Parcel 1;
- Footpath and diversion (SCL/13/1, SCL 13/2 and SCL/12/2) between Calvert Road and HS2 within Parcel 1 and 1a;
- Three Points Lane and the bridleway (MCL/17/1) between Calvert Road and Romer Wood partially within Parcel 1;
- Bridleway (ECL/10/1, ECL/10/2 and ECL/10/4) to within the western most boundary of Parcel 2 known as Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway);
- Footpath (ECL/7/2 and HOG/7/1) between Botolph Claydon and Hogshaw Farm within Parcel 2;
- Footpath (ECL/7/1 and ECL/8/1) between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood within Parcel 2;
- Footpath (QUA/38/1 and QUA/41/1) and bridleway (QUA/40/1, QUA/40/2 and QUA/40/3) within or adjacent to Parcel 2 to Finemere Hill;
- Footpath (ECL/4/1) and bridleway (ECL/5/1 and HOG/6/1) between East Claydon and Hogshaw Road within or adjacent to Parcel 3; and
- Footpath (ECL/3/1, ECL/3/2, ECL/4/2, GRA/2/1 and GRA/2/2) between East Claydon Road and Hogshaw Road within Parcel 3.

10.5.47. For the purposes of this chapter, the following visual receptor groups have been identified as having the potential to experience visual effects and are assessed further in this chapter. In some cases, these groups encompass multiple footpaths and roads:

- PRoW extending north to south between Calvert Road and the line of HS2 passing through Parcel 1 and 1a;
- PRoW including Three Points Lane extending north to south between Calvert Road and the line of HS2 to the east of Parcel 1;
- PRoW extending east to west between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) between Parcels 1 and 2, including Muxwell Farm;
- PRoW extending north to south between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood passing through the north of Parcel 2;
- PRoW extending north to south from Finemere Hill and the line of HS2/Claydon Road passing through the south of Parcel 2;

- PRoW and lanes extending east to west between East Claydon/East Claydon Road and to within Parcel 3;
- PRoW and lanes between Parcel 3 and Granborough/Hogshaw Road; and
- PRoW, lanes and roads between Steeple Claydon/Queen Catherine Road and Calvert Road to the north of Parcel 1.

10.5.48. Other PRoW within the study area are addressed as part of the receptor group in which they are most closely located.

### Other recreational and tourist receptors

10.5.49. The recreational receptors within the study area are indicated in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.5a-d: Visual Receptors within 2km [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The recreational receptors listed below are considered further within this assessment:

- Claydon House RPG - The venue is managed by the National Trust and open to the public to visit the house and gardens and is host to events such as the annual Towersey Festival; and
- Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park - The venue includes rare breed farm animals, nature trails, hospitality and events throughout the year. The local footpath network runs south to north through the farm and extends into Parcel 2 towards Botolph Claydon.

### Future baseline in the absence of the Proposed Development

10.5.50. For the purposes of this assessment, the future baseline has been taken to be the same as the current baseline. Over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, agricultural practices and crops may change resulting in alterations to the baseline arable landscape. Climate change may expediate this change in the landscape; however, such change is difficult to predict with any certainty and it is therefore assumed that the baseline will remain unaltered.

## 10.6. Approach to the assessment

### Approach to design flexibility

10.6.1. The parameters, as outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**, and the parameter plans presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in **Appendix 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Parameters** and **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**, **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.11]**, **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline CEMP) [EN010158/APP/7.2]**

and **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, set out the reasonable 'worst-case' parameters for the Proposed Development.

10.6.2. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010158/APP/6.1]** sets out those elements of the Proposed Development for which optionality is present within the design. The reasonable 'worst-case' scenario that has been assessed in this landscape and visual chapter for each element of the Proposed Development where optionality is present within the design is outlined within **Table 10.5**.

Table 10.5: Reasonable worst-case scenario assessed for landscape and visual

| Project element | Reasonable worst-case scenario |
|---|---|
| **Solar PV modules** | This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the Solar PV modules as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, secured via the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** and **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** to ensure a worst-case has been assessed. |
| **BESS** | This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the BESS in both Fields D8 and D9 as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** and the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**, to ensure a worst-case has been assessed. |
| **Rosefield Substation** | This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the Rosefield Substation (up to 60,000m$^2$ in plan) in both Fields E11 and E20 as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, to ensure a worst-case has been assessed. |
| **Balance of Solar System (BoSS)** | The Inverters which form part of the BoSS would comprise either String Inverters which are placed underneath the Solar PV modules or Central Inverters which are sited at regular intervals amongst the Solar PV modules as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**. This assessment has assumed the use of Central Inverters to ensure a worst-case has been assessed. |

| Project element | Reasonable worst-case scenario |
|---|---|
| **Main Collector Compound** | There are four fields that are considered suitable for the Main Collector Compound which are located in Parcel 3: Fields E11, E20, E21 and E22. This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the Main Collector Compound (up to 25,000m$^2$ plan), to be located in both Fields E21 and E22 in Parcel 3, as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan** [**EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, as this extends 6m structures to their maximum visual extents which is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |
| **Satellite Collector Compounds** | There is one field considered suitable for the Satellite Collector Compound (2,500m$^2$ in plan) in Parcel 1 (B23 (South)) and three in Parcel 2 (Fields D8, D9 and D17). This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the Satellite Collector Compounds, to be located in Fields B23 (South) in Parcel 1 and D17 in Parcel 2, as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and **Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan** [**EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, as this extends 6m structures to their maximum visual extents which is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |
| **Interconnecting Cable Corridor(s)** | The Interconnecting Cable Corridor between Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 is assumed for the purposes of this assessment to be located to the north side of the corridor as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan** [**EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**. This is considered to be the worst-case scenario as this route would present the greatest visibility from Claydon House RPG as existing hedgerows would provide less screening than if the track were sited at the southern extent of the corridor. |
| **AIL Access Corridor** | This assessment has considered the AIL Access Corridor to be as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan** [**EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, as this is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |
| **Internal Access Corridors** | This assessment has assumed that Internal Access Corridors could be located anywhere within the Order Limits but that any breaks in hedgerows would be limited to those locations shown in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal** |

| Project element | Reasonable worst-case scenario |
|---|---|
| | **Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**, as this is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |
| **Indicative site access locations** | This assessment has considered the Site accesses to be as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.5: Zonal Masterplan [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, as this is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |
| **Construction Compounds** | This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location of the Primary Construction Compounds (up to 25,000m$^2$) in Fields B20, B23, D7, D8, D9 and E21, E22 and E23 and for Secondary Construction Compounds (up to 1,250m$^2$) in Fields B3, B6, B7, B10, D27, E10, E11 and E20 as outlined in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.8: Indicative Location of Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, as this is considered to be the worst-case scenario. |

## Assessment assumptions

10.6.3. The assessment of the landscape and visual impact has been based on the assumptions set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**, **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2]** and the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**.

10.6.4. In terms of the height of the different elements of the Proposed Development, the assessment assumes all development would be at the maximum possible height indicated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3], Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** and secured in the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]**. For example, where the aforementioned plan indicates development of Proposed Development up to 3.5m in height, the assessment assumes development at 3.5m in height and where the plan indicates a siting zone for elements up to 15m in height, the assessment assumes that development could be 15m in height across the relevant siting zone. This approach inevitably results in some over-estimation of landscape and visual effects as the actual equipment to be procured will likely be smaller than the maximum parameters.

10.6.5. In terms of the green infrastructure parameters, the assessment of landscape and visual effects assumes that the strategic planting shown on **Appendix 2: Landscape and Ecological Mitigation and Enhancements [EN010158/APP/7.6]** is primary and embedded landscape mitigation, as detailed in and secured by the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**.

Narrow strips of strategic planting constitute new hedgerow planting and the broader strips of strategic planting constitute new woodland planting.

10.6.6. The assessment assumes that all new structural planting would consist of native, indigenous species and wherever possible of local provenance. It also assumes that all new planting would establish successfully and that any failures/defects would be replaced.

10.6.7. For the purposes of assessing landscape and visual effects, the following assumptions have been made about the growth rate of newly planted hedgerows and trees:

- Newly planted hedgerows and woodland/shrub will be planted as young transplants or 'whips'. In Year 1 after construction the planting stock would typically be approximately 0.6m to 0.8m high and contained within tree protected tubes.
- Hedgerows in Year 10 will be up to 3.5m in height. This assumes that the plants do not put on much growth in the first planting season and then put on an average of 0.4m growth each subsequent year. This means that all new hedgerows are considered to be at full maturity in Year 10 and are maintained at up to 3.5m by ongoing management.
- New woodland/scrub planting established as transplants will be 4m in height as it is not maintained at a lower height as is the case for hedgerows.
- Where hedgerow trees are planted as taller specimens or where mature stock is planted elsewhere it is assumed that the trees will be planted as extra heavy standards and in Year 1 these will have a height of 3m to 3.5m. By Year 10, it is assumed that these trees will have a height of approximately 6m.
- Except where vegetation is managed at a specific height (e.g. hedgerows) it is assumed that trees and scrub will continue to grow naturally over the operational life of the Proposed Development and beyond.

10.6.8. In terms of vegetation removal, a worst-case assumption has been made that all vegetation shown in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** would be removed; the vegetation removal is therefore a likely overestimate. It is assumed that all other woodland, tree and hedgerow vegetation within the Order Limits would be retained.

10.6.9. It has been assumed that, where necessary and appropriate for the mitigation of landscape and visual effects, any hedgerows adjoining a siting zone for Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compounds, Main Collector Compound, BESS or Rosefield Substation will be repaired/improved with new planting to infill gaps. It has also been

assumed that any hedgerows adjoining a siting zone for Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compounds, Main Collector Compound, BESS or Rosefield Substation would be maintained at up to 3.5m in height. This is detailed in and secured by the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**.

10.6.10. A detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan based on the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** would be implemented and this would cover the establishment and long-term management of all new structural planting as well as other habitats.

10.6.11. The assessment of the landscape and visual impact of construction activities has been based on the assumptions set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Transport and Access [EN010158/APP/6.2]**, alongside the traffic routing and future baseline traffic values derived in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Transport and Access [EN010158/APP/6.2]**. It has been assumed that there would be access points into the Site at each of the locations shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.9: Indicative Construction and Operational Access [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

## Assessment methodology and criteria

10.6.12. This section provides a summary of the methodology adopted for the assessment of potential likely significant landscape and visual effects. Full details of the assessment methodology, including detailed assessment criteria, are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.6.13. In accordance with GLVIA3 **[Ref. 10-13]**, the significance of landscape and visual effects is determined by considering in tandem the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (landscape elements, landscape character areas, landscape designations and groups of people who may be affected by changes in visual amenity) and the magnitude of effect arising from the Proposed Development.

### Landscape and visual sensitivity

10.6.14. Sensitivity (described as ‘high’, ‘medium’ or ‘low’) is judged by combining component judgements about the value and susceptibility of the receptor, as illustrated in **Table 10.6** and **Table 10.7** below. An explanation of how susceptibility and value has been determined is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. Detailed susceptibility and value criteria for landscape receptors are established in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.3: Rosefield Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [EN010158/APP/6.4]** whilst detailed visual susceptibility and value criteria are set out in **ES Volume 4,**

**Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.6.15. Intermediate assessments of value or susceptibility may be applied (e.g. high/medium, medium/low or national/regional, regional/community). Likewise, when combining susceptibility and value to determine sensitivity, an intermediate assessment can be adopted where overall sensitivity is judged to lie between levels. In all instances, professional judgement is employed. **Table 10.6** and **Table 10.7** below should not be interpreted rigidly to give a specific answer. Note that equal weighting is attributed to susceptibility and value when determining overall landscape sensitivity but that a greater weight is intentionally attributed to the susceptibility of the visual receptor than to value. This is in recognition of the fact that relatively few views are specifically recognised through designation or cultural reference but acknowledges that value associations may still influence visual sensitivity.

Table 10.6 Landscape sensitivity criteria

| | | Susceptibility | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | High | Medium | Low |
| Value | National | High | High/Medium | Medium |
| | Regional | High/Medium | Medium | Medium/Low |
| | Community | Medium | Medium/Low | Low |

Table 10.7 Visual sensitivity criteria

| | | Susceptibility | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | High | Medium | Low |
| Value | National | High | High/Medium | Medium |
| | Regional | High/Medium | High/Medium | Medium/Low |
| | Community | High/Medium | Medium | Low |

## Landscape and visual magnitude of effect (impact)

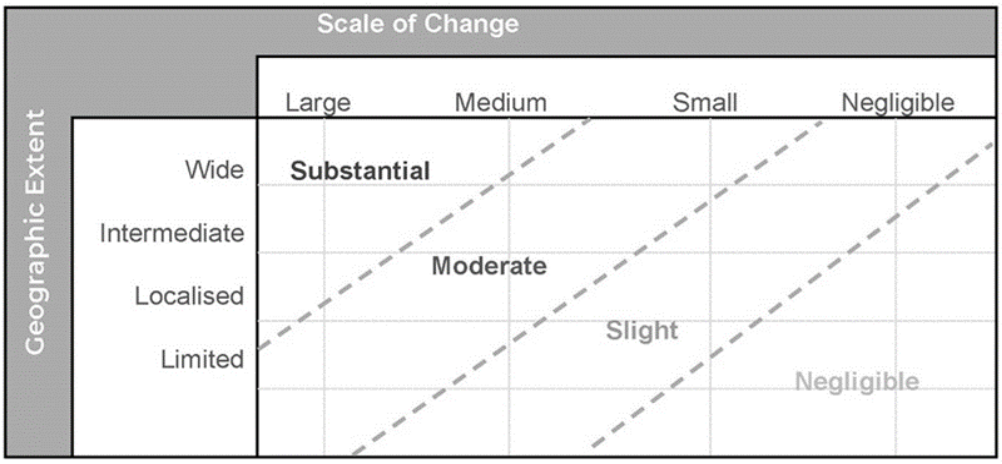
10.6.16. The magnitude of effect arising from the Proposed Development (described as ‘substantial’, ‘moderate’, ‘slight’ or ‘negligible’) is assessed in terms of its scale, geographic extent of the area or receptor that is influenced and its duration.

10.6.17. Scale of change (expressed as ‘large’, ‘medium’, ‘small’ or ‘negligible’) is the first and primary factor in determining magnitude. Geographical extent and duration of the effect are modifying factors to the overall magnitude judgement, which may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and/or long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent and/or timescale.

10.6.18. The diagrams presented below in **Plate 10.1** illustrate in outline how these two modifying factors are considered in a two-stage process. A judgement is first formed about the scale of the change to the landscape or visual receptor. The geographic extent of the effect is then considered as a modifying influence in the first part of **Plate 10.1** (Stage 1).

10.6.19. The result or outcome of Stage 1 is then considered again in relation to the duration of the effect as illustrated in the second part of **Plate 10.1**. The outcome of Stage 2 is the overall magnitude of effect judgement reported in the assessment. **Plate 10.1** is not intended to be interpreted rigidly as a chart to provide definitive answers; professional judgement is employed as appropriate to arrive at an overall judgement on the magnitude of effect. A definition of the terms used in the diagrams in **Plate 10.1** is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

**Stage 1 - Modifying Influence of Geographic Extent on Magnitude of Effect**




**Stage 2 - Modifying Influence of Duration on Magnitude of Effect**

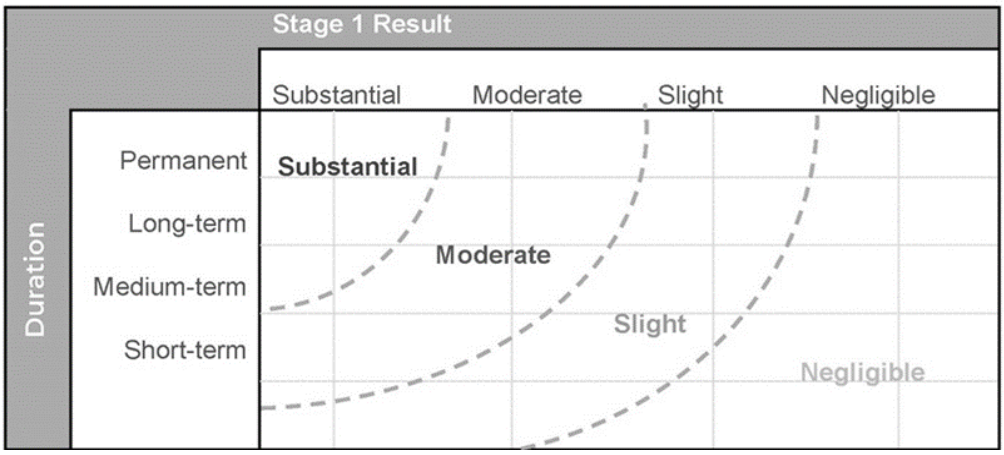



Plate 10.1: Combining scale of change, extent and duration to determine magnitude of landscape and visual effects

10.6.20. Where magnitude of effect (or other judgements) is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment is adopted and is expressed e.g. 'moderate/slight'.

## Landscape and visual significance of effect

10.6.21. The significance of a landscape or visual effect is assessed through professional judgement, combining the sensitivity of the receptor with the predicted magnitude of effect, as summarised in **Table 10.8**. **Table 10.8** is not used as a prescriptive tool and illustrates the typical outcomes, allowing for the exercise of professional judgement.

Table 10.8 Significance of effect criteria

| Receptor sensitivity | Magnitude of effect: Negligible | Slight | Moderate | Substantial |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Low | Negligible | Minor | Moderate/ Minor | Moderate |
| Medium | Minor/ Negligible | Moderate/ Minor | Moderate | Major/ Moderate |
| High | Minor | Moderate | Major/ Moderate | Major |

10.6.22. Effects classified as 'major' or 'major/moderate' are considered to be **significant**.

10.6.23. Effects classified as 'moderate/minor', 'minor', 'minor/negligible' or 'negligible' significance are considered to be **not significant**.

10.6.24. Moderate effects lie somewhere in the middle of the range of effects identified. Within the meaning of this term in the assessment, there is a spectrum of effects ranging from those tending towards a major/moderate effect (significant) to those tending towards a moderate/minor effect (not significant). 'Moderate' effects may therefore be either significant or not significant depending on where they fall on this spectrum. Where 'moderate' effects are predicted, professional judgement is applied to determine whether the effect is significant or not ensuring that the potential for significant effects to arise has been thoroughly considered and justification is provided for the judgement reached as appropriate. Clarification 3 (5) of Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition **[Ref. 10-14]** recognises this as an appropriate approach to identifying significant effects.

## Nature of effects

10.6.25. Landscape and visual effects can be beneficial or adverse and, in some instances, may be considered neutral in nature. Neutral effects are those

which overall are neither adverse nor beneficial but may incorporate a combination of both. Whether an effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse is identified based on professional judgement.

10.6.26. Changes to rural landscapes involving construction of utilitarian objects of a large scale are generally considered to be adverse. In this assessment it has been assumed that where new infrastructure is introduced into the landscape or views, this would generally constitute an adverse effect.

## Residential visual amenity assessment

10.6.27. With respect to visual impact, the focus is on public views and public visual amenity. RVAA is a stage beyond landscape and visual impact assessment and focuses exclusively on private views and private visual amenity and may be used by the decision-maker when weighing potential effects on residential amenity against other material considerations.

10.6.28. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19 (TGN 2/19) **[Ref. 10-17]** notes that:

"Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has 'a right to a view'" and "It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook/visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before."

10.6.29. A detailed RVAA is presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and considers whether the visual effects on residential visual amenity are of such a nature or magnitude that they may need to be considered in the overall balance of 'Residential Amenity' or 'Living Conditions.' The methodology for the RVAA is set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

## Distances

10.6.30. Where distances are given in this chapter, these are approximate distances between the nearest above ground feature of the Proposed Development based on **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Height Parameters Plan [EN010158/APP/6.3]** (not the Order Limits) secured in the **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]**, and the nearest part of the receptor in question unless explicitly stated otherwise.

## Visual aids

10.6.31. ZTVs have been generated using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) principally to assist in identifying areas where visibility of the Proposed Development would not occur. These also assist in Viewpoint selection and to identify areas from where part, or all of the Proposed Development, may be visible.

10.6.32. The ZTVs illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.7a-10.12b [EN010158/APP/6.3]** are based on a number of variants to illustrate different levels of potential visibility: A standard screening ZTV takes account of buildings and significant blocks of woodland in the landscape; whilst a detailed screening ZTV uses LIDAR data to provide the most detailed review of visibility.

10.6.33. The following ZTVs in **ES, Volume 3 [EN010158/APP/6.3]** have been prepared to help illustrate the potential visibility of different elements of the Proposed Development:

- **Figures 10.7a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Bare Earth**;
- **Figures 10.8a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Standard Screening**;
- **Figures 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening**;
- **Figure 10.10a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 6m Parcel 1**;
- **Figure 10.11a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 6m Parcel 2**; and
- **Figure 10.12a-b: ZTV of Siting Zone for Structures up to 15m and 6m Parcel 3**.

10.6.34. Annotated photographs of the existing view at all assessment Viewpoints are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The method of visualisation selected has been informed by Landscape Institute Technical Note 06/19 **[Ref. 10-15]**, with detailed annotated photographs being the most appropriate and proportionate approach for representing the Proposed Development across the study area. In addition, 11 of the Viewpoints were selected, in agreement with the Buckinghamshire Council, for production of photomontages to illustrate the Proposed Development and these are also provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. Further information on the selection of Viewpoints and visualisation types is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.6.35. The methodology for production of the ZTVs and the visualisations is described in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

## 10.7. Mitigation embedded into the design

10.7.1. Potential landscape and visual effects and mitigation measures have been considered from the outset of the Proposed Development. This included early landscape and visual feasibility appraisal which fed into site selection. The design development to avoid adverse landscape and visual effects where possible and appropriate is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. Landscape and visual considerations have been one of the critical drivers for design decisions at all stages of the project. An explanation of how landscape and visual matters have been addressed in the design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010158/APP/5.8]**.

10.7.2. This assessment has been based on the principle that measures have been 'embedded' into the design of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce potential significant effects as far as practicable, for example by the considered placement of infrastructure. The embedded mitigation relevant to this assessment is detailed in **Table 10.9** below.

10.7.3. Of particular relevance to this chapter are the green infrastructure, landscape and ecological mitigation and vegetation removal parameters presented in the **Outline LEMP, Appendices 1 to 3 [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. These identify, amongst other things, areas of proposed structure planting which have been developed to mitigate landscape and visual effects. All of the structure planting shown on these plans is considered to be embedded into the design and forms primary mitigation.

Table 10.9: Embedded mitigation relevant to landscape and visual

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **New hedgerow (early) planting along the western boundary of Field B5, adjacent to Pond Farm access** | To soften views and provide medium and long-term screening of views from the access track to properties and Calvert Road. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Hedgerows to the south of Calvert Road and east of Claydon Road to be gradually increased in height to 3.5m** | To soften views and provide medium and long-term screening of views from Calvert Road and Claydon Road. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Removal of all Solar PV modules from Field B5 and (early) planting of 15m width belt of structural native** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules from Calvert Cottages and footpath | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **woodland blocks along northern and southern boundaries of Field B5** | diversions and to retain designed character of landscape. | and **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** |
| **30m width buffer of species rich grassland and scrub to Decoypond Wood (Field B7)** | To provide medium and long-term screening of views of Solar PV modules from footpath diversion. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **30m width buffer of species rich grassland and scrub to Shrubs Wood (Fields B6 and B10)** | To provide medium and long-term screening of views of Solar PV modules from footpath diversions and proposed permissive footpath to Knowl Hill. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **New hedgerow (early) planting to the eastern boundary of Solar PV modules in Field B22, and north of Field B23 (North)** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules and Satellite Collector Compound from Calvert Road, Catherine Cottages and Blackmorehill Cottages. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Satellite Collector Compounds will be mounted on concrete pad foundations or plinths. The proposed structures will be grey or green containers and sensitive to the local environment** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new buildings by designing them to be fit for place. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Infill hedgerow planting and strengthening of avenue of poplar trees to Three Points Lane** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules and Satellite Collector Compound from Calvert Road, Claydon Park. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Removal of Solar PV modules from Fields D1, D2, D3 (north) and D9** | To minimise visual impacts on footpath users and residents of Botolph Claydon. | **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **15m width belt of structural native woodland (early) planting along northern boundary of Field D3 (South)** | To provide medium and long-term screening of views of Solar PV modules from Botolph Claydon and PRoW ECL/9/2 and ECL/10/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **New hedgerow/infill (early) planting to the eastern and western boundaries Fields D3 (South), D12 and D13** | To provide medium and long-term screening of views of Solar PV modules from Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)/Bridleway ECL/10/1 and ECL/10/2 and Bernwood Jubilee Way/PRoW ECL/8/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **55m width buffer of species rich grassland and new hedgerow (early) planting to the western boundary of Solar PV modules in Fields D4, D11, D14 and D15.**<br>**Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 55m from the Bernwood Jubilee Way within Fields D4, D11, D14 and D15 to allow views to be retained over the Solar PV development.** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules and Satellite Collector Compound from Bernwood Jubilee Way/ PRoW ECL/8/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**<br>**Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **30m width buffer of species rich grassland and scrub to Runt's Wood (Fields D28 and D29).**<br>**Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 30m from existing** | To provide medium and long-term screening of views of Solar PV modules from PRoW ECL/8/2 and permissive footpath between PRoW ECL/8/2 and QUA/42/2. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**<br>**Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **statutory and locally designated wildlife sites.** | | |
| **15m width belt of structural native woodland (early) planting along southern boundary of Fields D8, D9, D19 and D26** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compound and BESS from Claydon Road, Hogshaw Farm and PRoW HOG/7/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Removal of Solar PV modules from Fields D30-D37** | To minimise landscape impacts on Quainton-Wing Hills AAL. | **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** |
| **Siting zone for Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound in proximity to the existing East Claydon Substation** | To reduce visual impacts on users of North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way, local PRoW and residents of Botolph Claydon. | **Works Plans [EN010158/APP/2.3]** |
| **15m width belt of structural native woodland (early) planting along western boundary of Fields E11, E20, E22 and E23** | To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation from Botolph Claydon, Sion Hill Farm, Bernwood Jubilee Way, North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way and PRoW ECL/4/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **New hedgerow planting (early) to northern edge of Solar PV modules in Field E23** | To soften views and provide medium and long-term screening of views from North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way/ PRoW ECL/5/1. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **No removal of important hedgerows within Solar PV development areas** | To ensure that existing screening elements are retained to soften views and local landscape character is conserved. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **Structural planting will consist of native species and wherever possible be of local provenance** | To ensure that new planting complements existing habitats and reflects local landscape character. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Grassland open fields and margins with species rich grassland throughout the Site** | Embedded primarily for biodiversity purposes but would also have the dual function of restoring a more mixed pattern of land use and returning landcover to a more visually varied pattern. | **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** |
| **Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 15m either side from existing hedgerows located within Fields B3 and B7, between fields B7 and B8/B10 and between Fields B8/B10 and B9/B11** | To protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows and hence landscape character, except where removal is identified in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 20m from all other existing woodlands, including HS2 planting.**<br>**Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows as far as reasonably practicable, except where a hedgerow crossing is required for access tracks and/or cable routes.** | To protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows and hence landscape character, except where removal is identified in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches where reasonably practicable. Where security fencing is required to pass through existing hedgerows, vegetation removals will be minimised as far as reasonably practicable** | To protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows and hence landscape character, except where removal is identified in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 10m from either side of existing PRoW** | To maintain the visual amenity of users of PRoW. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 30m from the Mid Shires Way and North Bucks Way within Fields E21/E22 and E23** | To maintain the visual amenity of users of PRoW. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Rosefield Substation, BESS, Collector Compounds, Standalone Inverter, Transformer and Switchgear and ITS (part of the Balance of Solar System plant comprised in Work No. 1) will be offset a minimum distance of 50m from all existing residential properties** | To minimise visual impacts on residents of nearest properties. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Lighting will use directional fittings and face away from boundaries and into the Order Limits, in accordance** | To minimise changes to dark skies and tranquillity associated with the | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **with environmental requirements** | existing landscape and visual baseline. | |
| **Internal access track between Parcel 1 and Parcel 2 to be of similar style to agricultural tracks in the area** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new tracks by designing them to be fit for place. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Internal access tracks and cable routes will use existing agricultural gateways/tracks, crossings and/or gaps in the hedgerows where practicable** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts as a result of vegetation removal. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Independent Outdoor Equipment (Standalone Central Inverters and Standalone Switchgear) will be grey, green or white in colour** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new infrastructure by the use of recessive colours. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Independent Outdoor Equipment (Standalone Transformers) and Inverter Transformer Stations will be grey or green in colour** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new infrastructure by the use of recessive colours. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Equipment within the Main Collector Compound will be grey, green, white and/or metallic. Proposed buildings and/or containers within the Main Collector Compound will be grey or painted green in colour and rendered to suit local building styles, be sensitive to the local environment and would seek to reflect agricultural development** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new infrastructure by the use of local building styles/vernacular and recessive colours. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |

| Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual | Function | Securing mechanism |
|---|---|---|
| **BESS containers and transformer units will be grey, green or white in colour** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new infrastructure by the use of recessive colours. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Acoustic barriers will be provided around elements of the Independent Outdoor Equipment Centralised Inverters, Transformers and Switchgear), ITS (Centralised Inverters, Transformers and Switchgear), Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound, Satellite Collector Compounds and BESS compound, to ensure that unacceptable noise impacts do not arise** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new built form by the use of recessive colours and minimising effects on tranquillity by reducing noise impacts. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **There will be no permanent (continuous) lighting for security purposes, except where necessary to take account of health and safety requirements at emergency exits** | To minimise changes to dark skies and tranquillity associated with the existing landscape and visual baseline. | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |
| **Perimeter fencing around the Rosefield Substation, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS and Main Collector Compound will be metallic or green in colour** | To minimise landscape and visual impacts of new built structures by the use of recessive colours | **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** |

10.7.4. The new planting proposals outlined in **Table 10.9** above respond directly to specific guidelines in the *Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment* **[Ref. 10-26]**.

10.7.5. In relation to LCA 5.6 - Claydon Vale, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment notes*:*

- "*Conserve the pattern of smaller field and woodland parcels.*

- *Encourage the retention and strengthening of the historic hedgerow pattern by infilling gaps and establishing new hedgerow trees.*
- *Encourage the management of hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.*
- *Maintain the condition and extent of unimproved and semi-improved grassland wherever possible. Encourage good management practices.*
- *Maintain and enhance connectivity*."

10.7.6. In relation to LCA 5.7 - Hogshaw Claylands, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment notes*:*

- "*Encourage the retention and strengthening of the historic hedgerow pattern by infilling gaps and establishing new hedgerow trees. Oaks are a feature of hedgerows in this area.*
- *Encourage the management of hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.*
- *Promote the management and conservation of vegetation adjacent to the meandering watercourses including the pollarding of willow.*
- *Encourage the management of existing woodland and promote the establishment of new woodland particularly where it will reduce the visual impact of pylon lines.*
- *Maintain the condition and extent of unimproved and semi-improved grassland wherever possible. Encourage good management practices.*
- *Improve the management of historic meadows and pastures.*
- *Encourage the restoration and management of ponds and the area around them to provide a succession of habitats from open water through to mature trees.*
- *Enhance connectivity of habitats*."

10.7.7. In relation to LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment notes*:*

- "*Encourage the retention and strengthening of the historic hedgerow pattern by infilling gaps and establishing new hedgerow trees. Oaks are a feature of hedgerows in this area.*
- *Maintain and improve the condition of existing hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.*
- *Maintain the condition and extent of existing woodland and promote the establishment of new woodland.*
- *Maintain the condition and extent of unimproved and semi-improved grassland. Encourage good management practices.*

- *Promote the connectivity of habitats, particularly woodland.*
- *Maintain extent of parkland and broadleaved woodland.*
- *Promote the conservation and interpretation of rich historic environment.*
- *Identify key views to Claydon house and parkland and ridge top villages from publicly accessible land and promote the preservation and enhancement of these views*."

10.7.8. In relation to LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment notes*:*

- "*Encourage the retention and strengthening of the historic hedgerow pattern with new hedgerow trees, predominantly oak.*
- *Maintain and improve condition of existing hedgerows through traditional cutting regimes.*
- *Maintain the distinctive pattern of historic routeways.*
- *Support and promote recreational access by footpaths and bridleways to the hill.*
- *Promote information and understanding about the historic importance and appropriate management of historic woodland features such as irregular edges, assarts, banks and ditches.*
- *Maintain the sparsely settled remote character of the landscape*."

## 10.8. Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)

10.8.1. This section outlines the likely effects that have been identified in relation to landscape and visual amenity during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning, in the absence of additional mitigation.

10.8.2. It should be noted that successful implementation and long-term maintenance of the embedded mitigation outlined in **Table 10.9** (which comprises mainly of new hedgerow and structure planting) relies on implementation of additional mitigation measures. The new planting outlined in **Table 10.9** would not establish or survive in the long term and achieve its intended purpose without maintenance and management as set out in the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. Therefore, this section presents a hypothetical worst-case scenario where the new planting does not establish or achieve its intended purpose.

10.8.3. Likewise, in the absence of additional mitigation measures during construction/decommissioning, it is impossible to say with any certainty what the impact on existing landscape fabric (including woodland, trees and hedgerows) might be.

10.8.4. However, these are unrealistic scenarios as the additional mitigation set out in **Section 10.9** will be secured and therefore the assessment in this section is brief with the more realistic and detailed assessment of likely significant effects on landscape and visual amenity being presented in **Section 10.10** below.

## Construction

10.8.5. In the absence of additional mitigation, there would be potential for significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity during construction.

10.8.6. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur to within and up to 1km from the Site across LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands, LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl and LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill.

10.8.7. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of roads and PRoW and visitors to local recreational attractions up to 2km from the Order Limits.

## Operation (including maintenance)

10.8.8. In the absence of additional mitigation, there would be potential for significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity during operation (including maintenance) due to the presence of new structures and infrastructure associated with the Proposed Development.

10.8.9. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur up to 1km from the Site across LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands, LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl and LCA 9.1 – Finemere Hill.

10.8.10. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of roads and PRoW and visitors to local recreational attractions up to 2km from the Order Limits.

## Decommissioning

10.8.11. In the absence of additional mitigation, there would be potential for significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity as a result of the decommissioning process.

10.8.12. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur up to 1km from the Site across LCA 5.7 – Hogshaw Claylands, LCA 7.3 – Claydon Bowl and LCA 9.1.

10.8.13. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of roads and PRoW and visitors to local recreational attractions up to 2km from the Order Limits.

## 10.9. Additional mitigation

### Construction

10.9.1. Construction of the Proposed Development would be undertaken in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2]** and the **Outline Construction Transport Management Plan (Outline CTMP) [EN010158/APP/7.5]**.

10.9.2. The **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2]** would ensure that construction is undertaken in a sensitive manner with regard to the existing landscape fabric within the Site. It would ensure that all existing hedgerows, trees and woodland would be retained and protected during construction as set out in the **ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.13: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]** (except where removal is indicated on the vegetation removal plans shown in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**). It would also ensure that Construction Compounds are maintained in a neat and tidy appearance and that any temporary construction lighting is operated in accordance with an agreed scheme.

10.9.3. The **Outline CTMP [EN010158/APP/7.5]** would ensure that construction heavy goods vehicle movements would be routed in accordance with the strategy agreed with the Local Planning Authority and avoid landscape and visual effects on additional receptors.

### Operation (including maintenance)

10.9.4. During the operation (including maintenance) phase of the Proposed Development, existing and newly established habitats and planting would be maintained in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**.

10.9.5. The **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** would ensure, amongst other things, that any defective planting is replaced during the establishment period defined in the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]** and that all new planting establishes successfully by Year 10. It would ensure that existing and new hedgerows (once established) will be maintained at heights of between 3-3.5m for the duration of the operation phase of the Proposed Development.

### Decommissioning

10.9.6. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be undertaken in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Outline DEMP) [EN010158/APP/7.4]**.

10.9.7. The **Outline DEMP [EN010158/APP/7.4]** would ensure that decommissioning is undertaken in a sensitive manner, providing root protection as appropriate to the existing and retained vegetation within the Site. It would ensure that existing and established hedgerows, trees and woodland would be retained and protected during decommissioning (except where removal is required to facilitate decommissioning). It would also ensure that decommissioning compounds maintain a neat and tidy appearance and that any temporary lighting is operated in accordance with a scheme agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

10.9.8. The soil resource within the Site would be managed during decommissioning in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Soil Management Plan (Outline SMP) [EN010158/APP/7.7]**.

## 10.10. Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)

### Sensitivity of receptors

#### Landscape receptors

10.10.1. In order to inform the assessment of likely significant effects on landscape character, a landscape sensitivity appraisal has been undertaken considering the various landscape susceptibility and value criteria, which combine to determine landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The appraisal draws upon observations contained within NCA Profile 108 **[Ref. 10-24]**, NCA Profile 109 **[Ref. 10-25]**, the Aylesbury Vale Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-26]**, Defining the Special Qualities of Local Landscape Designations in Aylesbury Vale District **[Ref. 10-33]**, Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan **[Ref. 10-28]**, and North Marston Neighbourhood Plan **[Ref. 10-32]**. These documents are summarised in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.10.2. In addition to reviewing the published landscape character assessment documents, field survey work was undertaken during the baseline assessment.

10.10.3. Three of the eight LCAs considered in this assessment extend beyond the study area. The conclusions regarding landscape sensitivity therefore relate specifically to the tract of the LCAs within the study area.

10.10.4. The full landscape sensitivity appraisal is presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.3: Rosefield Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The principal findings of the appraisal are summarised below in **Table 10.10**.

Table 10.10: Summary of landscape sensitivity

| Character area | Susceptibility | Value | Sensitivity |
|---|---|---|---|
| **NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales** | Low | Community/National | Medium/low |
| **NCA 109: Midvale Ridge** | Low | Community/Regional | Low |
| **LCT 5: Shallow Valleys** | Medium/low | Community | Low |
| **LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale** | Low | Community | Low |
| **LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley** | Medium/Low | Community | Low |
| **LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands** | Medium | Community | Medium/low |
| **LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands** | Medium/Low | Community | Low |
| **LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands** | Medium/low | Community/Regional | Medium/low |
| **LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl** | Medium | Regional | Medium |
| **LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges** | Medium | Regional | Medium |
| **LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill** | High/Medium | Regional | Medium |
| **LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill** | Medium | Regional | Medium |
| **LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge** | Medium/Low | Regional | Medium/low |
| **Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape** | Medium | Regional | Medium |

## Visual receptors

10.10.5. For the purposes of this chapter, visual receptor groups (under the headings of settlements, users of main roads, users of main transport routes, users of recreational routes, users of other recreational receptors) have been identified. **Table 10.11** below identifies the sensitivity of the visual receptor groups.

Table 10.11: Summary of visual receptor sensitivity

| Visual receptors | Susceptibility | Value | Sensitivity |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Settlements** | | | |
| **Botolph Claydon, Granborough, North Marston, Oving, Steeple Claydon** | High | Community | High/medium |
| **Users of main roads** | | | |
| **Orchard Way, Calvert Road, Quainton Road, Claydon Road, Winslow Road, East Claydon Road, Queen Catherine Road, Botyl Road, Saint Mary's Road, Addison Road** | Medium | Community | Medium |
| **Users of main transport routes** | | | |
| **East West Rail** | Medium | Community | Medium |
| **Users of recreational routes** | | | |
| **NCN Route No. 51** | High | National | High |
| **Long distance trails: North Buckinghamshire Way/Matthew's Way; The Midshires Way; Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring; Bernwood Jubilee Way** | High | Regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (SCL/12/1, SCL/12/2, SCL/13/1 and SCL/13/2) between Calvert Road and HS2 to within Parcel 1** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **Three Points Lane and PRoW (MCL/17/1, MCL/18/1, MCL/18/2, MCL/20/1, MCL/20/2, MCL/30/1, GUN/28/1, GUN/30/1 and GUN/33/1) between Calvert Road and** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |

| Visual receptors | Susceptibility | Value | Sensitivity |
|---|---|---|---|
| **HS2 to the east of Parcel 1 and within Parcel 1a** | | | |
| **PRoW (MCL/15/1, MCL/16/1, and ECL/9/1) between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (ECL/7/1 ECL/7/2, ECL/8/1, ECL/9/2, ECL/10/1, ECL/10/2 to ECL/10/5) between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (ECL/8/2, QUA/38/1, QUA/40/3, QUA41/1, QUA/42/2 and MCL/22/1) to Finemere Hill** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (MCL/2/1, QUA/34/1, QUA/35/1 QUA/36/2, QUA/36/3, QUA/39/1, QUA/38/2, QUA/40/1, QUA/40/3, QUA/42/1, GUN/34/1 and QUA/40/4) between Finemere Hill and HS2/Claydon Road** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (ECL/3/1, ECL/3A/1, ECL/3/2, ECL/4/1, ECL/4/2, ECL/5/1, ECL/6/1) between East Claydon Road/East Claydon and Parcel 3** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (HOG/6/1, GRA1/1, GRA/1/2, GRA/2/1, GRA/2/2, GRA/3/1, GRA/3/2, GRA/4/1, GRA/10/1, GRA/11/1, WIS/1/2) between East Claydon Road/Parcel 3 and Hogshaw Road/Granborough** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |
| **PRoW (SCL/7/1, SCL/7/2, SCL/8/1, SCL/8/2, SCL/8/3,** | High | Community/ regional | High/medium |

| Visual receptors | Susceptibility | Value | Sensitivity |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SCL/8/4, SCL/9/1, SCL/9/3, MCL/10/1, MCL/10/2) and roads between Steeple Claydon/Queen Catherine Road and Calvert Road** | | | |
| **Users of other recreational receptors** | | | |
| **Claydon House** | High | Regional | High/medium |
| **Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park** | High | Regional | High/medium |

10.10.6. In the PEIR, users of East West Rail were reported to be of low susceptibility to change in views, to be of community value and therefore to be of low sensitivity to the type of development proposed. Buckinghamshire Council requested that this appraisal be reconsidered to reflect the large number of people who use the route.

10.10.7. Railway passengers are often assessed to be of low susceptibility reflecting the transient nature of the view and the high speed at which views are experienced.

10.10.8. It is acknowledged that East West Rail would carry a large volume of passengers who would experience views of the Proposed Development in Parcel 1. It is important to appreciate that the number of people using the route does not influence the susceptibility of the individual receptor travelling along it. Nevertheless, in response to the request from Buckinghamshire Council, and in order to acknowledge the large number of receptors who would experience views, the susceptibility of these receptors has been increased in this assessment to be **medium**.

10.10.9. The view experienced by passengers is still assessed to be of community value. There are no specific values attached to the route. It is not recognised as a scenic route and does not pass through any landscape designation. The route passes through a pleasantly agrarian landscape but one which does not have any special qualities that elevate its value above other rural areas in Buckinghamshire.

10.10.10. Therefore, the sensitivity of railway passengers in this chapter is assessed to be **medium**.

## Viewpoint analysis

10.10.11. In order to inform the assessment of magnitude and significance of residual effects on landscape character and visual amenity, Viewpoint analysis has been undertaken for a total of 43 assessment Viewpoints.

10.10.12. As noted in **Table 10.1**, the assessment Viewpoint locations were agreed with Buckinghamshire Council to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area.

10.10.13. A plan illustrating the location of the assessment Viewpoints is presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.6: Viewpoint Locations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The assessment Viewpoints are also illustrated on all subsequent ZTVs figures.

10.10.14. Annotated baseline photographs are presented for each assessment Viewpoint in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]** to illustrate the existing view and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view. Year 1 and Year 10 photomontages have also been prepared for 11 of the Viewpoints. These are presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.6: LVIA Visualisations [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.10.15. A detailed analysis of the scale of landscape and visual change at the assessment Viewpoint locations during the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development is presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The assessment of effects during the construction phase assumes a reasonable worst-case scenario at the specific Viewpoint whenever that occurs during construction. The effects during the operation (including maintenance) phase are assessed in Year 1 after construction and again in Year 10 by when it is assumed that all new mitigation planting (including hedgerows and trees) will have established. A summary of the findings is presented in **Table 10.12** below.

10.10.16. The Viewpoint analysis considers only the scale of landscape and visual change at the assessment Viewpoints. The wider extent of landscape and visual effects (beyond the individual Viewpoint considered), and its duration, are not captured in the Viewpoint analysis (as a single fixed Viewpoint cannot capture extent or duration). As detailed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.1: LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, scale, extent and duration are all factors in the overall judgement on magnitude of effect. Therefore, judgements on magnitude of effect and overall level of effect and significance are provided in the subsequent description of effects during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning.

Table 10.12: Viewpoint analysis summary

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **1** | Calvert Cottages, Calvert Road<br>LCA 7.3 | Small | Small | Small/Negligible | Small | Small | Negligible |
| **2** | Catherine Cottages, Blackmorehill Farm Cottages, Calvert Road<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium | Medium | Small/Negligible | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Negligible |
| **3** | Bridleway MCL/17/1, east of Knowlhill Farm<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Small | Small | Small | Small |
| **4** | Footpath SCL/13/2<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium | Medium | Small/Negligible | Medium | Medium/Small | Negligible |
| **5** | Bridleway MCL/17/1, Claydon House<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Small | Small |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **6** | Winters Tale Farmhouse/Wedding Venue<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Small | Small | Small |
| **7** | Footpath SCL/9/1, Steeple Claydon<br>LCA 7.3 | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small |
| **8** | Footpath ECL/9/2, Botolph Claydon<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium/Small | Small | Small/Negligible | Small | Small | Negligible |
| **9** | Footpath ECL/8/1, Bernwood Jubilee Way, Botolph Claydon<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium | Medium | Medium/Small |
| **10** | Footpath ECL/8/1, Bernwood Jubilee Way<br>LCA 7.3 | Large | Large | Large/Medium | Large | Large | Large/Medium |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **11** | Footpath ECL/8/1, Bernwood Jubilee Way<br>LCA 7.3 | Large | Large | Large/Medium | Large | Large | Large/Medium |
| **12** | Bridleway ECL/10/2, Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)<br>LCA 7.3 | Large | Large | Medium/Small | Large | Large | Small |
| **13** | Saint Mary's Road/Bernwood Jubilee Way, Botolph Claydon<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium | Medium | Medium/Small |
| **14** | Footpath ECL/9/1<br>LCA 7.3 | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small |
| **15** | Footpath QUA/38/1<br>LCA 9.1 | Large | Large | Medium/Small | Large | Large/Medium | Small |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **16** | Bridleway GUN/34/1, Finemere House<br>LCA 9.1 | Small | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **17** | Footpath QUA/39/1, Bernwood Jubilee Way<br>LCA 7.4 | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **18** | Claydon Road/Granborough Road<br>LCA 5.7 | Large | Large/Medium | Small | Large | Large/Medium | Small/Negligible |
| **19** | Footpath HOG/7/1, Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park<br>LCA 5.7 | Large | Large | Medium/Small | Large | Large/Medium | Small |
| **20** | Granborough Road<br>LCA 5.7 | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium | Small | Small |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **21** | Bridleway ECL/5/1, North Bucks Way/Midshires Way LCA 7.3 | Large/Medium | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium | Medium/Small | Small |
| **22** | Bridleway ECL/5/1, North Bucks Way/Midshires Way LCA 5.7 | Large/Medium | Medium | Small | Large/Medium | Medium/Small | Small |
| **23** | Footpath ECL/4/1, Sion Hill Farm LCA 5.6 | Large/Medium | Large/Medium | Medium | Large/Medium | Large/Medium | Medium |
| **24** | Winslow Road, Footpath ECL/3/1 LCA 5.6 | Small | Small | Small | Small | Negligible | Negligible |
| **25** | Footpath ECL/4/2 LCA 5.7 | Large/Medium | Large/Medium | Medium/Small | Medium | Medium | Small |
| **26** | Footpath GRA/2/1 LCA 5.6 | Small | Small | Small/Negligible | Small | Small/ Negligible | Small/Negligible |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| **27** | Hogshaw Road, Bridleway HOG/6/1, North Bucks Way/Midshires Way<br>LCA 5.7 | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Small |
| **28** | Footpath GRA/10/1, Granborough<br>LCA 5.8 | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium/Small |
| **29** | Footpath HOG/1/2, North Bucks Way/Midshires Way, Outer Aylesbury Ring<br>LCA 5.8 | Small/ Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **30** | Bridleway QUA/2/1, Outer Aylesbury Ring, Conduit Hill<br>LCA 9.2 | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium |
| **31** | Bridleway QUA/2/2, Swan's Way, Outer | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Medium | Medium/Small | Medium/Small |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| | Aylesbury Ring, Quainton Hill mast<br>LCA 9.2 | | | | | | |
| **32** | Footpath NMA/1/1, Outer Aylesbury Ring, Brook Farm<br>LCA 5.8 | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small/ Negligible | Small/Negligible |
| **33** | Footpath OVI/20/1, Oving<br>LCA 9.3 | Small | Small | Small | Small/ Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Small/Negligible |
| **34** | Footpath WAD/3/1, Outer Aylesbury Ring, Waddesdon<br>LCA 9.4 | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **35** | Footpath GUN/22/2, Grendon Underwood<br>LCA 7.4 | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **36** | Footpath CHA/7/1, Windmill Hill | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| | LCA 7.1 | | | | | | |
| **37** | Footpath HIL/19/1, Hillesden Hamlet<br>LCA 4.2 | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **38** | Permissive footpath, Steeple Claydon<br>LCA 7.3 | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small | Small |
| **39** | East West Rail overbridge, Addison Road<br>LCA 7.3 | Small/ Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Small/ Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |
| **40** | Saint Mary's Road, Bernwood Jubilee Way, Footpath ECL/11/1, Mushroom Shelter<br>LCA 7.3 | Medium/Small | Medium/Small | Small | Medium/Small | Small | Small |
| **41** | Permissive footpath, Runt's Wood | Large | Large/Medium | Small | Large | Large/Medium | Small |

| Vpt No. | Viewpoint name and LCA | Visual scale of change | | | Landscape scale of change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational | Construction/ decommissioning | Year 1 operational | Year 10 operational |
| | LCA 9.1 | | | | | | |
| **42** | Footpath SCL/12/1, LCA 7.3 | Large | Large | Large | Large | Large | Large |
| **43** | Pygmy goat enclosure, Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park | Large/Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium |

## Construction

10.10.17. The overall construction period including commissioning would last up to 30 months although in most locations, active construction works would only be visible for a much shorter duration than this, after which there would be a period of much less intensive commissioning which would not give rise to significant landscape or visual effects.

10.10.18. It is evident from the assessment presented in the subsequent sections of this chapter that there is notable intervisibility between Parcels 2 and 3 and to the Interconnecting Cabling Corridor that runs between them. Hence a number of static visual receptors identified in this assessment would have a combined view of construction in and between Parcels 2 and 3. This is particularly the case for views from more elevated landscapes within Parcel 2 and also to the wider study area to the east of Parcel 2, again, particularly from more elevated locations.

10.10.19. As detailed in **Table 3.20** of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**, for the purposes of assessment it has been assumed that the construction works would be undertaken across the 30 month period across the Order Limits, which is temporary in nature. Although it is unlikely that any receptors would experience continuous construction activity over this full duration, all construction effects have been treated as medium term effects in the assessment and identified as such where relevant in order to provide a worst-case scenario.

### Landscape fabric

10.10.20. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid blocks of woodland as per the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2]** and would incorporate suitable root protection area buffers as per the **Design Commitments [EN010158/APP/5.9]** to ensure that these important features of the landscape fabric would remain unaffected during construction.

10.10.21. Construction of the Proposed Development would require the removal of various lengths of existing hedgerow including some which contain hedgerow trees as illustrated and tabulated in **Appendix 3: Vegetation Removal Parameters** of the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. Where vegetation removal or management is required, the works would be limited to the required amount of vegetation removal, making use of existing gaps and access points where possible, to achieve the necessary access/visibility. Pruning of vegetation would be preferred over removal wherever possible. Full details of the hedgerows affected are set out in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 7.13: Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. The total length of hedgerow removal would be up to a maximum of 2,060m, with actual removal minimised in the detailed

design stage. The hedgerow removal would typically be in sections of 5m to 30m and scattered throughout the Order Limits. Longer lengths of hedgerow removal (over 30m in length) would be required to facilitate the Site access points on Claydon Road and Three Points Lane and from two field boundaries in Parcel 3. Whilst in total this is a notable length of hedgerow, when considered in the context of the Order Limits as a whole, it is a small proportion of the total length of hedgerows in the study area.

10.10.22. New hedgerows would be replanted in most of the locations where removed, including alongside highways works and across cable corridors (the exceptions would be where sight lines and operational access into fields needs to be maintained and where the Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound are located). In addition, extensive new hedgerow and structural planting would be planted in accordance with **Outline LEMP, Appendix 1: Green and Blue Infrastructure Parameters [EN010158/APP/7.6]**. The total length of new hedgerow (at least 3,420m) and structural woodland planting (at least c. 8.5ha) proposed within the Order Limits would far exceed the amount removed during construction. In the short to medium term during construction however, there would be a small scale of change to the fabric of the landscape in terms of hedgerow and tree cover. The underlying pattern and structure of the landscape would remain largely unchanged.

10.10.23. All of the fields impacted by the Proposed Development including construction activities is currently farmland. There is no permanent vegetation cover in these fields and as such there would be no effect on permanent land cover within these fields during construction.

10.10.24. No other discernible features of the existing landscape fabric would be affected during construction.

10.10.25. The sensitivity of the existing hedgerows in the landscape is variable across the Site given that some are in better condition than others. However, taken collectively the sensitivity of the hedgerows in the study area is assessed to be **high/medium**. There would be a small scale of change over a wide area and for a short duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.26. Therefore, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect, which is not significant.

## Landscape character

10.10.27. Effects during the construction phase on landscape character would arise from:

- short-term change of farmland to a construction site including the formation of temporary construction compounds (with associated temporary night time lighting) and access tracks;
- increased vehicular movement and personnel in the landscape delivering and erecting the component parts of the Proposed Development;
- highways works and management;
- underground cable installation;
- temporary closure of footpaths;
- changes to landscape fabric resulting from vegetation removal; and
- the incremental increase in the infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

10.10.28. Based on the Viewpoint analysis summarised in **Table 10.12**, the following observations can be made regarding the scale of landscape change across the study area during construction:

- Large scale change in landscape character would occur across all fields in which components of the Proposed Development are being constructed or installed. This is an unavoidable consequence of construction as fields temporarily become a construction site.
- Large, medium and small scale change in landscape character would also be experienced in various directions surrounding the fields in which construction takes place. With distance from the construction activities, the scale of change in landscape character would incrementally decrease and in certain directions the screening effect of established vegetation would reduce the distance over which effects would be experienced. For example in Parcel 1, woodland along the southern and western boundaries of the Site and to the east of Three Points Lane would notably reduce the distance over which construction effects on landscape character would be experienced to the south, east and west of Parcel 1.
- In the vicinity of Parcel 2, large/medium scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.5km to the east. In the vicinity of Parcel 3, large/medium scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.5km to the west. Elsewhere large/medium scale change would be experienced from the elevated landscapes up to approximately 2km to the east as a result of the combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3.

- Medium scale of change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.75km to the east of Parcel 2 and to a maximum of 1.2km to the east and west of Parcel 3; medium scale change would extend to approximately 2km to the south east as a result of combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3.
- In the vicinity of Parcel 1, small scale of change in landscape character would extend to a maximum of 1.8km to the north as a result of construction activity. In the vicinity of Parcel 2 and 3, small scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 2km from any construction activity with the exception of the combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3 to approximately 2.5km to the east and south east. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be at most small/negligible.

10.10.29. The following section provides an assessment of individual landscape character areas from a national to local scale.

### NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales

10.10.30. A desk-based investigation of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales, together with extensive site work, has established that none of the identified key characteristics as listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010157/APP/6.4]** would be impacted in any way by the Proposed Development with the exception of the non-permanent loss of a small area of agricultural land.

10.10.31. In addition, extensive site work has established that the Proposed Development is well contained within the NCA with small to negligible scale effects at distances greater than 1.5km from the Order Limits. Any large and medium-scale effects would be experienced over an extremely limited extent of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.32. The sensitivity of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales is assessed as **medium/low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### NCA 109: Midvale Ridge

10.10.33. A desk-based investigation of 109: Midvale Ridge, together with extensive site work, has established that none of the identified key characteristics as listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010157/APP/6.4]** would be impacted in any way by the Proposed Development.

10.10.34. In addition, extensive site work has established that the Proposed Development is well contained within the NCA with small to negligible scale effects at distances greater than 1.5km from the Order Limits. Any medium to small-scale effects would be experienced over an extremely limited extent of 109: Midvale Ridge and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.35. The sensitivity of 109: Midvale Ridge is assessed as **low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCT 5: Shallow Valleys

10.10.36. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCT 5: Shallow Valleys includes the eastern fields of Parcel 2 and the whole of Parcel 3 together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between the two parcels. The wider LCT extends in an arc from the north west boundary of Parcel 1 and to the east and south of Parcels 2 and 3.

10.10.37. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 5: Shallow Valleys is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area.

10.10.38. A desk based investigation of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys, together with extensive site work, has established that three relevant characteristics listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** would be impacted by construction of the Proposed Development as follows:

- Mixed land use with predominance of pasture in most areas;
- Strong hedgerow pattern; and
- Remote and tranquil away from roads.

10.10.39. Any large-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCT 5: Shallow Valleys would be experienced to within the Order Limits. Effects would then diminish markedly outside of the immediate environs of Parcels 2 and 3 within the flatter vale landscapes to the east of the Site. Intermediate, generally medium-scale effects would be experienced to the valley sides to the east and west of Parcel 3 up to a distance of 1.2km with no more than small scale effects beyond this.

10.10.40. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site and associated with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor, the Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector

Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Any lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.41. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.42. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.43. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.44. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.45. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.46. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.47. The sensitivity of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys is assessed as **low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on LCT 5: Shallow Valleys between East Claydon and Granborough, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale

10.10.48. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale extends to the north and north west of Parcel 1. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development.

10.10.49. A combination of gently undulating and low lying landform and a mature established vegetation structure would serve to restrict the extent of

effects during construction on landscape character within LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale.

10.10.50. There would be a small scale of change to landscape character reducing to negligible beyond a maximum distance of 1km from any construction activity within the neighbouring LCA 7.3 Claydon Bowl.

10.10.51. The indirect effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site and the incremental installation of new Solar PV development into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This activity would occur within a neighbouring LCA 7.3 Claydon Bowl and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale.

10.10.52. There would be intermittent periods of human activity and construction movements which would be experienced within a neighbouring landscape where tranquillity has already been reduced by HS2 and East West Rail activity.

10.10.53. There would be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during construction and no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Steeple Claydon and Twyford).

10.10.54. The small scale of change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.55. The sensitivity of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale as described above there is likely to be a **negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley

10.10.56. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley extends to the north of Parcel 3, with just one field of the Site (Field E11) that would experience direct effects as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoints 23, 24 and 26 all fall within this LCA.

10.10.57. A combination of gently undulating and low lying landform and a mature established vegetation structure would serve to restrict the extent of effects during construction on landscape character within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley. Whilst there are some views from the upper valley sides to the west, the valley bottom is very gently sloping, which, in combination

with a generally intact hedgerow structure, results in a very limited extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 5.6: Claydon Vale.

10.10.58. This is evidenced by the assessment Viewpoints which demonstrate that beyond approximately 0.75km to the west of Parcel 3, there would be no greater than a small or negligible scale of change on landscape character.

10.10.59. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley. There would be indirect construction effects arising from the construction, in neighbouring LCAs, of the Primary Construction Compounds, Main Collector Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.60. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large, albeit very localised, impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.61. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.62. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.63. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.64. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.65. The large/medium and small scale change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.66. The sensitivity of LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect

on existing landscape character extending to approximately 0.75km to the north west of Parcel 3, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands

10.10.67. The eastern extents of Parcel 2 (Fields D8-9 and D18-19) and majority of Parcel 3 (Fields E11 and E20-23), together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between them, lie within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands, as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 18 to 20 lie to the east of Parcel 2 whilst Viewpoints 22, 25 and 27 surround Parcel 3 but all fall within this LCA.

10.10.68. The low ground of the valley, including that of Parcel 3 is relatively flat and, together with a relatively intact hedgerow network, hedgerow trees and tree belts, tends to limit views to the environs of the Site to the north and wider landscape to the east and south. The extent of Parcel 2 within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands is also on relatively low lying land bordered by strong hedgerows which limit views to the wider landscapes to the east. The experience of the construction effects would therefore vary throughout LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands with relatively limited views from all but the immediate west of Parcel 3 and east of Parcel 2, with even the more elevated landscapes to the east and south largely screened by local topography and field boundary vegetation.

10.10.69. Any discernible large to medium-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands would be experienced to approximately 0.5km west of Parcel 3 and would quickly diminish to medium scale beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects from 0.75km. Medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2.

10.10.70. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site and associated with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor, the Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.71. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.72. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.73. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.74. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.75. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.76. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate (tending towards wide) extent of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.77. The sensitivity of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands has been assessed to be **medium/low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character extending to approximately 0.5km to the east and west of Parcels 2 and 3 respectively, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case, the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the magnitude of the effect (particularly the extent of the effect) is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect.

### LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands

10.10.78. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands extends from 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoints 28 and 32 fall within this LCA.

10.10.79. The gently elevated ridge of land which rises towards the western extents of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands would serve to restrict the extent of indirect effects during construction on landscape character to distances of between 1 to 2.5km from the Site.

10.10.80. Any discernible medium scale indirect effects on the landscape character of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands during construction would be experienced to at least 1km to the east of Parcel 3 and would quickly diminish to small scale beyond this, with no more than negligible scale effects from 2.5km.

10.10.81. The indirect effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site and the incremental installation of new Solar PV development into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Primary Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months. This activity would occur within neighbouring LCA and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands.

10.10.82. There would be intermittent periods of human activity and construction movements which would be experienced within a neighbouring landscape which would have very limited effect on LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands.

10.10.83. There would be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during construction and no impact on the character of the surrounding villages. The construction activity would not foreshorten any views across adjacent fields and no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected and the sense of openness would largely remain.

10.10.84. The medium to small scale change identified above would be experienced over a localised extent of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.85. The sensitivity of LCA 5.8 North Marston Undulating Claylands has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands

10.10.86. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands includes the whole of Parcel 1 and the northern fields of Parcel 2 together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between the two parcels. The wider LCT extends some 3km to the north of Parcel 1 and to the full extents of the study area to the west of Parcel 1 and to the south of Parcel 2.

10.10.87. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area.

10.10.88. A desk based investigation of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands, together with extensive site work, has established that two relevant characteristics listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** would be impacted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development as follows:

- Mixed land use predominantly grassland in most areas; and
- Generally strong hedgerow pattern.

10.10.89. Any large-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands would be experienced within Parcels 1 and 2. Medium-scale effects would be experienced to the immediate environs of Parcels 1 and 2 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3. Effects would diminish beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects beyond 1km to the north of Parcel 1 and west of Parcel 3.

10.10.90. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the Primary Construction Compounds, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compounds and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Primary Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.91. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.92. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.93. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.94. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and

trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.95. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise the majority of skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be unaffected. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.96. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.97. The sensitivity of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands is assessed as **medium/low**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl

10.10.98. The entirety of Parcel 1 and the majority of the northern section of Parcel 2 (Fields D3 (South), D4, D7, D10 to 13 and D17), together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between them, lie within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 1 to 7, 38 and 39 surround Parcel 1 whilst Viewpoints 18 to 20 lie to the east of Parcel 2 and Viewpoints 13, 21, 22 and 40 lie to the west of Parcel 3 within this LCA.

10.10.99. The landscape varies in openness due to its gently sloping landform and relatively large woodland cover, which, combined with the limited vertical height of the Proposed Development would result in the extent of construction effects on landscape character primarily being experienced to the north of Parcels 1 and 2 and to the west of Parcel 3 within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl.

10.10.100. Any discernible large and large/medium-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl would be experienced to the immediate environs of the Proposed Development and within approximately 0.5km to the western boundary of Parcel 3. Medium-scale effects would be experienced to the immediate environs of Parcel 1 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3. Effects would quickly diminish to medium beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects beyond 1km to the north of Parcel 1 and west of Parcel 3.

10.10.101. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the Primary Construction

Compounds, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compounds and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable to within the Primary Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.102. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.103. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.104. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.105. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.106. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise the majority of skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be unaffected. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.107. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate (tending towards wide) extent of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.108. The sensitivity of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the magnitude of the effect (particularly the extent of the effect) is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect. Any effects on

landscape character beyond this tract of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl would be **not significant**.

### LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges

10.10.109. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges encompasses the southern area of Parcel 2 to Finemere Hill and then extends in discrete parcels to the eastern and southern extents of the study area.

10.10.110. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area.

10.10.111. A desk based investigation of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges, together with extensive site work, has established that one relevant characteristic listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** would be impacted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development as follows;

- Dramatic views.

10.10.112. Any large-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges would be experienced to the area of Parcel 2 within which Solar PV modules would be located and would quickly diminish beyond this, albeit some large/medium-scale effects would be experienced up to 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2. Medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 over a very limited extent.

10.10.113. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable to within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.114. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.115. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated

typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.116. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.117. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.118. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be interrupted. The sense of openness would be reduced to within the flat ridge to Finemere Hill, but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset, and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.119. The large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.120. The sensitivity of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges is assessed as **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill

10.10.121. LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill extends to the southern section of Parcel 2 (Fields D14, D16, D28 and D29) together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor in D27 as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 11, 15 to 17 and 41 lie within and to the south east of this LCA.

10.10.122. LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value. The landscape varies in openness due to its gently sloping landform, flat ridge and large woodland cover, which, combined with the limited vertical height of the Proposed Development would result in a localised extent of effects on LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill. Any discernible large and medium-scale effects on landscape character during construction within LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill would generally diminish to small and negligible outside of Parcel 2, albeit

large-scale effects would continue as a result of Solar PV modules located in Fields D16 and D26 to the north of Runt's Wood.

10.10.123. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the Secondary Construction Compound, incremental installation of new Solar PV modules and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable to within the Secondary Construction Compound during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months.

10.10.124. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.125. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.126. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.127. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.128. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset.

10.10.129. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.130. The sensitivity of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case, the moderate effect has been assessed to be

significant as the magnitude of the effect (particularly the extent of the effect) and the locally designated nature of the LCA, is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tract of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill would be **not significant**.

### LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill

10.10.131. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill extends from 700m to the east of Parcel 2 and 1.8km to the south of Parcel 3. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoints 30 and 31 fall within this LCA.

10.10.132. LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value. The elevated ridge of land which rises to Quainton Hill, some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 and 2.5km to the south of Parcel 3 enables panoramic views in an arc to the north and west from LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill.

10.10.133. Up to medium-scale effects on landscape character would be experienced during construction between 2 and 2.5km from the most elevated landscapes in LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill. These effects would quickly diminish to small scale at lower levels.

10.10.134. The indirect effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the Primary Construction Compounds, the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS and Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months. This activity would occur within a neighbouring LCAs and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill.

10.10.135. There would be intermittent periods of human activity and construction movements experienced in the far distance and therefore there would be a limited impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.136. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.137. The construction activity would not foreshorten any views across adjacent fields and no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected and the sense of openness would largely remain.

10.10.138. The medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a localised extent of LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.139. The sensitivity of LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case, the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the effects would be experienced at distances of 2km or more and would influence a relatively small area of LCA 9.2. This is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating and in the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance to a not significant effect.

### LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

10.10.140. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge extends from over 3.6km to the south east of Parcels 2 and 3. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoint 33 falls within this LCA.

10.10.141. LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value. The elevated ridge of land which rises to Oving, at least 4.7km to the south east of Parcels 2 and 3 enables distant views in an arc to the north west and west. No greater than small-scale effects on landscape character would be experienced during construction from the most elevated landscapes in LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge. These effects would quickly diminish to negligible scale at lower levels.

10.10.142. The indirect effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials and vehicles around the Site associated with the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS and Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. Temporary lighting would primarily be noticeable within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months. This activity would occur within a neighbouring LCAs and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge.

10.10.143. There would be intermittent periods of human activity and construction movements experienced in the far distance that would not impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.144. The construction activity would not foreshorten any views across adjacent fields and no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be affected and the sense of openness would largely remain.

10.10.145. The small to negligible scale change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.146. The sensitivity of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge has been assessed to be **medium/low**. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape

10.10.147. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, Quainton-Wing Hills AAL encompasses the southern area of Parcel 2 to Finemere Hill and then extends eastwards to the full extents of the study area.

10.10.148. The relevant extracts and observations relating to Quainton-Wing Hills AAL is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** with key characteristics relevant to the study area are summarised as follows:

- "*Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points;*
- *Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and a coherent landscape character;*
- *Cultural features providing a sense of history;*
- *Public rights of way and road network which enable views of and appreciation of the landscape;*
- *The importance of the hills in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale; and*
- *Remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields*."

10.10.149. A desk based investigation of Quainton-Wing Hills AAL, together with extensive site work, has established that the criteria listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA**

**[EN010158/APP/6.4]** that could be impacted as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

- *"Distinctiveness*

  *Distinctive band of low, generally open limestone hills, ridges and plateau to the north of Aylesbury Vale*.

- *Perceptual character*

  *Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and sense of the dominance of landscape… Views to the Vale of Aylesbury to the south from vantage points and many of the villages perched on the ridge– e.g. Quainton Hill… with the landscape providing an attractive setting to villages*.

- *Landscape and scenic quality*

  *High scenic quality of the undulating hills and ridges from within the area and within views from outside the area*.

- *Natural character*

  *Ancient woodlands, with a particular concentration in the west of the area – many of which are also SSSI/LWS*.

- *Cultural character*

  *Strong sense of history – remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields*.

- *Function*

  *Good network of public rights of way including long distance trails – e.g. the Bernwood Jubilee Way, North Buckinghamshire Way, Outer Aulesbury Ring, Matthew's Way*.

10.10.150. Any large-scale effects on landscape character during construction within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL would be experienced to the area of Parcel 2 within which Solar PV modules would be located and would quickly diminish beyond this. Medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 over a very limited extent.

10.10.151. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the Site associated with the incremental installation of new Solar PV modules and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This would not affect the distinctive topography of the landscape which would remain unchanged but up to medium scale changes would occur to the '*spectacular panoramic views'* from vantage points on Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill.

10.10.152. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site, including temporary lighting which would primarily be noticeable to within the Construction Compounds during the hours of darkness and consequently more so during the winter months. Therefore, there would be a short period with a relatively large impact on the special quality of rural tranquillity experienced in the landscape, particularly to the small flat ridge to Finemere Hill.

10.10.153. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.10.154. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.155. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric, including the cultural character of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.156. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but the majority of skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be uninterrupted. The local sense of openness would be reduced to within the flat ridge to Finemere Hill but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape. All longer distance panoramic views from the edge of the ridge at Finemere Hill would remain uninterrupted. In addition, the sense of enclosure in views from other areas of the district would generally be maintained as a result of retained views to the distinctive low band of hills and ridges from other areas in the Aylesbury Vale.

10.10.157. The visual amenity of users of the network of PRoW and long distance trails is assessed in detail in **Paragraph 10.10.212** onwards below. In general, the construction would require very limited temporary closure of local footpaths to Finemere Hill, over an approximate 6-month period. Effects would vary from large at a very local level for users of the footpath network to the flat ridge on Finemere Hill, to at most medium for walkers on Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill. Effects beyond these areas would reduce markedly and would be negligible for the vast majority of the footpath network within the wider Quainton-Wing Hills AAL.

10.10.158. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL and would be medium term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.159. The sensitivity of the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL is assessed as **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Visual amenity

10.10.160. Effects during construction on visual receptors would typically arise from views of:

- temporary Construction Compounds (with associated temporary night time lighting) and access tracks;
- highways work and management;
- temporary closure of PRoW;
- the movement of vehicles and delivery of components to Site;
- the movement of plant and personnel within the Site installing the Proposed Development; and
- the incremental increase in the infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

10.10.161. The following section provides an assessment of visual receptors.

### Residential properties

10.10.162. An RVAA has been undertaken and the detailed findings are presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**. This focuses only on operation (including maintenance) phase effects. The RVAA is discussed further below in relation to the operation (including maintenance) phase. Where significant operation phase effects are identified in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]** it can be assumed that likely significant effects would also occur during construction. This assumption has been made because of the proximity of the residential properties to the Order Limits, where a significant operational effect has been identified, and to ensure a worst-case scenario. In reality, the short-term nature of any construction effects in close proximity to a single property would likely mean that identified effects would not be significant.

10.10.163. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, all residential properties are considered to be of **high** sensitivity to change in the view. The locations of

these residential properties is illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.13-10.26 [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]** identified that residents of the following properties only would experience **significant (adverse)** visual effects during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance). The Year 1 identified magnitude of effect for each property, as detailed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, is listed below.

- 4-5 Catherine Cottages (**moderate**);
- 6-7 Catherine Cottages (**major/moderate**);
- Bernwood Farm (**major/moderate**); and
- Sion Hill Farm (**major**).

10.10.164. All other residents of properties identified in the RVAA would experience less than significant effects at Year 1.

## Settlements

### *Botolph Claydon*

10.10.165. The assessment for Botolph Claydon includes a number of residential properties within Botolph Claydon, primarily to the east of Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road and users of the roads themselves and the adjacent footway/PRoW (including ECL/11/1, ECL/11/2, ECL/11/3, ECL/11/4), collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 13 is located opposite the private residential property, The Old School House, whilst Viewpoint 40 is located at the Mushroom Shelter/entrance to Ivy Nook private residential property. These views are taken through field entrances where there are gaps in the otherwise intact hedgerow. No other publicly accessible views of the Site were available, and they are therefore representative of the glimpsed views from within the settlement and along the road/footway.

10.10.166. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]** the predicted scale of visual change during construction, at Viewpoint 13, was assessed as medium. It was recorded that "*Construction/decommissioning activity would be visible in Fields E11 and E20-23 approximately 950m to the east. This activity would be clearly visible with limited filtering of views by field boundary vegetation along the fields western boundaries.*"

10.10.167. Construction activity, including temporary lighting would also be visible from the Bernwood Jubilee Way/Footpath ECL/8/1 (Viewpoint 9) located to the southern periphery of the village from where the predicted scale of visual change during construction was also assessed as medium. It was recorded that "*Construction/decommissioning activity would be visible in*

*the fields extending beneath the ridge approximately 170m to the south… Although visible in part, much of the construction activity in Parcel 2 would be screened by the intervening foreground landscape. Views of activity in Parcel 3, including Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds would be somewhat open but at distances of over 1.2km to the west. Construction traffic would be visible in the low-lying intervening landscape between Parcels 2 and 3 as would the laying of interconnecting cables*."

10.10.168. Construction activity would also be visible from Footpaths ECL/9/2 (Viewpoint 8) and ECL/11/1 (Viewpoint 40) located to the southern and northern peripheries of the village from where the predicted scale of visual change during construction was assessed as at most medium/small.

10.10.169. There would be a medium scale of change to visual amenity, over a localised extent of the receptor group, during construction. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.170. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

### *Granborough*

10.10.171. The assessment includes a number of residential properties within Granborough, primarily to the west of Sovereign Close, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 28 is located on Footpath GRA/10/1 and is representative of views from the western edge of the settlement and the footpath network on rising land approximately 1.2km to the east of the Proposed Development.

10.10.172. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during construction, at Viewpoint 28, was assessed as medium. It was recorded that "*Construction/decommissioning activity would be visible across Parcel 3. Views of the activity would be seen in the context of the National Grid East Claydon Substation and rows of pylons across the view and would result in notable but not prominent change to the view at this location*."

10.10.173. Other than to the west of Sovereign Close, construction activity including temporary lighting would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a small number of first floor windows of private dwellings. There would be a medium scale of change to visual amenity during construction. This would be experienced over a limited extent of the

receptor group and would be medium term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.174. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *North Marston*

10.10.175. The assessment includes a small number of residential properties within North Marston, the Outer Aylesbury Ring and the network of local PRoW and lanes that extend from approximately 2km to the east and south of Parcel 2 and 3 respectively, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 32 is located on Footpath NMA/1/1 and is representative of views from the Outer Aylesbury Ring, Brook Farm and Quainton Road to the western edge of the settlement, approximately 2.3km to the south east of the Proposed Development.

10.10.176. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during construction, at Viewpoint 32, was assessed as small. It was recorded that "*Construction/decommissioning activity would be visible to the upper levels of Parcel 2 in fields approximately 2.3km distant. Distant activity in Parcel 3 would be partially screened by intervening field boundary vegetation. Views of the activity would be seen in the context of an agrarian landscape with existing energy infrastructure*."

10.10.177. Views of construction activity including lighting from North Marston would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a very small number of first floor windows of private dwellings, with ground floor views predominantly screened by layered roadside and field boundary vegetation. Views from Quainton Road and Granborough Road would generally be limited to breaks in the roadside hedgerows at field entrances, with more open views limited to the network of footpaths on north and west facing slopes within the undulating farmland.

10.10.178. There would be a small scale of change, over a limited extent of the receptor group, to visual amenity during construction. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.179. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Oving*

10.10.180. The assessment includes residential properties within Oving, the Outer Aylesbury Ring and the network of local PRoW and lanes that extend from over 4km to the east and south of Parcel 2 and 3 respectively, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 33 is located on Footpath OVI/20/1 and is representative of views from the western edge of the settlement and the local footpath network.

10.10.181. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during construction, at Viewpoint 33, was assessed as small, with distant views seen in the context of an agrarian landscape with existing energy infrastructure.

10.10.182. Views of construction activity including lighting from Oving would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a very small number of first floor windows of private dwellings, with ground floor views generally screened by layered roadside and field boundary vegetation. Views from Pitchcott Road and Marston Hill would generally be limited by roadside hedgerows, with more open views limited to the network of footpaths on north and west facing slopes within undulating farmland.

10.10.183. There would be a small scale of change to visual amenity, over a limited extent of the receptor group, during construction. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.184. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Steeple Claydon*

10.10.185. The assessment includes a number of residential properties within Steeple Claydon, primarily to the south of Vicarage Lane/Queen Catherine Road and users of the local footpath network that extends southwards from the village, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 38 is located on the permissive footpath to the rear of properties on Vicarage Lane.

10.10.186. From this location there are views toward Knowl Hill and rising land to the south across the lower lying agricultural fields. Linear tree belts adjacent to the under construction East West Rail filter views of Knowl Hill in the middle distance. The development of large scale rail infrastructure is readily apparent in middle distance views. Woodland around Knowl Hill creates a wooded backdrop in longer distance views to the south.

10.10.187. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during construction, at Viewpoint 38, was assessed as small. It was recorded that "*Construction/decommissioning of the Proposed Development would take place in distant views some 1.8km from the viewer. Activity would be partially visible in the lower lying fields to the south of Calvert Road above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation, but more noticeable to B11 rising to the summit of Knowl Hill*."

10.10.188. Construction activity would also be visible from Footpath SCL/9/1 (Viewpoint 7) located to the southern periphery of the village just beneath the allotments. The predicted scale of visual change during construction was also assessed as small.

10.10.189. Views of construction activity from Steeple Claydon would primarily be limited to first floor windows of private dwellings to the southern extents of the village and the footpath network on rising land some 1.5km to the north of the Proposed Development.

10.10.190. There would be a small scale of change to visual amenity over a localised extent of the receptor group, during construction. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.191. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of main roads

### *Orchard Way/Calvert Road*

10.10.192. Viewpoints 1 and 2 are located on Orchard Way/Calvert Road which passes broadly east to west through the centre of the study area from Calvert to Botolph Claydon. Mature hedgerows run along both sides of this road and from the vast majority of it there would be no view at all of any construction activity associated with the Proposed Development.

10.10.193. During construction there would be fleeting glimpses of the construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV modules in Parcel 1 and of the Interconnecting Cable Corridor where there are occasional gaps in the hedgerow. However, the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the road.

10.10.194. There would be a medium scale of change over a very limited section of the road for a medium term duration and this would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.195. The sensitivity of this receptor has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on views from Orchard Way/Calvert Road which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Quainton Road/Claydon Road*

10.10.196. Viewpoint 18 is located on Quainton Road/Claydon Road which runs broadly north to south through the centre of the study area from Botolph Claydon to the junction with Lee Road. Views towards the Site are often screened by intervening roadside hedgerows; however, there are views above and between hedgerows, where the road runs to the eastern boundary of Parcel 2.

10.10.197. There would be a large scale of change in view along the section of road that adjoins Fields D7, D8, D44 and D45 as a result of the vegetation removal works to create Site access to Parcel 2. There would be views of the Primary Construction Compounds including temporary lighting in Fields D7 to D9 together with construction activity associated with Solar PV modules to rising land in Parcel 2 and the BESS (Fields D8 and D9) and increased traffic movement on the road.

10.10.198. During construction there would be a large to medium scale of change in the view along a localised extent of the route as described (a distance of approximately 0.4km). Beyond these sections of the road there would be a small or negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experienced over a medium term duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.199. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from Quainton Road/Claydon Road, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect (particularly the extent of the road affected) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

### *Winslow Road/East Claydon Road*

10.10.200. Viewpoint 24 is located on Winslow Road/East Claydon Road which runs broadly east to west from Winslow Road to East Claydon. Views towards the Site are generally screened by intervening roadside hedgerows which run along both sides of this road and from the majority of it there would be no view at all of any construction activity associated with the Proposed Development.

10.10.201. During construction there would be fleeting glimpses of the construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV modules in Field E10 and of the Rosefield Substation in Fields E11 and E20 where there are occasional gaps in the hedgerow, but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the road.

10.10.202. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a limited section of the road for a medium term duration and this would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.203. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views from Winslow Road/Claydon Road which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Queen Catherine Road*

10.10.204. Queen Catherine Road runs broadly east to west between Steeple Claydon and the junction with Sandhill Road; the Road has been partially realigned (not shown on the OS mapping) and now bridges the East West Rail line some 1.3km to the north of Parcel 1.

10.10.205. Views of construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV modules would be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this new section of road. Views would be somewhat more available from the higher elevations of the road close to Steeple Claydon but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed in a vehicle along the road.

10.10.206. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a localised section of the road for a medium term duration and this would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.207. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium** for this road. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views from Queen Catherine Road which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of main transport routes

### *East West Rail*

10.10.208. East West Rail runs broadly east to west through the study area at distances of at least 0.9km to the north of Parcel 1. The railway runs largely at grade and views towards the Site are predominantly screened by intervening vegetation.

10.10.209. Views of construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV modules would likewise be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this new route. Views would be somewhat more available to the higher elevations of Knowl Hill (Field B11), but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the route. Overall, the scale of change is considered to be small/negligible over a very limited extent.

10.10.210. There would be a small/negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route for a medium term duration and this would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.211. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views from East West Rail which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of recreational routes

### *National Cycle Route No. 51*

10.10.212. NCN 51 is a long-distance cycling route that connects several cities in southern England totalling almost 305km in length. It runs broadly east to west in the study area, from Winslow to Poundon via Steeple Claydon. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 10.9a-d: ZTV of Solar PV Modules – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** indicate that there would be a very limited extent of the route with potential views of the Site.

10.10.213. Views of construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV modules would be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this new section of road. Views would be somewhat more available from the higher elevations of the route to the east of Steeple Claydon, on Queen Catherine Road, but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle to travel for cyclists.

10.10.214. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route for a medium term duration and this would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.215. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high** for NCN 51 along this section of the road. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on views from NCN 51 which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way*

10.10.216. Viewpoints 21, 22 and 27 lie on these long distance trails which pass through the study area from Great Horwood in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trail passes immediately within the northern edge of Field E23 to Parcel 3. The Primary Construction Compound would be located in Field E23 and there would be open views of construction activity including temporary lighting for the duration of the construction phase to the south of the trail to within this field. The removal of a section of tall hedgerow for vehicle access to the boundary of Field E23 would also enable views of the Primary Construction Compound within Fields E21 and E22 for the duration of the construction phase.

10.10.217. Further hedgerows would be removed for vehicle access to the boundary of Field SA45 and SA46 as the trail crosses Hogshaw Road which would enable open views of vehicle movements and construction works along the route of the Interconnecting Cable Corridor.

10.10.218. Further to the south, views would be limited to more distant intermittent views of construction activity on the elevated sections of the trail to Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill.

10.10.219. There would be a large scale of change in views over a limited section of the trail to within Parcel 3 and a large/medium scale of change extending towards East Claydon further to the north. Views from Quainton and Conduit Hill to the south would generally be medium in scale over a limited extent of the trail. There would be localised views of the construction activity between these sections of the trail and none beyond them. In total there would be views of construction along an approximate 2km length of these trails; the North Buckinghamshire Way is 55km in length and Midshires Way 362km. These large to medium-scale effects would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.220. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the trail (particularly the value associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

### *Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring*

10.10.221. The Swan's Way and Outer Aylesbury Ring run broadly north to south through the study area within the ZTV. Views towards the Site are

predominantly experienced as somewhat distant open views to Parcels 2 and 3 from the elevated land of Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill.

10.10.222. Viewpoints 29 to 32 lie on these long distance trails which pass to 2km to the south east of the Site from North Marston in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trails separate at North Marston from where they both lie almost entirely outside of the ZTV. Views of construction activity would largely be limited to the more elevated sections of the trails on Quainton Hill and Conduit Hill and approaching Brook Farm to the western edge of North Marston.

10.10.223. There would be a medium scale of change in panoramic views of construction activity to Parcels 2 and 3 from a localised section of the trail on Conduit Hill; however, most effects from elevated distant views would be no more than medium/small reducing to small beyond 2.5km. In total there would be views of construction along an approximate 1km length of the 85km Swan's Way which is the shorter of the two long distance trails. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.224. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from the Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Bernwood Jubilee Way*

10.10.225. Viewpoints 9 to 11 and 17 lie on the Bernwood Jubilee Way which passes through Parcel 2 of the Site from Buckingham in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trail passes immediately within Field D5 to the southern edge of Botolph Claydon, continuing south to within the Site to Runt's Wood. There would be open views of construction activity in Fields D3 (South), D4 and D11 to D15 as well as views of the Primary Construction Compound including temporary lighting located in Fields D7 to D9 for the duration of the construction phase. More distant views of construction activity in Parcel 3 to the north west would also be appreciated from this section of the trail. Further to the south, there would be filtered views of construction activity in Field D29. These views would diminish rapidly as the trail descends from Finemere Hill towards Claydon Road to the south.

10.10.226. Viewpoints 13 and 40 lie on the trail further to the north, between Botolph Claydon and East Claydon from where there would be glimpsed views of construction activity in Parcel 3 from field openings on the elevated sections of the trail adjoining Saint Mary's Road.

10.10.227. There would be a large scale of change in views over a localised section of the trail to within Parcel 2 and a medium scale of change

extending towards East Claydon further to the north. There would be very limited views of the construction activity other than from these sections of the trail. In total there would be views of construction along an approximate 1.5km length of this 98km trail. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.228. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from the Bernwood Jubilee Way, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

### *PRoW between Calvert Road and HS2*

10.10.229. Viewpoints 4 and 42 lie on PRoW SCL/12/1 and SCL/13/2 respectively, and, together with PRoW SCL/12/2, SCL/13/1 and the access track to Pond Farm, form the receptor group between Calvert Road and HS2. Except for the section of footpath (SCL/13/2) between Parcel 1 (Field B7) and HS2, all other trails would be either temporarily closed for up to six months during construction work or diverted for the operational life of the Proposed Development, as described in the **Outline CEMP [EN010158/APP/7.2]**.

10.10.230. The proposed footpath diversion for PRoW SCL/12/2, SCL/13/1 and SCL/13/2 would follow the alignment north to south as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]** and would lie to the south of Calvert Road within Field B5 before extending southwards within Fields B5, B4, B6 and B7 and proceeding towards HS2.

10.10.231. During construction users of the diversion would experience small-scale change in views whilst in Field B5 due to the screening and filtering of views by existing hedgerows and tree belts. There would be a large/medium scale of change in views from the diverted footpath to the eastern boundary of field B4 adjacent to Pond farm where there would be open views of construction activity. Large/medium-scale effects would continue south along this route, including views of the Secondary Construction Compound in Fields B6 and B7. Effects would quickly reduce to small once to the south of Field B7.

10.10.232. The large/medium to small change in scale during construction would be experienced over a wide extent and a medium term duration and would result in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.233. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from this diverted PRoW, which is considered to be **significant**.

*Three Points Lane and the PRoW extending to HS2*

10.10.234. Three Points Lane extends from Calvert Road to Knowlhill Farm and provides access to the PRoW that extend from its southern end towards HS2 and then to the PRoW network beyond HS2 to the south. It has been grouped with Footpaths MCL//17/1, MCL//18/1, MCL//18/2, MCL//20/1, MCL//20/2, MCL//30/1, GUN/28/1, GUN/30/1 and GUN/33/1 to the south east of Parcel 1 and within Parcel 1a, as it has no other amenity usage other than providing a link to these footpaths.

10.10.235. With the exception of Three Points Lane and Bridleway MCL/17/1 there would be no or very limited views of the Proposed Development, including from the bridge to HS2. Viewpoint 3 is located to the west of Romer Wood on Bridleway MCL/17/1.

10.10.236. There would be partial views of construction activity including temporary lighting for much of the length of Three Points Lane, with views immediately west of the lane to the adjoining Site Fields B23 (north and South) and B20 partially filtered by hedgerows and trees. The removal of a section of hedgerow to Fields B23 (south) and B20 would enable limited open views of the works including the Primary Construction Compound, construction of the Satellite Collector Compound to B23 (South) and to the Interconnecting Cable Corridor to Field SA12 to the east. These large scale views would be limited in extent and would reduce to medium to the southern end of the lane and small to the Bridleway MCL/17/1 as construction works become more offset from the lane and partially screened by farm sheds and outbuildings. Views would largely cease as this bridleway enters Romer Wood further to the east of the bridleway.

10.10.237. During construction, there would be a limited large scale change in views and intermediate medium scale of change in views along Three Points Lane which would reduce to small and negligible to the PRoW network to the south east.

10.10.238. The change during construction would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity for users of Three Points Lane and the PRoW network to the south east.

10.10.239. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from Three Points Lane, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to

be not significant as the limited extent of large scale change, in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

*PRoW between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)*

10.10.240. Viewpoint 14 lies on PRoW ECL/9/1 which forms part of the group of PRoW (including MCL//15/1 and MCL//16/1) which extends between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway). These PRoW would require temporary closure for up to six months as they fall within the Interconnecting Cable Corridor to Fields SA13, SA16, SA17 and SA26.

10.10.241. Once reopened, views would be limited to construction activity in Fields D3 and D12 to the western edge of Parcel 2 above intervening topography and vegetation from PRoW ECL/9/1. During construction, there would be a small scale of change in views along a localised extent of this footpath. The change during construction would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.242. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor adverse** effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*PRoW between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood*

10.10.243. Viewpoints 9 to 12 and 19 lie within this receptor group which includes PRoWs ECL/7/1, ECL/7/2, ECL/8/1, ECL/9/2, ECL/10/1, ECL/10/2 to ECL/10/5 which pass through Parcel 2 between Botolph Claydon in the North and Runt's Wood in the south. There would be open views of construction activity along a wide extent of the footpath network extending south from Botolph Claydon to within Parcel 2.

10.10.244. Bridleway ECL/10/1, also known as Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway), extends southwards from an unmade car park which is accessed from Orchard Way to the west of Botolph Claydon. Travelling south from the car park, field boundary vegetation would largely screen and filter views of construction activity from the Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) and from Footpath ECL/9/2 which extends from the western edge of Botolph Claydon as evidenced by Viewpoint 8. Views would increase substantially as the bridleway adjoins the western boundaries of Fields D3 (South), D12 to D14 and D16 from where there would be open views of construction activity, evidenced by Viewpoint 12. The removal of a small section of hedgerow would also provide glimpses of the Interconnecting Cable Corridor in Field SA33. The bridleway currently ends abruptly to the south of Field D16; however, it is connected

to the PRoW network to Finemere Hill by Footpath ECL/8/2, from where there would be open views of the Secondary Construction Compound including temporary lighting within Field D27.

10.10.245. Views of construction activity would be equally open from the length of Footpath ECL/8/1 which extends along field margins from Botolph Claydon to Runt's Wood through open fields of the Site as evidenced by Viewpoints 10 and 11. Views would primarily be to construction activity in Parcel 2 but would also extend to Parcel 3, including activity to the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between the parcels.

10.10.246. Footpath ECL/7/2 extends south from Botolph Claydon to Hogshaw Farm passing within Fields D4, D9, D10, and D19 along its length. This section of footpath would be closed for up to six months duration of construction activity after which footpath users would have open views of construction activity in neighbouring fields as evidenced by Viewpoint 19.

10.10.247. There would be a large scale of change in views over a wide extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.248. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**.

### *PRoW to Finemere Hill*

10.10.249. Viewpoints 15 and 41 lie on PRoW QUA/38/1 and the permissive footpath to the south of Runt's Wood respectively. Other PRoW which extend from Runt's Wood to within the small flat ridge of land to Finemere Hill are ECL/8/2, QUA/40/3, QUA41/1, QUA/42/2 and MCL/22/1. Viewpoints 15 and 41 are located in and around Fields D28 and D29 from where there would be open views of construction activity.

10.10.250. Footpaths QUA/38/1, a section of Bridleway QUA/40/3 and the permissive footpath to the south of Runt's Wood would experience open views of construction activity in Field D28 and D29 as evidenced by Viewpoints 15 and 41. The bridleway is part of a wider route that links Claydon Road in the east to Three Points Lane (QUA/42/2) which adjoins the western boundary of Parcel 2. Bridleway QUA/42/2 would experience variable levels of construction activity, largely screened from views to the east of Parcel 2, but with views above hedgerows for much of its length to the southern boundary of Parcel 2. Views would then reduce substantially again to the wider PRoW network to the south and west of Parcel 2, screened by intervening topography and vegetation.

10.10.251. Views of construction activity from the footpath network to the west of Parcel 2 (Field D29) are largely screened and filtered by the intervening hedgerow boundaries and spur of woodland that extends from Runt's Wood to the north. A further footpath (QUA/41/1) which traverses Field D28 would be closed for the duration of construction activity.

10.10.252. There would be a large scale of change in views over a wide extent of the footpath network to the small flat ridge on Finemere Hill. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.253. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**.

*PRoW between Finemere Hill and HS2/Claydon Road*

10.10.254. Viewpoints 16 and 17 on PRoW GUN/34/1 and QUA/38/2 respectively are part of a wider network of PRoW (including MCL/2/1, QUA/34/1, QUA/35/1 QUA/36/2, QUA/36/3, QUA/39/1, QUA/40/1, QUA/40/3, QUA/42/1 and QUA/40/4) which extend to the south and south west of Parcel 2. These effects are therefore assessed over the PRoW network to the south of the ridge on land descending towards HS2 and Claydon Road.

10.10.255. Views of construction activity from the footpath network to the south west of Parcel 2 are largely screened and filtered by the intervening hedgerow boundaries and woodland. Viewpoint 16 from Bridleway GUN/34/1 is typical of the short lived views to the west and south west of Parcel 2.

10.10.256. Views of construction activity from the footpath network to the south of the ridge (including MCL/2/1, QUA/34/1, QUA/35/1 QUA/36/2, QUA/36/3, QUA/39/1, QUA/38/2, QUA/40/4) would rapidly diminish as demonstrated by Viewpoint 17.

10.10.257. Effects to the south and south west of the ridge would result in a small/negligible scale of change in views over a limited extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.258. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon/East Claydon Road and Parcel 3*

10.10.259. Viewpoints 20 to 25 lie on the PRoW (including ECL/3/1, ECL/3A/1, ECL/3/2, ECL/4/1, ECL/4/2, ECL/5/1, ECL/6/1), lanes and roads which extend east/west through Parcel 3 between East Claydon and Granborough. There would be a varied experience of construction activity along an intermediate extent of this footpath network.

10.10.260. Bridleway ECL/5/1 and Footpath ECL/4/1 which would have some open views of construction activity as they descend from East Claydon towards Parcel 3. This would include views of the Primary Construction Compound within Fields E21 to 23 and the Secondary Construction Compounds within Fields E10, E11 and E20. Views of construction activity including temporary lighting would be greatest to within Field E10 (ECL/4/2) and Field E23 (ECL/5/1).

10.10.261. Large/medium-scale effects would be experienced from land rising to the valley sides to the west of Parcel 3, as evidenced by Viewpoint 21 (Bridleway ECL/5/1) and Viewpoint 23 (Footpath ECL/4/1).

10.10.262. There would be a large/medium scale of change in views over a wide extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.263. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from this footpath network, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

### *PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon Road/Parcel 3 and Granborough/Hogshaw Road*

10.10.264. Viewpoints 26 to 28 lie on the PRoW (including HOG/6/1, GRA1/1, GRA/1/2, GRA/2/1, GRA/2/2, GRA/3/1, GRA/3/2, GRA/4/1, GRA/10/1, GRA/11/1, WIS/1/2), lanes and roads which extend to the east of Parcel 3 between East Claydon and Granborough. There would be a varied experience of construction activity along an intermediate extent of this footpath network.

10.10.265. Views of construction activity would be at least partially screened by intervening layers of field boundary vegetation from footpaths to the east of Parcel 3 until the land rises to the western edge of Granborough. Views of construction activity, including temporary lighting, would be clearly visible from PRoW GRA/3/1 and GRA/10/1 to the western edge of

Granborough, as evidenced by Viewpoint 28, albeit at a distance of approximately 1.2km and would be medium in scale.

10.10.266. Views of construction activity would generally reduce to PRoW (including HOG/6/1, GRA1/1, GRA/1/2, GRA/2/1, GRA/2/2) to the lower lying land to the south and east of Parcel 3 due to screening by the existing mature hedgerows as evidenced by Viewpoints 20, 26 and 27 and would range from medium to small in scale.

10.10.267. Views of construction activity would likely be screened altogether from footpaths to the north of Parcel 3 and to the northern and southern edges of Granborough (including GRA/3/2, GRA/4/1, GRA/11/1, WIS/1/2) due to a combination of intervening field boundary vegetation and or topography.

10.10.268. There would be a medium to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.269. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from this footpath network, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*PRoW between Steeple Claydon/Queen Catherine Road and Calvert Road*

10.10.270. Viewpoints 6, 7 and 38 lie on the footpaths and roads (including SCL/7/1, SCL/7/2, SCL/8/1, SCL/8/2, SCL/8/3, SCL/8/4, SCL/9/1, SCL/9/3, MCL/10/1, MCL/10/2, Addison Road) which extend to the south of Steeple Claydon towards Parcel 1. There would be a varied experience of construction activity along an intermediate extent for users of this footpath network which is currently not fully accessible due to construction works associated with East West Rail.

10.10.271. Somewhat distant views of construction activity would be experienced from PRoW (SCL/7/1, SCL/8/4 and SCL/9/1) and the permissive footpath to the southern edge of Steeple Claydon some 1.6km to the north of Parcel 1 as evidenced by Viewpoints 7 and 38. Activity would be partially visible in the lower lying fields above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation, but more noticeable to Field B11 which would result in a small change to the views. Views would become reduced and increasingly screened as walkers descend on these footpaths towards the line of East West Rail.

10.10.272. Views of construction activity would increase to the PRoW (SCL/7/2), SCL/8/1 and SCL/9/3) between East West Rail and Calvert Road in the middle distance. Activity would be partially visible in the lower lying fields above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation, but more

noticeable to Field B11 as evidenced by Viewpoint 6. Views of construction activity would then generally be screened by intervening layers of field boundary vegetation to footpaths approaching the north of Calvert Road.

10.10.273. Viewpoint 39 lies on Addison Road which connects Steeple Claydon to Calvert Road. The Viewpoint is taken from the East West Rail overbridge which is somewhat elevated above the wider extents of the road. Even from this somewhat elevated location, views from the footway would be limited to oblique, distant glimpses primarily to Field B11 and effects would be small/negligible in scale.

10.10.274. An unnamed road links Queen Catherine Road to Calvert Road to the western edge of Claydon Park. With the exception of the junction with Calvert Road, no views of construction activity would be possible from this route due to the intervening layered field boundary vegetation which would block all views.

10.10.275. There would be a medium/small to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.276. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from this footpath network, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Users of other recreational receptors

#### *Claydon House*

10.10.277. Viewpoint 5 lies on the Bridleway MCL/10/2, adjacent to the ha-ha to the west of the southern lawn of Claydon House. There would be a varied experience of construction activity from the public footpath and parkland to a localised extent as illustrated by the ZTV for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.9b: Solar PV Modules Parcel 1 – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

10.10.278. Construction activity would be viewed to Parcel 1 from the immediate west of the property and from the Bridleway MCL/10/2 which runs north to south from Queen Catherine Road to Calvert Road. Views would be more noticeable from the southern half of the bridleway, whilst views from the parkland are almost completely screened by topography and mature tree belts. Views of construction activity would be limited to rising land within Fields B11, B16 and B18 to B21 at distances of greater than 1km, with potential views of the Primary Construction Compound including temporary lighting in Field B20. This activity would be partially visible

above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation and would be more noticeable in winter months as evidenced by Viewpoint 5.

10.10.279. During construction, there would be a medium/small to small scale of change along an intermediate section of the bridleway, PRoW MCL/10/2, but across only a limited extent of the wider parkland and therefore considered localised as a whole. This would be experienced over a medium term duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.280. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park*

10.10.281. The Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park attraction is accessed from Claydon Road and traversed by PRoW HOG/7/1 in a broadly north to south direction, from Claydon Road in the south to Botolph Claydon in the north. The ZTV presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.9b: Solar PV Modules Parcel 1 – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** illustrates a potential widespread experience of construction activity; however, from site study the actual experience would be more varied to within the attraction. Viewpoint 43 illustrates typical views from within the visitor attraction.

10.10.282. Views of construction activity would be predominantly screened and filtered to the lower lying fields to the western boundary of the attraction, with more open views to the elevated ridge of land to the north west, primarily consisting of Fields D11, D14 and D15 as evidenced by Viewpoint 43. Views of construction activity to the north, in Fields D7 to D9, would largely be screened by intervening built form and vegetation to the northern edge of the attraction, albeit views from the car parks would potentially be more open. Construction activity to within Field D4 would also be increasingly visible to the more north western extents of the attraction as would potential views of activity to the Primary Construction Compounds in Fields D7 to D9.

10.10.283. During construction, there would be a large/medium to medium scale of change across an intermediate extent of the wider visitor attraction. This would be experienced over a medium term duration resulting in a **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.284. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from this receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be

significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

## Operation (including maintenance)

10.10.285. Operation (including maintenance) effects are assessed at two distinct points in time; at the completion of construction (Year 1) and also at a point in time when it is assumed that most of the new mitigation planting including hedgerows will have become established (Year 10). For the avoidance of doubt the Year 1 effects are considered to be medium term effects whilst the Year 10 effects are considered to be long term.

### Landscape fabric

10.10.286. Once operational, there would be no additional effects on existing landscape fabric over and above those described in relation to the construction phase. However, the effects on landscape fabric which occur during construction would remain throughout the early years of operation (including maintenance). The extent of hedgerow removal is outlined above in relation to the construction phase, with up to a maximum of 1,816 linear metres to be removed.

10.10.287. The sensitivity of the existing hedgerows in the landscape has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Initially, in Year 1, there would be small-scale change over a wide area and for a medium duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.288. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect, which is not significant.

10.10.289. By Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), the new mitigation planting implemented would have become established and far exceed the amount of hedgerow loss during construction. The new vegetation would make a positive contribution to the landscape fabric. The total minimum length of new hedgerow would be 4,336 linear meters and the total area of structural woodland planting within the Order Limits as a whole would be minimum of 8.78ha.

10.10.290. By Year 10, there would be small-scale change over a wide area and for a long duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.291. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate beneficial** effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **significant**.

## Landscape character

10.10.292. Effects during operation (including maintenance) on landscape character would typically arise from:

- introduction of new energy infrastructure into existing agricultural fields including the Solar PV modules, the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, internal access tracks, fencing, security measures and ancillary structures;
- earthworks in the vicinity of the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and BESS;
- incremental growth of newly established mitigation planting (hedgerows and structural woodland);
- establishment of new wildflower rich grassland in open fields and field margins;
- introduction of a network of permissive footpaths around the Site, connecting with the existing PRoW, and increasing access to, and recreation within, the study area; and
- regular maintenance visits and operations including habitat management.

10.10.293. During operation (including maintenance), no part of the Proposed Development would be continuously lit with the exception of limited lighting to emergency exits to take in to account health and safety requirements as outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010158/APP/6.1]**. No permanent effects on nighttime character are therefore anticipated.

10.10.294. Based on the Viewpoint analysis summarised in **Table 10.12**, the following observations can be made regarding the scale of landscape change across the study area during operation (including maintenance):

- Large scale change in landscape character would occur across all fields in which above ground infrastructure is being proposed. This is an unavoidable consequence of the Proposed Development as fields would fundamentally change from agricultural use to a ground mounted Solar PV modules, BESS, Collector Compound or the Rosefield Substation (notwithstanding the fact that there would be wildflower rich grassland beneath the Solar PV modules).
- Large, medium and small-scale change in landscape character would also be experienced in various directions surrounding the fields in which above ground infrastructure is proposed. With distance from the

Proposed Development, the scale of change in landscape character would incrementally decrease and in certain directions the screening effect of established vegetation would reduce the distance over which effects would be experienced. For example, in Parcel 1, existing woodland along the southern and western boundaries of the Site and to the east of Three Points Lane notably reduces the distance over which changes to the landscape character of the Site would be experienced within the surrounding landscapes.

- In the vicinity of Parcel 2, large/medium scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.5km to the east. In the vicinity of Parcel 3, large/medium scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.5km to the west. Elsewhere up to large/medium scale change would be experienced from the elevated landscapes up to approximately 2km to the east as a result of the combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3.
- Medium scale of change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 0.75km east of Parcel 2 and to a maximum of 1.2km to the east and west of Parcel 3.
- In the vicinity of Parcel 1, small scale change in landscape character would extend to a maximum of 1.8km to the north as a result of the Proposed Development. In the vicinity of Parcel 2 and 3, small-scale change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 1.5km from any above ground infrastructure with the exception of the combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3 to approximately 2.5km to the east and south east. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be at most small/negligible.
- Once mitigation planting has established and existing hedgerows are managed to a height of 3.5m (Year 10), the extent of effects on landscape character would reduce further in the landscape surrounding the Site, although large scale change in landscape character would inevitably remain across all fields in which above ground infrastructure itself is proposed.
- By Year 10, large scale change in landscape character would remain up to approximately 0.5km west of Parcel 3 where the Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound would be located. Large/medium change in landscape character would occur no further than 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2 (Fields D8, D9 in the vicinity of the BESS and D18 and D19). Elsewhere, large scale change in landscape character would occur no further than 100m from above ground infrastructure in any parcel.
- By Year 10, medium scale change in landscape character would remain up to 0.75km east of Parcel 2, albeit over a smaller total area, and to a maximum of 1.2km to the east and west of Parcel 3.
- By Year 10, small-scale change in landscape character would not extend beyond 1.8km north of Parcel 1. In the vicinity of Parcels 2 and 3

small-scale change in landscape character would remain up to 1.5km from the Site, albeit over a smaller total area. Up to medium scale effects would remain from more elevated landscapes to the east and south east, at distances of up to 2km, as a result of the combined effects of Parcels 2 and 3. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be at most small/negligible.

### NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales

10.10.295. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.3: National Character Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales includes the entirety of Parcels 1-3 and excludes just a short section of the road access to the neighbouring NCA 109: Midvale Ridge.

10.10.296. A desk-based investigation of NCA108: Upper Thames Clay Vales, together with extensive site work, has established that none of the identified key characteristics as listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010157/APP/6.4]** would be impacted in any way by the Proposed Development with the exception of the non-permanent (i.e. 40 year) loss of a small area of agricultural land.

10.10.297. In addition, extensive site work has established that the Proposed Development is well contained within the NCA with small to negligible scale effects at distances greater than 1.5km from the Order Limits. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), large and medium scale change would be experienced over an extremely limited extent of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales.

10.10.298. New woodland and hedgerow planting is proposed to within the NCA as part of the Proposed Development. Once established (Year 10), this new planting (together with the management of existing hedgerows) would add to the landscape structure in NCA 108 and would somewhat restrict the extent of effects on landscape character.

10.10.299. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some screening and softening of views, the large/medium scale change identified above would largely remain over an extremely limited extent of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.300. The sensitivity of NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales is assessed as **medium/low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

## NCA 109: Midvale Ridge

10.10.301. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.3: National Character Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** NCA 109: Midvale Ridge includes just a short section of the road access extending to the very north western edge of the NCA.

10.10.302. A desk-based investigation of NCA 109: Midvale Ridge, together with extensive site work, has established that none of the identified key characteristics as listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010157/APP/6.4]** would be impacted in any way by the Proposed Development.

10.10.303. In addition, extensive site work has established that the Proposed Development is well contained within the NCA with small to negligible scale effects at distances greater than 2.5km from the Order Limits. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), medium to small-scale change would be experienced over an extremely limited extent of NCA 109: Midvale Ridge.

10.10.304. The establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10) to the neighbouring NCA 108, would add somewhat to the softening of views; however, the medium scale change identified above would largely remain over an extremely limited extent NCA 109: Midvale Ridge and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.305. The sensitivity of NCA 109: Midvale Ridge is assessed as **low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

## LCT 5: Shallow Valleys

10.10.306. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCT 5: Shallow Valleys includes the eastern fields of Parcel 2 and the whole of Parcel 3 together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between the two parcels. The wider LCT extends in an arc from the north west boundary of Parcel 1 and to the east and south of Parcels 2 and 3.

10.10.307. Viewpoints 18-20, 22-29 and 32 are all located within this LCT.

10.10.308. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 5: Shallow Valleys are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area. The key characteristics are its mixed land use with predominance of pasture; its strong hedgerow pattern; and its remoteness and tranquillity away from roads.

10.10.309. Any large-scale effects on landscape character in Year 1 of operation within LCT 5: Shallow Valleys would be experienced within the Order Limits. Effects would then diminish markedly outside of the immediate environs of Parcels 2 and 3 within the flatter vale landscapes to the east of the Site. Intermediate, generally medium-scale effects would be experienced to the valley sides to the east and west of Parcel 3 up to a distance of 1.2km with no more than small scale effects beyond this.

10.10.310. Viewpoint 19 (Footpath ECL/7/2), Viewpoint 20 (Claydon Road) and Viewpoint 25 (Footpath ECL/4/2), demonstrate the larger scale of effects that would be experienced in the immediate environs of the Proposed Development. These effects then diminish markedly to south and east of the Site within the flatter vale landscapes as evidenced by Viewpoint 20 (Granborough Road), Viewpoint 26 (Footpath GRA/2/1) and Viewpoint 27 (Hogshaw Road). Viewpoints 21-22 (Footpath ECL/5/1), Viewpoint 23 (Footpath ECL/4/1) and Viewpoint 28 (Footpath GRA/10/1) represent views from the valley sides and have all been assessed as either a large/medium or medium scale change on landscape character in Year 1. The furthest any of these Viewpoints would be from installed Solar PV modules would be 1.2km.

10.10.311. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. The Solar PV modules would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.10.312. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists at present but this tract of landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality, there would therefore be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong existing built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation.

10.10.313. It is recognised that the BESS would appear somewhat incongruous within the farmland to Parcel 2, albeit near distance views would be very localised and its influence would diminish rapidly from within the wider surrounding LCT 5: Shallow Valleys to the east.

10.10.314. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.315. There would be some localised regrading of the landform to accommodate the BESS in Parcel 2 and the Rosefield Substation and Main Collector Compound in Parcel 3, but any such changes would be difficult to discern until in close proximity.

10.10.316. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, and some longer lengths of hedgerow to enable the Rosefield Substation, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.317. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoWs would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.318. The new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields and very few longer distance views would be affected. There would therefore be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.319. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.320. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys.

10.10.321. Substantial structural woodland planting is proposed to the eastern edge of Parcel 2 and the western edge of Parcel 3. Once established (Year 10), this new planting, together with the management of existing hedgerows would add to the landscape structure in LCT 5: Shallow Valleys and would somewhat restrict the extent of effects on landscape character. In particular, there would be a reduction in the medium-scale effects to the immediate environs of Parcel 2 and a softening of effects in Parcel 3.

10.10.322. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.323. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some screening and softening of views, the large to medium scale change identified above would largely

remain over a very limited extent of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.324. The sensitivity of LCT 5: Shallow Valleys is assessed as **low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on LCT 5: Shallow Valleys between East Claydon and Granborough, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale

10.10.325. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale extends to the north and north west of Parcel 1. The LCA would experience indirect effects during operation (including maintenance) of the Proposed Development.

10.10.326. Key features of this LCA are a gently undulating landform (tending towards flat to the north west of Parcel 1) rising to gently sloping valley sides further to the north and north west. It is a sparsely populated, generally open farmed landscape with little woodland and wide views to the skyline in all directions.

10.10.327. Whilst there are good views across the valley in places, the combination of gently undulating and low lying landform and generally intact hedgerow structure combined with a relatively low profile form of development (in terms of verticality) would ultimately limit the extent of indirect effects on landscape character within LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale. No Viewpoints have been presented for this LCA because there would be no greater than a small or negligible scale of change on landscape character for the vast majority of the LCA: Twyford Vale. Within 1km of Parcel 1 there would be a small scale of change to landscape character.

10.10.328. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This activity would occur within the neighbouring LCA 7.3 and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale.

10.10.329. In terms of scale in the landscape more generally, the Proposed Development would be viewed within a neighbouring LCA, and even when experienced at close proximity, the new Solar PV modules would not foreshorten any existing long distance views.

10.10.330. Any movement in the neighbouring LCA 7.3 would be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network and HS2 and

East West Rail. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.331. There would be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views and no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Steeple Claydon and Twyford).

10.10.332. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the small-scale change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale.

10.10.333. New hedgerow and structural woodland planting is proposed to the northern edge of Parcel 1, principally in Field B5. Once established (Year 10), this new planting would add to the landscape structure in the neighbouring LCA but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance at close proximity.

10.10.334. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.335. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the small-scale change identified above would remain over a limited extent of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.336. The sensitivity of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, during Years 1 to 10, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale as described above there is likely to be **minor/negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley

10.10.337. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley extends to the north of Parcel 3, with just one field of the Site (Field E11) that would experience direct effects as a result of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoints 23, 24 and 26 all fall within this LCA.

10.10.338. A combination of gently undulating and low lying landform and a mature established vegetation structure would serve to restrict the extent of effects during operation (including maintenance) on landscape character within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley. Whilst there are some good views from the upper valley sides to the west, the valley bottom is very gently sloping, which, in combination with a generally intact hedgerow structure and relatively low profile form of development (in terms of verticality), results in

a very limited extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 5.6: Claydon Vale.

10.10.339. This is evidenced by the assessment Viewpoints which demonstrate that beyond approximately 0.75km to the west of Parcel 3, there would be no greater than a small or negligible scale of change on landscape character.

10.10.340. Any discernible large/medium-scale effects on landscape character during operation (including maintenance) within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley would be limited to the fields on rising land up to 0.5km west of Parcel 3 and would quickly diminish to medium scale beyond this.

10.10.341. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley and indirect effects from development in neighbouring LCAs of the Main Collector Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.10.342. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines and occasional utilitarian agricultural buildings.

10.10.343. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.344. There would be no substantial impact on landform within LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley, although some localised regrading of the landform in the neighbouring LCA to Fields E11 and E20 is proposed to integrate the Rosefield Substation together with the Main Collector Compound in E21 and E22.

10.10.345. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, and some longer lengths of hedgerow to enable the Rosefield Substation, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.346. In terms of scale in the landscape more generally, the spread of Solar PV modules in LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley would be very limited. When experienced at close proximity, the Proposed Development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but long distance views would remain where they currently exist. There would be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.347. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along East Claydon Road. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.348. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the large/medium to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley.

10.10.349. New hedgerow and structural woodland planting is proposed to the western edge of Parcel 3. Once established (Year 10) this new planting would add to the landscape structure but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance.

10.10.350. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.351. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the large/medium and medium scale change identified above would remain over a limited extent of LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.352. The sensitivity of LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character extending to approximately 0.5km to the north west of Parcel 3, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands

10.10.353. The eastern extents of Parcel 2 (Fields D8-9 and D18-19) and majority of Parcel 3 (Fields E11 and E20-23), together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between them, lie within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4 : District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 18 to 20 lie to the east of Parcel 2 whilst Viewpoints 22, 25 and 27 surround Parcel 3 within this LCA.

10.10.354. The low ground of the valley, including that of the Parcel 3 is relatively flat and, together with a relatively intact hedgerow network, hedgerow trees and tree belts, tends to limit views to the environs of the Site to the north and wider landscape to the east and south. The extent of Parcel 2 within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands is also on relatively low lying land bordered by strong hedgerows which limit views to the wider landscapes to the east. The experience of the effects would therefore vary throughout LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands with relatively limited views from all but the immediate west of Parcel 3 and east of Parcel 2, with even the more elevated landscapes to the east and south largely screened by local topography and field boundary vegetation.

10.10.355. Any discernible large/medium-scale effects on landscape character during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) within LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands would be experienced to approximately 0.5km west of Parcel 3 and would quickly diminish to medium scale beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects from 0.75km. Large/medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2 as evidenced by Viewpoint 42. Viewpoints 21, 26 and 27 demonstrate that any discernible effects on landscape character would reduce below medium beyond 0.75km of the Site.

10.10.356. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS, Rosefield Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. The Solar PV modules would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.10.357. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be much greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation.

10.10.358. It is recognised that the BESS would appear somewhat incongruous within the farmland to Parcel 2, albeit near distance views would be very localised and its influence would diminish rapidly from within the wider surrounding LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands to the east.

10.10.359. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.360. There would be some localised regrading of the landform to accommodate the BESS in Fields D8 and D9, the Rosefield Substation in Fields E11 and E20, and the Main Collector Compound in Fields E21 and E22 as per the worst-case scenario for assessment. Any such changes would be difficult to discern until in their close proximity.

10.10.361. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, and some longer lengths of hedgerow removed for the Rosefield Substation, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.362. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.363. The new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is mostly low lying and well vegetated very few longer distance views would be affected. There would be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.364. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.365. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the large/medium to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands.

10.10.366. Substantial structural woodland planting is proposed to the eastern edge of Parcel 2 and the western edge of Parcel 3. Once established (Year 10) this new planting, together with the management of existing hedgerows would add to the landscape structure in LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands and would somewhat restrict the extent of effects on landscape character. In particular, there would be a reduction in the medium-scale effects to the immediate environs of Parcel 2 and a softening of effects in Parcel 3.

10.10.367. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the host and neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.368. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some screening and softening of views, the large to medium scale change identified above would remain over an intermediate (tending towards wide) extent of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.369. The sensitivity of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands has been assessed to be **medium/low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character extending to approximately 0.5km to the east and west of Parcels 2 and 3 respectively, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the magnitude of effect is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate rather than moderate/minor effect. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tract of LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands would be **not significant**.

### LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands

10.10.370. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands extends from 0.5km to the east of Parcel 2. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the Proposed Development.

10.10.371. The gently undulating landscape rises towards the settlements of North Marston and Granborough which sit on higher ground and enclose views eastward from the Parcels 2 and 3 of the Site. These hills and ridges restrict the extent of indirect effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character to distances of between 1 to 2.5km from the Site.

10.10.372. Any discernible medium-scale effects during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) on landscape character within LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands would be experienced to beyond 1.2km to the east of Parcel 3 and would quickly diminish to small-scale beyond this, with no more than negligible scale effects from 2.5km. This is evidenced by the assessment Viewpoints 28, 29 and 32, which demonstrate that any discernible effects on landscape character would be no more than medium scale beyond 1.2km of the Site reducing to small thereafter.

10.10.373. The indirect effect on landscape character would arise principally from a change in land cover; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS and Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This activity would occur within neighbouring LCA and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands.

10.10.374. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the neighbouring landscape would evidently be greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence and already associated with large scale energy infrastructure to the north of Parcel 3. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation.

10.10.375. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would remain undisturbed and there would be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.376. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced within a neighbouring landscape which would have very limited effect on LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands.

10.10.377. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the medium to small-scale change identified above would be experienced over a localised extent of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands.

10.10.378. Once hedgerow and structural woodland planting is established (Year 10) it would add to the landscape structure in the neighbouring LCA but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance.

10.10.379. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.380. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the medium to small-scale change identified above would remain over a

localised extent of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.381. The sensitivity of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands has been assessed to be **low**. Therefore, during Years 1 to 10, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands as described above there is likely to be a **minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands

10.10.382. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands includes the whole of Parcel 1 and the northern fields of Parcel 2 together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between the two parcels. The wider LCT extends some 3km to the north of Parcel 1 and to the full extents of the study area to the west of Parcel 1 and to the south of Parcel 2. Viewpoints 1-14, 17, 21, 35-36 and 38-40 are all located within this LCT.

10.10.383. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands is provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area which are identified as mixed land use predominantly grassland; and generally strong hedgerow pattern.

10.10.384. Any large-scale effects on landscape character during Year 1 operation within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands would be experienced within Parcels 1 and 2. Medium-scale effects would be experienced to the immediate environs of Parcels 1 and 2 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3. Effects would diminish beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects beyond 1km to the north of Parcel 1 and west of Parcel 3.

10.10.385. Viewpoints 10-12 (Footpaths ECL/7/1 and ECL/8/1) evidence the large scale of effects that would be experienced within the Order Limits. These effects then diminish markedly outside of the Order Limits with at most medium-scale effects primarily experienced to the immediate environs of the Site as evidenced by Viewpoint 2 (Calvert Road), Viewpoint 4 (Footpath SCL/13/2) and Viewpoint 9 (Footpath ECL/7/1). The exception to this are the views from the valley sides to the west of Parcel 3 as evidenced by Viewpoint 13 (Saint Mary's Road) and Viewpoint 21 (Footpath ECL/5/1) which would also experience medium-scale effects at distances of at least 0.75km. Effects would be at most small outside of these defined areas as represented by Viewpoint 5 (Bridleway MCL/10/2), Viewpoint 6 (Winter's Tale Barn) and Viewpoints 7 and 40 (Footpath SCL/7/1 and permissive footpath respectively) to the north of Parcel 1 and Viewpoint 8 (Footpath ECL/5/1) to the north of Parcel 2.

10.10.386. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover from its current agricultural use to the introduction of new Solar PV modules and the Satellite Collector Compounds within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands and new Solar PV modules, BESS, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation in neighbouring LCTs. The Solar PV modules would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.10.387. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation in Parcel 3 to LCT 5: Shallow Valleys.

10.10.388. It is recognised that the BESS would appear somewhat incongruous within the neighbouring farmland to Parcel 2 in LCT 5: Shallow Valleys, albeit near distance views would be very localised and its influence would diminish rapidly from within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands to the west.

10.10.389. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.390. There would be some localised regrading of the landform within neighbouring LCTs to accommodate the BESS in Parcel 2 and the Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation in Parcel 3. Any such changes would be difficult to discern from LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands.

10.10.391. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.392. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat, but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.393. The new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is mostly low lying and well vegetated very few longer distance views would be affected. There would therefore

be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.394. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.395. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands.

10.10.396. Substantial structural woodland planting is proposed to the northern edge Parcel 1, the eastern edge of Parcel 2 and the western edge of Parcel 3. Once established (Year 10) this new planting, together with the management of existing hedgerows would add to the landscape structure in LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands and neighbouring LCTs and would further restrict the extent of effects on landscape character within LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands. In particular, there would be a reduction in the medium-scale effects to the immediate environs of Parcels 1 and 2. Furthermore, even in Parcel 3 where it does not screen the Proposed Development it would soften its external appearance to within the neighbouring LCT.

10.10.397. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCT and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.398. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some screening and softening of views, large to medium scale change identified above would remain over a very limited extent of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.399. The sensitivity of LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands is assessed as **medium/low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character extending to the immediate environs of Parcel 1 and 2 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl

10.10.400. The entirety of Parcel 1 and the majority of the northern section of Parcel 2 (Fields D3 (South), D4, D7, D10 to 13 and D17), together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor between them, lie within LCA 7.3: Claydon

Bowl as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 1 to 7, 38 and 39 surround Parcel 1 whilst Viewpoints 18 to 20 lie to the east of Parcel 2 and Viewpoints 13, 21, 22 and 40 lie to the west of Parcel 3 within this LCA.

10.10.401. The landscape varies in openness due to its gently sloping landform and relatively large woodland cover, which, combined with the limited vertical height of the Proposed Development, would result in the extent of effects in Year 1 of operation on landscape character primarily being experienced to the north of Parcels 1 and 2 and to the west of Parcel 3 within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl.

10.10.402. Any discernible large and large/medium-scale effects on landscape character during Year 1 operation (including maintenance) within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl would be experienced to the immediate environs of the Proposed Development to within approximately 0.5km to the western boundary of Parcel 3. Medium-scale effects would be experienced to the immediate environs of Parcel 1 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3. Effects would quickly diminish to medium beyond this, with no more than small-scale effects beyond 1km to the north of Parcel 1 and west of Parcel 3.

10.10.403. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover from its current agricultural use to the introduction of new Solar PV modules and the Satellite Collector Compounds within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl and new Solar PV modules, BESS, Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation in neighbouring LCAs. The Solar PV modules would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.10.404. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be much greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation in Parcel 3 in neighbouring LCA.

10.10.405. It is recognised that the BESS would appear somewhat incongruous within the farmland to neighbouring LCA in Parcel 2, albeit near distance views would be very localised and its influence would diminish rapidly from within the neighbouring LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl to the west.

10.10.406. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.407. There would be some localised regrading of the landform within neighbouring LCAs to accommodate the BESS in Parcel 2 and the Main Collector Compound and Rosefield Substation in Parcel 3. Any such changes would be difficult to discern from LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl.

10.10.408. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.409. In places, the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.410. The new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is mostly low lying and well vegetated very few longer distance views would be affected. There would therefore be no impact on important or recognised skylines or horizons.

10.10.411. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the local road network. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.412. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl.

10.10.413. Substantial structural woodland planting is proposed to the northern edge Parcel 1, the eastern edge of Parcel 2 and the western edge of Parcel 3. Once established (Year 10), this new planting (together with the management of existing hedgerows) would add to the landscape structure in LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl and neighbouring LCAs and would further restrict the extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl. In particular, there would be a reduction in the medium-scale effects to the immediate environs of Parcels 1 and 2. Furthermore, even in Parcel 3 where it does not screen the Proposed Development it would soften its external appearance to within the neighbouring LCA.

10.10.414. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.415. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some screening and softening of views, the large to medium scale change identified above would remain over an intermediate (tending towards wide) extent of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.416. The sensitivity of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character extending to the immediate environs of Parcel 1 and 2 and up to 1km to the west of Parcel 3, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the magnitude of the effect (particularly the extent of the effect) is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tract of LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl would be **not significant**.

### LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges

10.10.417. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]** LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges encompasses the southern area of Parcel 2 to Finemere Hill and then extends in discrete parcels to the eastern and southern extents of the study area.

10.10.418. Viewpoints 15, 16, 30, 31, 33, 34, 41 and 42 are all located within this LCT.

10.10.419. The relevant extracts and observations relating to LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** including key characteristics relevant to the study area which are identified as dramatic views.

10.10.420. Any large/medium-scale effects on landscape character in Year 1 operation within LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges would be experienced to the area of Parcel 2 within which Solar PV modules would be located and would quickly diminish beyond this. Medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 over a very limited extent.

10.10.421. Viewpoint 15 (Footpath QUA/38/1) and Viewpoint 41 (permissive footpath), evidence the large scale of effects that would be experienced to within the Order Limits. These effects then diminish markedly outside of the Order Limits with the exception of at most large/medium-scale effects experienced from Viewpoint 42 (Footpath HOG/7/1) approximately 0.5km

to the east of the Site. Medium-scale effects would be experienced from Viewpoint 30 (Bridleway QUA/2/1 to Conduit Hill) and medium/small effects from Viewpoint 31 (Bridleway QUA/2/2 to Quainton Hill). Elsewhere, small/negligible effects would be experienced as evidenced by Viewpoint 16 (Bridleway GUN/34/1) and Viewpoint 33 (Footpath OVI/9/1) and Viewpoint 34 (Footpath WAD/3/1).

10.10.422. Direct effects on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover from its current agricultural use to the introduction of new Solar PV modules to Finemere Hill. Indirect effects on landscape character would arise principally from a change in land cover to neighbouring LCAs; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Collector Compounds, BESS and the Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.10.423. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists in the landscape at present. Although this tract of landscape is a farmed, working landscape its partially 'remote and wild character' is noted for its 'strong sense of rural tranquillity' as part of the AAL special qualities and this would be diminished to the flat ridge to the top of Finemere Hill.

10.10.424. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape.

10.10.425. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.426. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.427. The new Solar PV modules would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields, but the longer distance views would be uninterrupted. The sense of openness would be reduced to within the flat ridge to Finemere Hill, but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape. In addition, the panoramic views looking south from the ridge on Finemere Hill would be retained.

10.10.428. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. There would therefore be limited impact on

movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape; however, the sense of remoteness would be reduced somewhat.

10.10.429. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges.

10.10.430. Once hedgerow planting is established (Year 10) it would add to the landscape structure but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCT and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.431. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the large to medium scale changes identified above would remain over a very limited extent of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.432. The sensitivity of LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 operation (including maintenance), with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill

10.10.433. LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill extends to the southern section of Parcel 2 (Fields D14, D16, D28 and D29) together with the Interconnecting Cable Corridor in D27 as illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Assessment Viewpoints 11, 15 to 17 and 41 lie within and to the south east of this LCA. The LCA is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value. In particular, the small flat ridge to Finemere Hill is noted for its partially *'remote and wild character'* and for its *'strong sense of rural tranquillity'.*

10.10.434. Key features of this LCA reflected in the landscape immediately surrounding the Site are the small hills and wooded areas associated with the ancient Bernwood Hunting Forest, including Finemere Wood. Hedgerows are generally well managed where intact but have been lost or fragmented particularly to the steeper southern slopes. The prominent ridge to its southern edge enables long distance views outwards to the south. The landscape therefore varies in openness due to its gently sloping landform, flat ridge and large woodland cover, which, combined with the limited vertical height of the Proposed Development would result in a localised extent of effects on LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill.

10.10.435. Any discernible large-scale effects on landscape character during operation (including maintenance) within LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill would quickly diminish to small and negligible outside of Parcel 2, albeit large-scale effects would continue as a result of further Solar PV modules located in Fields D16 and D26 to the north of Runt's Wood. This is evidenced by the large and large/medium scale assessments for Viewpoints 11, 15 and 41 to within Parcel 2 and small/negligible and negligible assessment for Viewpoints 16 and 17 to the west and south of the Site. These Viewpoints demonstrate that any discernible effects on landscape character would reduce markedly outside of the flat ridge to the south, east and west but would endure to the north of Runt's Wood.

10.10.436. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover from its current agricultural use to the introduction of new Solar PV modules. The Solar PV modules would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.10.437. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be much greater than exists in the landscape at present. Although this tract of landscape is a farmed, working landscape its partially *'remote and wild character'* and *'strong sense of rural tranquillity'* would be diminished to the flat ridge of the Site.

10.10.438. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape.

10.10.439. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.440. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.441. The new Solar PV modules would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but the longer distance, panoramic views looking south from the ridge would be unaffected. There would therefore be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.10.442. There would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. There would therefore be limited impact on movement experienced in the landscape; however, the sense of remoteness and tranquillity would be reduced somewhat to the flat ridge area of the Site.

10.10.443. In Year 1 of operation the large scale change identified above would be experienced over a localised extent of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill.

10.10.444. Once hedgerow planting is established (Year 10) it would add to the landscape structure but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.445. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the large scale changes identified above would remain over a localised extent of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **substantial/moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.446. The sensitivity of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 operation (including maintenance), with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tract of LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill would be **not significant**.

### LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill

10.10.447. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill extends from 0.7km to the east of Parcel 2 and 1.8km to the south of Parcel 3. The LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the Proposed Development. The LCA is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value.

10.10.448. The elevated ridge of land which rises to Quainton Hill, some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 and 2.5km to the south of Parcel 3 enables panoramic views in an arc to the north and west from LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill as evidenced by assessment Viewpoints 30 and 31.

10.10.449. Up to medium-scale effects on landscape character would be experienced during operation (including maintenance) to between 2 and

2.5km from the most elevated landscapes in LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill. These effects would quickly diminish to small scale at lower levels resulting in an overall localised extent of effects.

10.10.450. Indirect effects on landscape character would arise principally from a change in land cover to neighbouring LCAs; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Collector Compounds, BESS and the Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This activity would occur within a neighbouring LCA and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill.

10.10.451. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be considerably greater than exists in the landscape at present and this would be evident in the long distance views from elevated parts of the LCA. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality, there would therefore be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation; this energy infrastructure together with the farmed, working landscape denote a landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence.

10.10.452. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric of the neighbouring LCAs would remain largely undisturbed and any occasional management activities would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It is recognised that the BESS would appear somewhat incongruous within the farmland to Parcel 2, albeit its influence would be diminished with distance.

10.10.453. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a localised extent of LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill.

10.10.454. Once hedgerow and structural woodland planting is established (Year 10) it would add to the landscape structure in the neighbouring LCA but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance.

10.10.455. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the neighbouring LCA and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.456. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the medium scale changes identified above would remain over a localised

extent of LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.457. The sensitivity of LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 operation (including maintenance), with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **moderate adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case, in spite of its special qualities including 'spectacular panoramic views' the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant, as the effects would be experienced to a localised extent and at distances of 2km or more which is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance to a **not significant** effect.

### LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge

10.10.458. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.4: District Landscape Character Types and Areas [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge extends from over 3.6km to the south east of Parcels 2 and 3. The LCA is largely contained within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL which is a landscape locally designated for its scenic value. This LCA would experience indirect effects as a result of the operation (including maintenance) of the Proposed Development. Assessment Viewpoint 33 falls within this LCA.

10.10.459. The elevated broad ridge of land which rises to Oving, at least 4.7km to the south east of Parcels 2 and 3 enables distant views in an arc to the north west and west. No greater than small-scale effects on landscape character would be experienced during operation (including maintenance) from the most elevated landscapes in LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge and these effects would quickly diminish to negligible scale at lower levels. Assessment Viewpoint 33 is typical of distant views from the ridge that are available from a limited extent of this LCA.

10.10.460. Indirect effects on landscape character would arise principally from a change in land cover to LCAs at least 1.2km to the west of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Main Collector Compound, BESS and Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This activity would occur within a neighbouring LCA and would therefore have a commensurately reduced effect on the LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge.

10.10.461. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists at present. However, this would be to within a separate and distant LCA that is a farmed, working landscape that is not wild or natural without human influence and already associated with large scale energy infrastructure to

the north of Parcel 3. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules in distant LCA would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape with some strong built influences such as the National Grid East Claydon Substation and converging overhead powerlines providing context to the Rosefield Substation.

10.10.462. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape fabric would remain largely undisturbed and there would be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.10.463. Movement within the Site for occasional management activities would be difficult to discern and there would therefore be no impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.10.464. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 1), the small-scale change identified above would be experienced over a limited extent of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge.

10.10.465. The establishment (Year 10) of hedgerow and structural woodland planting would not add in any notable way to the landscape structure in the distant LCAs. The scale of landscape change would therefore remain small over a limited extent of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.466. The sensitivity of LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge has been assessed to be **medium/low**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), with reference specifically to the tract of the LCA as described above, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Quainton-Wing Hills Area of Attractive Landscape

10.10.467. As illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.1: Landscape Study Area, Context and Designations [EN010158/APP/6.3]**, Quainton-Wing Hills AAL encompasses the southern area of Parcel 2 to Finemere Hill and then extends eastwards to the full extents of the study area.

10.10.468. Viewpoints 15, 16, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 41 are all located within this LCT.

10.10.469. The relevant extracts and observations relating to Quainton-Wing Hills AAL are provided in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** with key characteristics relevant to the study area summarised as follows:

- "*Spectacular panoramic views from frequent vantage points;*

- *Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and a coherent landscape character;*
- *Cultural features providing a sense of history;*
- *Public rights of way and road network which enable views of and appreciation of the landscape;*
- *The importance of the hills in views from other areas of the district, providing a backdrop and sense of enclosure to Aylesbury Vale; and*
- *Remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields*."

10.10.470. A desk based investigation of Quainton-Wing Hills AAL, together with extensive site work, has established that the criteria listed in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.2: Rosefield Extracts from Published LCA [EN010158/APP/6.4]** that could be impacted as a result of the Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

- "*Distinctiveness*

  *Distinctive band of low, generally open limestone hills, ridges and plateau to the north of Aylesbury Vale.*
- *Perceptual character*

  *Strong sense of rural tranquillity, openness and sense of the dominance of landscape… Views to the Vale of Aylesbury to the south from vantage points and many of the villages perched on the ridge– e.g. Quainton Hill… with the landscape providing an attractive setting to villages.*
- *Landscape and scenic quality*

  *High scenic quality of the undulating hills and ridges from within the area and within views from outside the area.*
- *Natural character*

  *Ancient woodlands, with a particular concentration in the west of the area – many of which are also SSSI/ LWS.*
- *Cultural character*

  *Strong sense of history – remaining ancient woodland in the west of the area that was once part of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, irregular and assart fields.*
- *Function*

  *Good network of public rights of way including long distance trails – e.g. the Bernwood Jubilee Way, North Buckinghamshire Way, Outer Aulesbury Ring, Matthew's Way*."

10.10.471. Any large-scale effects on landscape character in Year 1 operation within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL would be experienced to the area of Parcel 2 within which Solar PV modules would be located and would quickly diminish beyond this. Medium-scale effects would also be experienced to some 2km to the east of Parcel 2 over a very limited extent.

10.10.472. Viewpoint 15 (Footpath QUA/38/1) and Viewpoint 41 (permissive footpath), evidence the large-scale effects that would be experienced to within the Order Limits. These effects then diminish markedly outside of the Order Limits with at most medium-scale effects experienced from Viewpoint 30 (Bridleway QUA/2/1 to Conduit Hill) and Viewpoint 31 (Bridleway QUA/2/2 to Quainton Hill) and small/negligible effects elsewhere as evidenced by Viewpoint 16 (Bridleway GUN/34/1), Viewpoint 33 (Footpath OVI/9/1) and Viewpoint 34 (Footpath WAD/3/1).

10.10.473. Direct effects on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover from its current agricultural use, to the introduction of new Solar PV modules to Finemere Hill. Indirect effects on landscape character would arise principally from a change in land cover to neighbouring landscapes; i.e. the introduction of new Solar PV modules, Collector Compounds, BESS and the Rosefield Substation into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. This would not affect the distinctive topography of the landscape which would remain unchanged. However, up to medium scale changes would occur to the spectacular panoramic views from vantage points on Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill.

10.10.474. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be greater than exists at present. Although this tract of landscape is a farmed, working landscape its partially ‘remote and wild character’ is noted for its ‘strong sense of rural tranquillity’ as part of the AAL special qualities and this would be diminished, particularly to the flat ridge to the top of Finemere Hill.

10.10.475. The height of the proposed Solar PV modules would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape.

10.10.476. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are not an uncommon feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.10.477. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The landscape pattern and underlying landscape

fabric, including the cultural character of the medieval hunting forest of Bernwood, would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.10.478. The new Solar PV modules would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but otherwise no skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views would be interrupted. The local sense of openness would be reduced to within the flat ridge to Finemere Hill, but all PRoW would have an appropriate offset and the Proposed Development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape. All longer distance panoramic views from the edge of the ridge at Finemere Hill would remain uninterrupted.

10.10.479. The large to medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a very limited extent of the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL in Year 1 operation.

10.10.480. Once tree and hedgerow planting is established (Year 10) it would add to the landscape structure but would not notably reduce the scale of landscape change albeit it would soften its external appearance. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern and would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.10.481. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the large to medium scale change identified above would remain over a very limited extent of Quainton-Wing Hills AAL and would be long-term in duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.482. The sensitivity of the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL is assessed as **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Visual amenity

10.10.483. Effects during operation (including maintenance) on visual amenity would typically arise from views of:

- Introduction of new energy infrastructure into existing agricultural fields including the Solar PV modules, the Rosefield Substation, Satellite and Main Collector Compound, BESS, internal access tracks, fencing, security measures and ancillary structures;
- earthworks in the vicinity of the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and BESS;
- newly established mitigation planting (hedgerows and structural woodland);
- new wildflower rich grassland in open fields and field margins;

- introduction of a network of permissive footpaths around the Site, connecting with the existing PRoW, and increasing access to, and recreation within, the study area; and
- regular maintenance operations including habitat management.

### Residential properties

10.10.484. A RVAA has been undertaken and the detailed findings are presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]**.

10.10.485. **Table 10.13** below provides a summary of the likely operation (including maintenance) phase effects on visual amenity experienced by the residents of the properties assessed. The assessment considered not only the view from within the property but also its primary curtilage (i.e. garden space) and also the impact on views when immediately approaching and leaving the property. The assessment considered the effects in Year 1 and also Year 10 of the operation (including maintenance) phase. All such effects are considered adverse in nature.

Table 10.13: Summary of operation (including maintenance) phase visual effects on residential properties

| Property | Effect Year 1 | Effect Year 10 |
|---|---|---|
| **1-2 Calvert Cottages** | Moderate (not significant) | Moderate (not significant) |
| **3 Calvert Cottages** | Moderate (not significant) | Minor (not significant) |
| **4-5 Calvert Cottages** | Moderate (not significant) | Moderate (not significant) |
| **Granary Cottage** | Moderate (not significant) | Minor (not significant) |
| **Pond Farm** | Moderate (not significant) | Moderate (not significant) |
| **The Old Dairy** | Moderate (not significant) | Minor (not significant) |
| **Knowlhill Farm** | Moderate (not significant) | Moderate (not significant) |

| Property | Effect Year 1 | Effect Year 10 |
|---|---|---|
| **1-2 Blackmorehill Cottages** | Moderate (not significant) | Minor (not significant) |
| **4-5 Catherine Cottages** | Moderate **(significant)** | Moderate (not significant) |
| **6-7 Catherine Cottages** | Major/Moderate **(significant)** | Moderate (not significant) |
| **Bernwood Farm** | Major/Moderate **(significant)** | Major/Moderate **(significant)** |
| **Sion Hill Farm** | Major **(significant)** | Major/moderate **(significant)** |
| **Station House** | Moderate (not significant) | Moderate (not significant) |

10.10.486. The RVAA presented in **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010158/APP/6.4]** and summarised in **Table 10.13** above focussed on properties within a defined radius of above ground infrastructure specifically in order to identify any potentially 'overbearing' effects on residential visual amenity. The following properties were not assessed in detail in the RVAA as they are located beyond the defined radii of any above ground infrastructure and were considered too distant from the Proposed Development for 'overbearing' effects to occur:

- All properties on Weir Lane with the exception of Bernwood Farm;
- Botolph Cottage on Botyl Lane;
- Ivy Nook on Saint Mary's Lane; and
- Berry Leys and Tuckey Farm on East Claydon Road.

10.10.487. Catherine Cottage on Calvert Road is located just within the radii for Solar PV modules in Parcel 1; however, any views would be oblique and or screened and filtered by garden vegetation and it was considered that 'overbearing' effects would not occur.

10.10.488. In summary, it is assessed that the residents of four dwellings (4-5 Catherine Cottages, 6-7 Catherine Cottages, Bernwood Farm and Sion Hill Farm) would experience **significant** visual effects during Year 1. At 4-5 Catherine Cottages and 6-7 Catherine Cottages, by Year 10 these effects would reduce in magnitude due to the establishment of mitigation

and by Year 10 would be **not significant**. In each case where a moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant this is because, in the professional opinion of the assessor, the magnitude of effect (particularly the scale of change) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating and this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.10.489. It is considered likely that **significant** visual effects would remain at Sion Hill Farm and Bernwood Farm at Year 10 reflecting the fact that views are available from elevated rooms within the properties.

## Settlements

### *Botolph Claydon*

10.10.490. The assessment for Botolph Claydon includes a number of residential properties within Botolph Claydon, primarily to the east of Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road and users of the road and adjacent footway (including ECL/11/1, ECL/11/2, ECL/11/3, ECL/11/4), collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 13 is located in front of residential property, The Old School House, whilst Viewpoint 40 is located close to the Mushroom Shelter and entrance to the residential property Ivy Nook. These views are taken through field entrances where there are gaps in the otherwise intact hedgerow. Additionally, Viewpoints 8 and 9 are located to the south of the village and illustrate views from Footpaths ECL/9/2 and ECL/8/1 respectively and nearby properties. No other publicly accessible views of the Site were available, and they are therefore representative of the glimpsed views from within the settlement along Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road and the Bernwood Jubilee Way and local footpaths.

10.10.491. Views around the settlement are generally of medium sized pasture and arable field parcels subdivided by mature hedgerows and interspersed with woodland belts. To the south east a prominent line of pylons traverses the view in a broadly southerly direction in the middle distance whilst longer distance views are blocked by rising land to the south and east.

10.10.492. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during Year 1 operation (including maintenance), at Viewpoint 13, was assessed as medium which related primarily to Fields E11 and E20-23. Views of Parcel 3 would decrease from the northern edge of the village, albeit there would be some distant views of Parcel 2, as evidenced by Viewpoint 40 where medium/small effects are predicted in Year 1 operation (including maintenance). Medium-scale effects were also predicted at Viewpoint 9 to the south of the village edge, whilst small-scale effects were predicted at Viewpoint 8 from the south western edge of the village where views would be limited to Field D3 (South).

10.10.493. Other than these discrete publicly accessible locations, views of the Proposed Development in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), would be limited to generally filtered views from the ground floors of private properties and their curtilage to the east of Botyl Road/Saint Mary's Road. It is noted that an area of hedgerow would be removed from Claydon Road to the east of the village to provide Site access during construction; however, this would not entail the removal of the more heavily tree lined section which provides effective screening and filtering of views from the east of the village.

10.10.494. From the majority of Botolph Claydon, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), the Proposed Development would either be not visible or receptors would experience small-scale effects. Other than this, a medium scale change in view would be experienced for this receptor group over a localised area from the east of Botyl Road. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.495. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from Botolph Claydon, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.10.496. The existing hedgerow field boundaries would be allowed to grow to a height of up to 3.5m and also any gaps in the hedgerows would be infilled. In addition, substantial structural woodland planting is proposed to the eastern edge of Parcel 3 to Fields E21 and E20 to E23 and to Parcel 2 in Field D3 (South).

10.10.497. By Year 10, the scale of visual change is assessed as small/negligible at Viewpoint 8; medium/small at Viewpoint 9 and 13 and small at Viewpoint 40, with vast majority of views limited to receptor group (settlement) to the east of Botyl Road. Otherwise, the wider receptor group (settlement) would only experience a small or negligible scale of change to visual amenity. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.498. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **moderate adverse** effect on views from Botolph Claydon, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case, the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In

the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

### *Granborough*

10.10.499. The assessment for Granborough includes a number of residential properties within Granborough, primarily to the west of Sovereign Close, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 28 is located on Footpath GRA/10/1 and is representative of views from the western edge of the settlement and the footpath network on rising land approximately 1.2km to the east of the Proposed Development.

10.10.500. From this location there are views of the undulating low lying landscape, including the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and multiple converging pylons, between Granborough and Botolph Claydon. The surrounding medium sized fields are generally bounded by intact hedgerows with hedgerow trees and taller vegetation that follows the Claydon Brook. The tall pylons are a prominent feature across much of the skyline.

10.10.501. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]** the predicted scale of visual change during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), at Viewpoint 28, was assessed as medium. It was recorded that the "*Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and Solar PV modules would be visible across Parcel 3 above and between intervening hedgerows. This would be seen in the context of prominent pylons and the National Grid East Claydon Substation whilst the foreground fields would remain unchanged. The Proposed Development would be openly visible and result in a notable addition to the view at this location*."

10.10.502. Other than properties to the west of Sovereign Close, in Year 1 operation (including maintenance), there would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a small number of first floor windows of private dwellings. There would be a medium scale of change to visual amenity experienced over a limited extent of the receptor group in Year 1 operation (including maintenance).

10.10.503. The existing hedgerow field boundaries would be allowed to grow to a height of 3.5m and also any gaps in the hedgerows would be infilled which would filter views across the Proposed Development but not reduce the overall scale of effect. The foreground fields would remain unchanged, and views of the activity would be seen in the context of existing energy infrastructure across the view.

10.10.504. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (Year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that there would be some softening of views, the

medium scale change identified above would remain over a limited extent of the receptor group (settlement) to the west of Sovereign Close. Otherwise, the wider receptor group (settlement) would only experience a small or negligible scale of change to visual amenity. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.505. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **moderate adverse** effect on views from Granborough, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

### *North Marston*

10.10.506. The assessment for North Marston includes a small number of residential properties within North Marston, the Outer Aylesbury Ring and the network of local PRoW and lanes that extend from approximately 2km to the east and south of Parcel 2 and 3 respectively, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 32 is located on Footpath NMA/1/1 and is representative of views from the Outer Aylesbury Ring, Brook Farm and Quainton Road to the western edge of the settlement, approximately 2.3km to the south east of the Proposed Development.

10.10.507. As evidenced by the Policy Map 1: Key Views identified in the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan **[Ref. 10.32]**, views around the settlement tend to be more focussed on the rising land to Quainton to the south west and Oving to the south east, with views towards the Proposed Development extremely limited from the village itself. The only key view identified in the direction of the Site, looking north west from the vicinity of Granborough Road, is blocked by intervening layered field boundary, vegetation.

10.10.508. The longer distance views across the vale towards the settled ridge whereon East Claydon and Botolph Claydon lie, illustrated by Viewpoint 32 to the west of Brook Farm, are not typical of views from the village.

10.10.509. Energy infrastructure is visible in distant views, with multiple pylons converging on the National Grid East Claydon Substation in the north; rows of tall pylons are notable features traversing the wider landscapes. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) at Viewpoint 32 was assessed as small. It was recorded that the "*Proposed Development would be visible in*

*Parcels 2 and 3 above and between layered field boundary vegetation and woodland, however this would be seen in the context of more prominent existing pylons*."

10.10.510. In Year 1 operation (including maintenance) there would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a very small number of first floor windows of private dwellings, with ground floor views predominantly screened by layered roadside and field boundary vegetation. Views from Quainton Road and Granborough Road would generally be limited to breaks in the roadside hedgerows at field entrances, with more open views limited to the network of footpaths on north and west facing slopes within undulating farmland.

10.10.511. There would be a small scale of change, over a limited area, to visual amenity in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance).

10.10.512. By Year 10 the scale of visual change at Viewpoint 32 would remain small. Although the establishment of hedgerows and woodland belts would help to screen and filter views the Proposed Development would remain visible across Parcels 2 and 3 above and between layered field boundary vegetation. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.513. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **minor adverse** effect on views from North Marston, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Oving*

10.10.514. The assessment for Oving includes residential properties within Oving, the Outer Aylesbury Ring and the network of local PRoW and lanes that extend from over 4km to the east and south of Parcel 2 and 3 respectively, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 33 is located on Footpath OVI/20/1 and is representative of views from the western edge of the settlement and the local footpath network.

10.10.515. Views towards the Proposed Development would be extremely limited from residential properties within the village as they are either set back from the ridge or bordered by mature vegetated boundaries. Viewpoint 33 is taken from the paddock on the flat ridge of land to the western edge of the village from where there are distant panoramic views across lower lying landscapes. Longer distance views are available to the north and the settled ridge whereon East Claydon and Botolph Claydon lie is clearly visible above the Claydon Vale to the north west. Energy infrastructure is visible, albeit in distant views, with multiple pylons converging on the National Grid East Claydon Substation to the north west.

10.10.516. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), at Viewpoint 33, was assessed as small, with distant views seen in the context of an agrarian landscape with existing energy infrastructure.

10.10.517. Views of operational activity from Oving would be limited to occasional and filtered views from a very small number of first floor windows of private dwellings, with ground floor views generally screened by layered roadside and field boundary vegetation. Views from Pitchcott Road and Marston Hill would generally be limited by roadside hedgerows, with more open views limited to the network of footpaths on north and west facing slopes within undulating farmland.

10.10.518. There would be a small to negligible scale of change to visual amenity in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) over a limited extent of the receptor group.

10.10.519. By Year 10 the scale of visual change at Viewpoint 33 would remain small. Although the establishment of hedgerows and woodland belts would help reinforce the structural vegetation in views, the Proposed Development would remain visible to Parcels 2 and 3 above and between layered field boundary vegetation. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.520. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **minor/negligible adverse** effect, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Steeple Claydon*

10.10.521. The assessment for Steeple Claydon includes a number of residential properties within Steeple Claydon, primarily to the south of Vicarage Lane/Queen Catherine Road and users of the local footpath network, collectively referred to as the receptor group. Viewpoint 38 is located on the permissive footpath to the rear of properties on Vicarage Lane whilst Viewpoint 7 is located on Footpath SCL/9/1 to the south of the village allotments off Queen Catherine Road.

10.10.522. From this location there are views toward Knowl Hill and rising land to the south across the lower lying agricultural fields. Linear tree belts adjacent to the under construction East West Rail filter views of Knowl Hill in the middle distance. The development of large scale rail infrastructure is readily apparent in middle distance views. Woodland around Knowl Hill create a wooded backdrop in longer distance views to the south.

10.10.523. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), at both Viewpoint 7 and 38, was assessed as small. It was recorded that the Proposed Development "*would be visible to the south from the Viewpoint, particularly on the rising ground of Field B11 and views in all other directions would remain largely unchanged. The introduction of new energy infrastructure including Solar PV modules would be somewhat notable to Knowl Hill*."

10.10.524. The Proposed Development would not be visible from the majority of Steeple Claydon. Even from its southern extents, views from ground floors and gardens of private residential properties would be limited by generally strong boundary vegetation to rear gardens. Views of the Proposed Development would therefore be primarily limited to first floor windows of private dwellings to the southern extents of the village and the footpath network on rising land some 1.5km to the north of the Proposed Development.

10.10.525. There would be a small scale of change to visual amenity in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) over a localised extent of the receptor group.

10.10.526. By Year 10 the scale of visual change would remain small. Although the establishment of hedgerows and woodland belts would help reinforce the structural vegetation in views the Proposed Development would remain visible to Parcels 1, particularly to Knowl Hill. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.527. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from Steeple Claydon, which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of main roads

### *Orchard Way/Calvert Road*

10.10.528. Calvert Road and Orchard Way connect Calvert to Botolph Claydon passing broadly east to west through the centre of the study area to the north of Parcels 1 and 2. The road generally has narrow grass verges with mature hedgerows and occasional belts of woodland that run along its length. As illustrated by Viewpoints 1 and 2, views southwards towards the Proposed Development are limited to openings in the field boundary hedgerows to allow access to fields or residential properties and farmsteads. For the majority of this road there would be no view at all of any of the Proposed Development.

10.10.529. Viewpoints 1 and 2 are located directly adjacent to the Calvert Road and are representative of views for road users as they pass through the study area. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]** it was recorded that there would be partial visibility of Solar PV modules in filtered and glimpsed views through breaks in the roadside hedgerows, but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible viewed at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the road.

10.10.530. As well as these oblique views, there would be very limited views of the Proposed Development above hedgerows to the undulating landscape of Parcel 1 in the section of road (approximately 0.5km) between Calvert Cottages and the access track to the Winter's Tale Country Barn wedding venue.

10.10.531. There would be a medium to small scale of change over a localised section of the road for a medium term duration and this would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.532. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from Orchard Way/Calvert Road which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.10.533. Once hedgerow planting is established (Year 10) it would screen views southwards into Parcel 1 at both Viewpoints 1 and 2. Only limited views would remain above the established 3.5m high hedgerows between Calvert Cottages and the Winter's Tale Country Barn. The remaining small/negligible scale views would be experienced over a localised extent of the road. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.534. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **minor adverse** effect on views for road users, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Quainton Road/Claydon Road*

10.10.535. Quainton Road/Claydon Road is oriented broadly north to south through the centre of the study area from Botolph Claydon to the junction with Lee Road. The road is generally enclosed by mature roadside hedgerows on both sides, and in places with mature trees, albeit occasional gaps within the roadside vegetation remain enabling views into the neighbouring fields in Parcel 2.

10.10.536. Viewpoint 18 is demonstrative of the most open views from Claydon Road, at the junction with Granborough Road, although whilst driving

these views are predominantly screened by hedgerows. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]** the predicted scale of visual change in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) is large/medium.

10.10.537. There would be views of the Proposed Development over sections of road that adjoin Fields D7, D8, D44 and D45 as a result of the vegetation removal works to create Site access to Parcel 2. These would include views to Solar PV modules and the BESS (Fields D8 and D9) in Parcel 2.

10.10.538. In Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a localised stretch of Claydon Road with a large/medium scale of change in views. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.539. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views for road users from a localised stretch of the road, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect (particularly the extent of the road affected) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate.

10.10.540. Once hedgerow planting is established (Year 10) it would largely screen views westwards into Parcel 2 along the vast majority of the road. Only limited views would remain glimpsed through hedgerows or at field openings.

10.10.541. The remaining small scale views would be experienced over a limited extent of the road. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight/negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.542. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a residual **minor adverse** effect on views for road users, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Winslow Road/East Claydon Road*

10.10.543. East Claydon Road is oriented broadly east to west from Winslow Road to East Claydon to the north east of the study area. The road is generally enclosed by mature roadside hedgerows on both sides, and in places with mature trees, with occasional gaps within the roadside vegetation albeit there are no views into the Site from the road.

10.10.544. Viewpoint 24 is demonstrative of the limited views from East Claydon Road, taken from a field opening to the west of the National Grid East Claydon Substation. In **ES Volume 4, Appendix 10.4: Rosefield Viewpoint Analysis [EN010158/APP/6.4]**, the predicted scale of visual change in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) is small. It was recorded that the "*taller elements of the Rosefield Substation would be visible above intervening topography, primarily in Field E11. The Proposed Development would be seen as an extension to the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation and prominent associated pylons.*"

10.10.545. For the majority of the length of the East Claydon Road, the Proposed Development would be entirely screened from road users. The exception would be filtered views of the Solar PV modules and Rosefield Substation when driving westbound to the north of Parcel 3. However, it is noted that any such views would be glimpsed through existing generally tall field boundary vegetation and in close proximity to the existing National Grid East Claydon Substation.

10.10.546. In Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a limited stretch of East Claydon Road with a small to negligible scale of change in views.

10.10.547. Once hedgerow and woodland planting is established (Year 10) they would further screen and soften views but would not result in a reduction in scale of effects, which would remain small to negligible.

10.10.548. The remaining small to negligible scale views would be experienced over a limited extent of the road. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.549. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views for road users, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *Queen Catherine Road*

10.10.550. The road runs broadly east to west between Steeple Claydon and the junction with Sandhill Road towards the north of the study area; the road has been partially realigned (not shown on the OS mapping) and now bridges the East West Rail line some 1.3km to the north of Parcel 1.

10.10.551. Views in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) would be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this new section of road. Views would be somewhat more available from the higher elevations of the road close to Steeple Claydon, but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique

angle when travelling at speed in a vehicle along the road or even at lower speeds for cyclists.

10.10.552. Overall, the scale of change is considered to be small to negligible over a limited extent in Year 1 operation.

10.10.553. Once hedgerow and woodland planting is established (Year 10) it would further soften views but would not result in a reduction in scale of effects, which would remain small to negligible and experienced over a limited extent of the road. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect.

10.10.554. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a residual **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views for road users, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### Users of main transport routes

#### *East West Rail*

10.10.555. East West Rail runs broadly east to west through the study area at distances of at least 0.9km to the north of Parcel 1. The railway runs largely at grade and views towards the Site are predominantly screened by intervening vegetation.

10.10.556. Views in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) would be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this new route. Views would be somewhat more available to the higher elevations of Knowl Hill (Field B11), but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the route. Overall, the scale of change is considered to be small/negligible over a very limited extent.

10.10.557. There would be a small/negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route.

10.10.558. Once hedgerow and woodland planting is established (Year 10) it would further soften views but would not result in a reduction in scale of effects, which would remain small/negligible and experienced over a very limited extent of the route.

10.10.559. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there is likely to be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views for passengers on East West Rail which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of recreational routes

### *National Cycle Route No. 51*

10.10.560. NCN 51 is a long-distance cycling route that connects several cities in southern England totalling almost 305km in length. It runs broadly east to west in the study area, from Winslow to Poundon via Steeple Claydon.

10.10.561. Views of the Proposed Development would be predominantly screened or filtered by intervening woodland blocks and tree belts from this route. Views would be somewhat more available from the higher elevations of the route to the east of Steeple Claydon, on Queen Catherine Road, but the Proposed Development would be barely discernible at an oblique angle to travel for cyclists.

10.10.562. Overall, the scale of change is considered to be small to negligible over a very limited extent in Year 1 operation.

10.10.563. Once hedgerow and woodland planting is established (Year 10) it would further soften views but would not result in a reduction in scale of effects, which would remain small to negligible and experienced over a very limited extent of the road.

10.10.564. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a residual **minor adverse** effect on views for road users, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way*

10.10.565. Viewpoints 21, 22, 27 and 29 lie on these long distance footpaths which pass through the Site from Great Horwood in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trail passes immediately within the northern edge of Field E23, which would contain Solar PV modules and to the south of Fields E21 and E22 which are within the siting zone for the Main Collector Compound.

10.10.566. Within the Site, an existing intact and mature hedgerow would largely screen views to the north albeit the removal of a section of hedgerow for vehicle access to the boundary of Field E23 would enable framed views of the Main Collector Compound within Fields E21 and E22 during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance). Prior to the establishment of new hedgerows between the trail and Solar PV modules in Field E23, there would initially be open views of the prominent new infrastructure for approximately 0.4km to the south of the footpath.

10.10.567. There would also be relatively open views of Parcel 3 (particularly Field E21 to E23) and to a lesser extent Parcel 2 from the elevated section of

the trail that descends from Church Lane to the east of East Claydon for approximately 0.6km. Views would decrease in extent as the trail descends to the valley floor as evidenced by Viewpoints 21 and 22. Views from the flatter landscapes to the east of Field E23 would be much reduced as a result of intervening field boundary vegetation and the riparian woodland to the banks of Claydon Brook as evidenced by Viewpoints 27 and 29. Further to the south, views would be limited to more distant intermittent views of the Proposed Development from the elevated sections of the trail to Conduit Hill and Quainton Hill over 2km to the south.

10.10.568. In Year 1, there would be a large scale of change in views over a limited section of the trail to within Field E23 and a large/medium scale of change extending across a further limited part of the trail westwards descending from Church Lane. Views from Quainton Hill to the south would generally be medium in scale over a limited extent of the trail. There would be very limited views of the Proposed Development between these sections of the trail and none beyond them. In total, there would be views of the Proposed Development along an approximate 2km length of this trail; the North Buckinghamshire Way is 55km in length and Midshires Way 362km.

10.10.569. These large to medium scale changes as recorded at Year 1 would initially be experienced over a localised extent, medium term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.570. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the trail (particularly the value associated with it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

10.10.571. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed to the southern extent of the trail within Field E23 together with a woodland belt along the western boundaries of Fields E11 and E20 to E23. Once the hedgerows have established up to a height of 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development within the Site except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months, but this would be barely discernible. Approaching from the west views would be somewhat softened and screened by the established woodland planting albeit views would remain above this planting from more elevated views to closer to Church Lane. The more distant views from Quainton Hill to the south would remain.

10.10.572. In Year 10 there would be a medium scale of change in views along a limited section of the trail over a long-term duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.573. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from the North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring*

10.10.574. Viewpoints 29 to 32 lie on these long distance trails which pass to 2km to the south east of the Site from North Marston in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trails separate at North Marston from where they both lie almost entirely outside of the ZTV. Views of the Proposed Development would largely be limited to the more elevated sections of the trails on Quainton Hill and Conduit Hill and approaching Brook Farm to the western edge of North Marston.

10.10.575. There would be a medium scale of change in panoramic views of the Proposed Development to Parcels 2 and 3 from a very limited section of the trail on Conduit Hill as evidenced by Viewpoint 30. Elsewhere, most effects from elevated distant views would be no more than medium/small reducing to small beyond 2.5km as evidenced by Viewpoint 31 to Quainton Hill and Viewpoint 32 to the west of North Marston. In total, there would be views of the Proposed Development along an approximate 1km length of the 85km Swan's Way which is the shorter of the two long distance trails.

10.10.576. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows and woodland blocks to Parcels 2 and 3 would add to the landscape structure within which the Proposed Development would sit but would not reduce the scale of effects by Year 10 of operation (including maintenance).

10.10.577. The medium to small-scale effects would be experienced over a localised extent of the trail over a long-term duration and would result in a moderate/slight effect on visual amenity.

10.10.578. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from the Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the receptor group appreciating wide panoramic views from within the Quainton-Wing Hills AAL is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the

professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

### *Bernwood Jubilee Way*

10.10.579. Viewpoints 9 to 11 and 17 lie on the long distance trail which passes through Parcel 2 of the Site from Buckingham in the north to Waddesdon in the south. The trail passes immediately within Field D5 to the southern edge of Botolph Claydon, continuing south to within the Site to Runt's Wood. There would initially be open views of the Proposed Development in Fields D3 (South), D4 and D11 to D15 as well as views of the Satellite Collector Compound in Field D17 and the BESS in Fields D8 and D9 as evidenced by Viewpoints 9 to 11.

10.10.580. More distant views of the Proposed Development in Parcel 3 to the north west would also be appreciated from this section of the trail. Further to the south, there would be some intermittent and heavily filtered views of the Proposed Development as the trail passes to the west of Field D29. These views would diminish rapidly as the trail descends from Finemere Hill towards Claydon Road to the south as evidenced by Viewpoint 17.

10.10.581. Viewpoints 13 and 40 lie on the trail further to the north, between Botolph Claydon and East Claydon from where there would be framed views of the Proposed Development in Parcel 3 and to a lesser degree Parcel 2 on the elevated sections of the trail adjoining Saint Mary's Road.

10.10.582. There would be a large scale of change in views over a localised section of the trail to within Parcel 2 and a medium scale of extending towards East Claydon further to the north. There would be very limited views of the Proposed Development other than from these sections of the trail. In total there would be views along an approximate 1.5km length of this 98km trail. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.583. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from the Bernwood Jubilee Way, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.10.584. Mitigation and infill planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed along the eastern boundaries of Fields D3, D12 and D13 and to within Fields D4, D11, D14 and D15 adjacent to the western edge of Solar PV modules. As detailed in and secured by the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**, this would create a wide, 50m corridor for trail users which would be sown with a wildflower mix to create visual interest. This section of the trail would also be surfaced in a similar manner to that found along Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) which it connects with just to the north of Runt's Wood. Once these hedgerows have established

to a height of 3.5m there would be very limited views of the Proposed Development to the west, primarily limited to heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months. The proposed hedgerows have been well set back to the east of the trail in order to maintain views to the wider countryside including Quainton Hill to the south east, whilst also screening the majority of the nearest Solar PV modules in view. Views to the wider extent of the Proposed Development would remain but views would be softened somewhat by the hedgerows.

10.10.585. In Year 10 there would be a large/medium to medium scale of change in views along a localised section of the trail over a long-term duration resulting in a **moderate** magnitude of effect.

10.10.586. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from the Bernwood Jubilee Way, which is considered to be **significant**.

*PRoW between Calvert Road and HS2*

10.10.587. Viewpoints 4 and 42 lie within this receptor group which includes PRoW SCL/12/1, SCL/12/2, SCL/13/1 and SCL/13/2 as well as the access track to Pond Farm within Parcel 1.

10.10.588. With the exception of PRoW SCL/12/1 the footpath diversions would be permanent as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. The revised alignment would lie to the south of Calvert Road within Field B5 before extending southwards within Fields B5, B4, B6 and B7 and proceeding towards HS2.

10.10.589. In Year 1 operation, users of the diversion would experience a small-scale change in views whilst in Field B5 due to the screening and filtering of views by existing hedgerows and tree belts. The change in views would increase to large/medium scale from the diverted footpath to the eastern boundary of field B4 where there would be open views of Solar PV modules, albeit set back some 50m from the path. Proceeding south effects would reduce to small within the northern extents of B6 which has a large, 280m set back to Solar PV modules. Effects would then increase to large for the southern section of Field B6 and all of Field B7 as the route passes directly between rows of Solar PV modules. Effects would quickly reduce to small once to the south of Field B7 as evidenced by Viewpoint 4.

10.10.590. Large-scale effects would also be experienced by users of Footpath SCL/12/1 which links Calvert Road to Pond Farm as evidenced by Viewpoint 42; users would again pass directly between rows of Solar PV modules in Fields B1 and B4.

10.10.591. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows and woodland blocks would partially screen and filter views from the northern most section of the permissive route to within Field B5. However, all close proximity views of Solar PV modules would be retained to within Fields B1, B4, B6 and B7 and the large-scale effects would remain into Year 10 of operation (including maintenance).

10.10.592. The large scale to large/medium-scale effects would be experienced over a wide extent of the receptor group and over a long-term duration and would result in a substantial magnitude effect on visual amenity.

10.10.593. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **major adverse** effect on views from these footpaths, which is considered to be **significant**.

*Three Points Lane and the PRoW extending to HS2*

10.10.594. Three Points Lane extends from Calvert Road to Knowlhill Farm and provides access to the PRoW that extend from its southern end towards HS2 and then to the PRoW network beyond HS2 to the south. It has been grouped with Footpaths MCL/17/1, MCL/18/1, MCL/18/2, MCL/20/1, MCL/20/2, MCL/30/1, GUN/28/1, GUN/30/1 and GUN/33/1 to the south east of Parcel 1 and within Parcel 1a, as it has no other amenity usage other than providing a link to these footpaths.

10.10.595. With the exception of Three Points Lane and Bridleway MCL/17/1 there would be no or very limited views of the Proposed Development, including from the bridge to HS2. Viewpoint 3 is located to the west of Romer wood on Bridleway MCL/17/1.

10.10.596. There would be partial views of the Proposed Development for the length of Three Points Lane, with views immediately west of the lane to the adjoining Site Fields B23 (north and south) and B20 partially filtered by hedgerows and trees. The removal of a section of hedgerow to Fields B23 (south) and B20 would enable limited open views of the Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compound and Transformer to B23 (south). Views would reduce to medium scale to the southern end of the lane and small scale to the bridleway to the south east of Parcel 1 as the Proposed Development becomes more offset from the lane and partially screened by farm sheds and outbuildings. Views would largely cease as the bridleway enters Romer Wood further to the east of the bridleway.

10.10.597. During Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a limited large scale change in views and intermediate medium scale of change in views along Three Points Lane which would reduce to small and negligible to the PRoW network to the south east.

10.10.598. The change during Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in an overall **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity for users of Three Points Lane and the PRoW network to the south east.

10.10.599. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from Three Points Lane and the PRoW network to the south east, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the limited extent of large scale change, in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.10.600. Hedgerow enhancements and mitigation planting in the form of avenue trees is proposed to the eastern extents of Parcel 3 and along Three Points Lane. Once the hedgerows have established to a height of up to 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development within the Site from Three Points Lane except through field entrances and potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months, but this would be barely discernible. Views of the Proposed Development from the bridleway approaching Three Points Lane from the south east would be somewhat softened by established hedgerows and trees but views of Solar PV modules would remain to rising land to the west.

10.10.601. In Year 10 there would be a small scale of change in views over a long-term duration resulting in a **slight** magnitude of effect.

10.10.602. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from Three Points Lane and the PRoW network to the south east, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*PRoW between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)*

10.10.603. Viewpoint 14 lies within this receptor group which includes PRoW MCL/15/1, MCL/16/1, and ECL/9/1. Existing views are across arable fields which are intersected by hedgerows, woodland blocks and undulating topography. To the north east there are glimpses of Botolph Claydon and to the north there are glimpses of Claydon Park.

10.10.604. In Year 1 of operation (including maintenance), there would be limited views of Solar PV modules in Fields D3 and D12 to the western edge of Parcel 2 above intervening topography and vegetation from PRoW ECL/9/1. The change in scale of effect would be small as evidenced by Viewpoint 14.

10.10.605. Although new hedgerow mitigation planting to Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) would help to screen and filter views, they would largely remain for much of the footpath length that already experiences views. This would result in a small scale of change in views along a localised extent of the footpath.

10.10.606. The change would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.607. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation (including maintenance), there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*PRoW between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood*

10.10.608. Viewpoints 9 to 12 and 19 lie on the PRoW (including ECL/7/1 ECL/7/2, ECL/8/1, ECL/9/2, ECL/10/1, ECL/10/2 to ECL/10/5) which pass through Parcel 2 between Botolph Claydon in the North and Runt's Wood in the south. There would be open views of the Proposed Development along a wide extent of the footpath network extending south from Botolph Claydon to within Parcel 2.

10.10.609. Bridleway ECL/10/1, also known as Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway), extends southwards from off-road parking which is accessed from Orchard Way to the west of Botolph Claydon. Travelling south from the car park, field boundary vegetation would largely screen and filter views of the Proposed Development from the Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) and from Footpath ECL/9/2 which extends from the western edge of Botolph Claydon as evidenced by Viewpoint 8. Views would increase substantially as the bridleway adjoins the western boundaries of Fields D3 (South), D12 to D14 and D16 from where there would be open views of the Proposed Development as evidenced by Viewpoint 12.

10.10.610. Views of the Proposed Development would be equally open from the length of Footpath ECL/8/1 which extends along field margins from Botolph Claydon to Runt's Wood through open fields of the Site, which is also the route of Bernwood Jubilee Way. Views would primarily be to the Solar PV modules set back 50m from the footpath to the east and also to the Satellite Collector Compound to Field D17 and the BESS to Fields D8 and D9 as evidenced by Viewpoints 9, 10 and 11. The Proposed Development would also be visible to Parcel 3, including distant views of the Main Collector Compound and the Rosefield Substation.

10.10.611. Footpath ECL/7/2 extends south from Botolph Claydon to Hogshaw Farm passing within Fields D4, D9, D10 and D19 along its length. This section of footpath would therefore have open views of the Solar PV

modules and to the BESS and acoustic screen walls in Fields D8 and D9 as evidenced by Viewpoint 19.

10.10.612. In Year 1 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a large scale of change in views over a wide extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **substantial** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.613. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 operation, there would be a **major adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.10.614. Mitigation and infill planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed along the eastern boundaries of Fields D3, D12 and D13 and to within Fields D4, D11, D14 and D15 adjacent to the western edge of Solar PV modules. This would create a wide, 50m corridor for trail users which would be sown with a wildflower mix to create visual interest. This section of the footpath would also be surfaced in a similar manner to that found along Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway) which it connects to just north of Runt's Wood. A new permissive route would also be created to the north of (Field D3 south) which would create a looped walk to within the Site as shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.10: Existing and Proposed PRoW and Permissive Footpaths [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

10.10.615. Once these hedgerows have established to a height of up to 3.5m, there would be limited views of the Proposed Development to the west of view, except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation predominantly in winter months. The hedgerows have been well set back to the east of the trail in order to maintain views to the wider countryside including Quainton Hill to the south east. This would partially screen views of the closest Solar PV modules some 50m to the east of view, but wider views of the Proposed Development in Parcels 2 and 3 would remain, softened somewhat by the hedgerows.

10.10.616. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed along the western boundaries of Fields D3, D12 and D13 that bound Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway). Once these hedgerows have established to a height of up to 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development to the west, except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months. Generous wildflower margins would maintain a pleasant rural experience; however, longer distance views to Quainton Hill and the wider vale would be lost to the lower elevations of the route.

10.10.617. Further to this, open views to Solar PV modules and the BESS would remain for much of Footpath ECL/7/2 which extends south from Botolph

Claydon to Hogshaw Farm, albeit by Year 10, Solar PV modules would be screened by established woodland belt planting in Field D19.

10.10.618. In Year 10 of operation (including maintenance) there would be a large/medium to medium/small scale of change in views over a wide extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **substantial/moderate** to **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.619. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 operation, there would be a **major/moderate** to **moderate adverse** effect on views for this receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**.

*PRoW to Finemere Hill*

10.10.620. Viewpoints 15 and 41 lie on the PRoW (including ECL/8/2, QUA/38/1, QUA/40/3, QUA41/1, QUA/42/2 and MCL/22/1) which extend from Runt's Wood to within the small flat ridge of land to Finemere Hill. These viewpoints are located in and around Fields D28 and D29 from where there would be open views of the Proposed Development.

10.10.621. In Year 1 of operation there would be open views of Solar PV modules in Field D28 from Footpaths QUA/38/1 and QUA/41/1, a section of Bridleway QUA/40/3, and the permissive footpath to the south of Runt's Wood. The bridleway is part of a wider route that links Claydon Road in the east to the Bernwood Jubilee Way (Footpath QUA/42/2) to the western boundary of Parcel 2 (Field D29). This bridleway would be largely screened from views to the east of Parcel 2, but with views above hedgerows for much of its length to the southern boundary of Parcel 2.

10.10.622. In Year 1 of operation there would be a large scale of change in views over a wide extent of these routes to the small flat ridge on Finemere Hill. New mitigation planting to the south of Runt's Wood would provide screening to the permissive footpath to the northern edge of Field D29, but views would remain for the remainder of the footpaths on top of the ridge.

10.10.623. This would result in a large to medium scale of change in views along an intermediate extent of the footpath. The change would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **substantial/moderate** to **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.624. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** to **moderate** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **significant**.

### *PRoW between Finemere Hill and HS2/Claydon Road*

10.10.625. Viewpoints 16 and 17 lie on the PRoW (including MCL/2/1, QUA/34/1, QUA/35/1 QUA/36/2, QUA/36/3, QUA/39/1, QUA/38/2, QUA/40/1, QUA/40/3, QUA/42/1, GUN/34/1 and QUA/40/4) which extend to the south and south west of Parcel 2. These effects are therefore assessed over the PRoW network to the south of the ridge on land descending towards HS2 and Claydon Road.

10.10.626. In Year 1 of operation there would be open very limited views of the Proposed Development from the wider PRoW network to the south and west of Parcel 2. Views would largely be screened by intervening topography and vegetation, as evidenced by Viewpoint 16 from Bridleway GUN/34/1, which is typical of the short lived views to the west and south west of Parcel 2. To the south east, Viewpoint 17 located on Footpath QUA/39/1 illustrates that the Proposed Development would be screened by the topography and field boundary hedgerows to the south of Fields D28 and D29.

10.10.627. In Year 1 of operation there would be a small/negligible scale of change in views over a limited extent of these routes to south and south west of Finemere Hill. Once new mitigation planting and hedgerows have established to a height of 3.5m there would be reduced views of the Proposed Development to within the Fields D28 and D29 except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months, but this would be barely discernible.

10.10.628. The small/negligible scale of change would however remain in Year 10. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **negligible** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.629. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **minor/negligible adverse** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

### *PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon/East Claydon Road and Parcel 3*

10.10.630. Viewpoints 21 to 25 lie on the PRoW (including ECL/3/1, ECL/3A/1, ECL/3/2, ECL/4/1, ECL/4/2, ECL/5/1, ECL/6/1), lanes and roads which extend east/west through Parcel 3 between East Claydon and Granborough. There would be a varied experience of the Proposed Development along an intermediate extent of this footpath network.

10.10.631. The Proposed Development would sit in the lower lying valley area to the west of the Claydon Brook with land rising to the valley sides to the east and west. Viewpoint 21 (Bridleway ECL/5/1) and Viewpoint 23 (Footpath ECL/4/1) are located at similar elevations (110-115m AOD)

0.55km to the west of the Site, providing views across the vale which would include the Proposed Development in Parcels 2 and 3. The scale of change in views would be up to large/medium from Viewpoint 23 and medium from Viewpoint 21.

10.10.632. Viewpoints 22, 24 and 25 illustrate varying degrees of screening that would be afforded users of this receptor group at lower level elevations. There would be a large scale change in views for footpath users to within Field E23 who would experience close proximity views of Solar PV modules in Field E23 and glimpses of the Main Collector Compound in Fields E21-E22. These effects would reduce to at most medium to the west of Field E23 as evidenced by Viewpoint 22 (Bridleway ECL/5/1).

10.10.633. Viewpoint 24 (East Claydon Road/Footpath ECL/3/1) demonstrates how intervening topography and field boundary vegetation would screen the majority of the Proposed Development from lower lying areas to the north west with the exception of the taller elements of the Rosefield Substation. The scale of change in views would be no more than small from these receptors.

10.10.634. Viewpoint 25 is illustrative of the large/medium scale change as a result of open views of the Solar PV modules and Rosefield Substation set back from the diverted Footpath ECL/4/2 in Fields E11 and E20.

10.10.635. There would be a large to medium scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes in Year 1 operation. This would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a **moderate** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.636. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 1 operation, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from this footpath network, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.10.637. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed to the southern extent of Bridleway ECL/5/1 to within Field E23 together with a woodland belt along the western boundaries of Fields E11 and E20 to E23. Once the hedgerows have established to a height of up to 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development to within the Field E23 except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months, but this would be barely discernible.

10.10.638. Approaching from the west, views would be somewhat softened and screened by the established woodland planting albeit views would remain above this planting from more elevated views to closer to Church Lane. In contrast, views of Solar PV modules and the Rosefield Substation would remain open for the extent of the diverted Footpath ECL/4/2 within Field E11.

10.10.639. In Year 10 there would be a medium to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes. This would be experienced over a long-term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.640. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Year 10 operation, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from this footpath network, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the scale and extent of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

*PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon Road/Parcel 3 and Granborough/Hogshaw Road*

10.10.641. Viewpoints 26 to 28 lie on the PRoW (including HOG/6/1, GRA1/1, GRA/1/2, GRA/2/1, GRA/2/2, GRA/3/1, GRA/3/2, GRA/4/1, GRA/10/1, GRA/11/1, WIS/1/2), lanes and roads which extend to the east of Parcel 3 between East Claydon and Granborough. There would be a varied experience of the Proposed Development along an intermediate extent of this footpath network.

10.10.642. Views of the Proposed Development would be at least partially screened by intervening layers of field boundary vegetation from footpaths to the east of Parcel 3 until the land rises to the western edge of Granborough. Views of the Rosefield Substation, Main Collector Compound and Solar PV modules would be visible from PRoW GRA/3/1 and GRA/10/1 to the western edge of Granborough, as evidenced by Viewpoint 28, albeit at a distance of approximately 1.2km and would be medium in scale.

10.10.643. Views of the Proposed Development would generally reduce to PRoW (including HOG/6/1, GRA1/1, GRA/1/2, GRA/2/1 and GRA/2/2) to the lower lying land to the south and east of Parcel 3 due to screening by the existing mature hedgerows as evidenced by Viewpoints 20, 26 and 27 and would range from medium to small in scale.

10.10.644. Views of the Proposed Development would likely be screened altogether from footpaths to the north of Parcel 3 and to the northern and southern edges of Granborough (including GRA/3/2, GRA/4/1, GRA/11/1 and WIS/1/2) due to a combination of intervening field boundary vegetation and or topography.

10.10.645. There would be a medium to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes in Year 1 operation. Although mitigation planting and hedgerows established to 3.5m would provide

some additional screening and filtering of views to the lower levels of the Proposed Development, views would remain broadly similar at Year 10.

10.10.646. The medium to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes would therefore remain over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.647. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

*PRoW between Steeple Claydon/Queen Catherine Road and Calvert Road*

10.10.648. Viewpoints 6, 7, 38 and 39 lie on the footpaths and footways (including SCL/7/1, SCL/7/2, SCL/8/1, SCL/8/2, SCL/8/3, SCL/8/4, SCL/9/1, SCL/9/3, MCL/10/1, MCL/10/2 and Addison Road) which extend to the south of Steeple Claydon towards Parcel 1. There would be a varied experience of the Proposed Development for users of this footpath network which is currently not fully accessible due to construction works associated with East West Rail.

10.10.649. Viewpoint 7 (Footpath SCL/7/1) and Viewpoint 38 (permissive footpath) illustrate views from higher elevations to the southern edge of Steeple Claydon at distances of approximately 1.6km. These are representative of typical views from the southern edge of Steeple Claydon which would experience a small-scale change in view as result of the Proposed Development which would predominantly be set low down in fields to Parcel 1; Field B11 would be more noticeable on Knowl Hill but would be viewed at distances of approximately 2km.

10.10.650. The footpath network descends from the southern edge of Steeple Claydon to lower lying land from where there would be no views of the Solar PV modules as illustrated by the ZTV presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.9b: Solar PV Modules Parcel 1 – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]**. Viewpoint 6 illustrates that the Proposed Development would then be partially visible again to the south of East West Rail where land rises slightly before falling again towards the northern boundary of Parcel 1. The Proposed Development would be predominantly viewed above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation in the lower lying fields of the Site but would be more noticeable to Field B11 on Knowl Hill. Viewpoint 6 at the entrance to Winter's Tale wedding venue, is typical of these views, located approximately 0.6km to the north of the Site and the receptor group would experience a medium/small change to the views. Views would then become reduced and further screened and filtered by intervening layers of field boundary vegetation as the footpath network descends to the north of Calvert Road.

10.10.651. Viewpoint 39 lies on Addison Road which connects Steeple Claydon to Calvert Road. The Viewpoint is taken from the East West Rail overbridge which is somewhat elevated above the wider extents of the road. Even from this somewhat elevated location, views from the footway would be limited to oblique, distant glimpses primarily to Field B11 and effects would be small/negligible in scale.

10.10.652. An unnamed road links Queen Catherine Road to Calvert Road to the western edge of Claydon Park. With the exception of the junction with Calvert Road, no views of the Proposed Development would be possible from this route due to the intervening layered field boundary vegetation which would block all views.

10.10.653. There would be a medium/small to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes in Year 1 of operation. Although new mitigation planting to the northern edge of Parcel 1 in the form of new tree belts and hedgerows established to 3.5m would provide some additional screening and filtering of views to the lower levels of the Proposed Development, views would remain broadly similar at Year 10.

10.10.654. The medium/small to small scale of change in views over an intermediate extent of these routes would therefore remain over a long-term duration and would result in a **slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.655. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor adverse** effect on views from the receptor group, which is considered to be **not significant**.

## Users of other recreational receptors

### *Claydon House*

10.10.656. Claydon House RPG is located approximately 220m to the north east of the Site at its closest point; however, the majority of views of the Proposed Development would be from distances of at least 1km to the nearest visible Solar PV Modules as illustrated by the ZTV presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.9b: Solar PV Modules Parcel 1 – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]**.

10.10.657. Viewpoint 5 lies on the Bridleway MCL/10/2 adjacent to the ha-ha to the west of the southern lawn of Claydon House. This is typical of views of the Proposed Development from the immediate west of the house and from the southern section of bridleway which runs north to south from Queen Catherine Road to Calvert Road; views from within the parkland are almost completely screened by topography and mature tree belts.

10.10.658. Views of the Proposed Development would be limited to rising land within Fields B11, B16 and B18-B21 at distances of greater than 1km, with potential views of the Satellite Collector Compound (housed within an agricultural-type shed) and Transformer in Field B23 (South). The Proposed Development would be partially visible above and between existing hedgerow and tree vegetation and would be more noticeable in winter months.

10.10.659. During Year 1 of operation, there would be a medium/small scale of change in views along an intermediate section of the bridleway, PRoW MCL/10/2, but altogether a localised extent of the wider parkland. Although new mitigation planting to the northern edge of Parcel 1, in the form of hedgerows established to 3.5m, would provide some additional screening and filtering of views to the lower levels of the Proposed Development, views would remain broadly similar at Year 10.

10.10.660. The medium/small to small scale of change in views over a localised extent of the receptor group would therefore remain over a long-term duration and would result in a **moderate/slight** magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.10.661. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the receptor (particularly the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

### *Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park*

10.10.662. The Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park attraction is accessed from Claydon Road and traversed by PRoW HOG/7/1 in a broadly north to south direction, from Claydon Road in the south to Botolph Claydon in the north. The visitor attraction is located to the eastern boundary of Parcel 2, adjacent to Fields D19 and D26. The ZTV presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 10.9b: Solar PV Modules Parcel 1 – Detailed Screening [EN010158/APP/6.3]** illustrates a potential widespread experience of the Proposed Development; however, from site study the actual experience would be more varied to within the attraction.

10.10.663. Viewpoint 43 illustrates views across the visitor attraction towards rising land to Runt's Wood to the west and Botolph Claydon to the north west.

10.10.664. Although Fields D19 and D26 are located to the western boundary of the Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park the Proposed Development would be

often screened and filtered in views to these lower lying fields by existing field boundary vegetation. More open views of the Proposed Development would be experienced above this vegetation towards the elevated ridge of land to the north west, primarily consisting of Fields D11, D14 and D15.

10.10.665. Views of the Proposed Development, including the BESS, to the north, in Fields D7 to D9, would largely be screened by intervening built form and vegetation to the northern edge of the attraction, albeit views from the car parks would potentially be more open. The Proposed Development would also be increasingly visible to within Field D4 to the more north western extents of the attraction as would potential views of activity the BESS in Fields D8 and D9 and the and Satellite Collector Compound in Fields D17.

10.10.666. During Year 1 of operation, there would be large/medium to medium scale of change across an intermediate extent of the Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park. New mitigation planting to the eastern edge of Parcel 2, in the form of new tree belts and hedgerows established to 3.5m, would provide some additional screening and filtering of views to the lower levels of the Proposed Development, reducing the scale of change to medium across views. This would be experienced over an intermediate extent of the Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park and the **moderate** magnitude (tending towards **major/moderate**) of effect on visual amenity would remain due to the long-term duration at Year 10.

10.10.667. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be **high/medium**. Therefore, in Years 1 to 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate adverse** effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

## Decommissioning

10.10.668. The decommissioning phase would last up to approximately two years. Any effects arising during decommissioning are considered to be short term in duration as they would not be visible in any given location for more than two years.

10.10.669. During decommissioning, there would be no additional adverse or beneficial impacts on existing (or newly established) landscape fabric. The planting established during the operation phase of the development would be left in situ when the Site is returned to the landowner.

10.10.670. Decommissioning effects on the landscape character and visual amenity of the environmental baseline are considered to be similar, or no greater than, those identified for the construction phase. Planting established during the operation phase would have matured resulting in

potential increased screening and therefore any visual effects during decommissioning would be the same or less than those identified during construction.

10.10.671. In these circumstances the effects are as identified above in **Paragraphs 10.10.20** to **10.10.284** and are not repeated here.

## 10.11. Opportunities for enhancement

10.11.1. The proposed mitigation structure planting and new habitats, as detailed in and secured by the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**, would provide enhancement opportunities.

## 10.12. Monitoring requirements

10.12.1. A programme of monitoring relating to the establishment and maintenance of the mitigation structure planting and new habitats is detailed in and secured by the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**.

## 10.13. Difficulties and uncertainties

10.13.1. In some cases, residents whose properties were included in the RVAA did not respond to a request for a home visit to review potential effects. Hence it is possible that specific views have been omitted, and assessment has been made based on external viewing from the closest publicly available location and satellite imagery only.

## 10.14. Summary

10.14.1. A summary of this assessment is presented in **Table 10.14**. The sensitivity of each receptor is identified alongside any relevant embedded and additional mitigation measures, together with the residual effects.

10.14.2. As outlined above in **Section 10.10**, the only monitoring requirements relevant to landscape and visual amenity would be a programme of monitoring relating to the establishment and maintenance of the landscape mitigation planting and new habitats which is set out in the **Outline LEMP [EN010158/APP/7.6]**.

Table 10.14: Summary of the landscape and visual assessment

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Key: + = positive or - = negative; D = direct or I = indirect; ST = short-term, MT = medium-term or LT = long-term; P = permanent or T = temporary** | | | | | |
| Landscape effects | | | | | |
| **Landscape fabric (woodland, trees and hedgerows)** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate beneficial**<br>**(+) (D) (LT) (P)**<br>**Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NCA 108: Upper Thames Clay Vales** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium/low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **NCA 109: Midvale Ridge** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Low | Negligible | **Negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Negligible | **Negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Negligible | **Negligible adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **LCT 5: Shallow Valley** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Low | Slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Moderate/slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Moderate/slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LCA 5.4: Twyford Vale** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Low | Negligible | **Negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **LCA 5.6: Claydon Valley** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Low | Slight | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Moderate/slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Moderate/slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **LCA 5.7: Hogshaw Claylands** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium/low | Moderate | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Substantial/moderate | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Substantial/ moderate | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LCA 5.8: North Marston Undulating Claylands** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Low | Slight | **Minor adverse (-) (ID) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Slight | **Minor adverse (-) (ID) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Low | Slight | **Minor adverse (-) (ID) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **LCT 7: Wooded Rolling Lowlands** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium/low | Slight | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | Medium/low | Moderate/slight | **Moderate/minor adverse** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Moderate/slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **LCA 7.3: Claydon Bowl** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Substantial/moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Substantial/moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LCT 9: Low Hills and Ridges** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **LCA 9.1: Finemere Hill** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| **LCA 9.2: Quainton Hill** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (LT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **Not significant** |
| **LCA 9.3: Pitchcott-Whitchurch Ridge** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium/low | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium/low | Slight/negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (ID) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Quainton-Wing Hills AAL** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | Medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | **Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| Visual effects | | | | | |
| **1-2 Calvert Cottages** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **Not significant** |
| **3 Calvert Cottage** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **4-5 Calvert Cottages** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Granary Cottage** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Pond Farm** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **The Old Dairy** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Knowlhill Farm** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **(-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **1-2 Blackmorehill Cottages** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **4-5 Catherine Cottages** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **Not significant** |
| **6-7 Catherine Cottages** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Bernwood Farm** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sion Hill Farm** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Substantial | **Major**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Station House** | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Botolph Claydon** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Granborough** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **North Marston** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant** |
| **Oving** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | **Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Steeple Claydon** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Orchard Way/Calvert Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Quainton Road/Claydon Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Winslow Road/East Claydon Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Queen Catherine Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **Not significant** |
| **East West Rail** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | Medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **NCN Route No. 51** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | High | Negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High | Negligible | **Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| **North Buckinghamshire Way/Midshires Way** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **Swan's Way/Outer Aylesbury Ring** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| **Bernwood Jubilee Way** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | High/medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | **Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| **PRoW between Calvert Road and HS2** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High/medium | Substantial | **Major adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Substantial | **Major adverse (-) (D) (LT) (P) Significant** |
| **Three Points Lane and the PRoW extending to HS2** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (P) Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PRoW between Three Points Lane and Splash Lane (Three Points Lane Bridleway)** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight/negligible | **Minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **PRoW between Botolph Claydon and Runt's Wood** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Substantial/ moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Substantial | **Major adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Substantial/ moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (P)**<br>**Significant** |
| **PRoW to Finemere Hill** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Substantial/moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Substantial/ moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High/medium | Substantial/ moderate | **Major/moderate adverse** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **(-) (D) (LT) (P)**<br>**Significant** |
| **PRoW between Finemere Hill and HS2/Claydon Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Negligible | **Minor/negligible adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (P)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon/East** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation | High/medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Claydon Road and to within Parcel 3** | | Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | | | |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate | **Major/moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| **PRoW, lanes and roads between East Claydon Road/Parcel 3 and Granborough/ Hogshaw Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| **PRoW between Steeple Claydon and Calvert Road** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Claydon House** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Slight | **Moderate/minor adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Not significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate/slight | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (LT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| **Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park** | Construction and decommissioning | Additional mitigation: Protection of existing retained vegetation<br>Embedded mitigation: Implementation of landscape mitigation planting | High/medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse**<br>**(-) (D) (MT) (T)**<br>**Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 1) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly | High/medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse** |

| Receptor | Phase | Embedded or additional mitigation | Sensitivity of the receptor | Magnitude of effect | Residual effect (with additional mitigation) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | established landscape mitigation | | | **(-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant** |
| | Operation (Year 10) | Embedded mitigation: Maintenance of newly established landscape mitigation | High/medium | Moderate | **Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Significant** |

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# Rosefield
Solar Farm

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