



# **Lime Down**

Solar Park

## **Technical Note on Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects**

**May 2026**

**Revision 1**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168**

**Document Reference: EXAM/9.6**

**The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**



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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the Technical Note

- 1.1.1 Within the relevant representations received from Wiltshire Council [RR4934], in relation to the intra project Cumulative Visual Effects, the applicant agreed to prepare a Technical Note (TN) to set out the approach used to assess these effects used in the LVIA presented in **ES Volume 1 Chapter 8 [APP-060]** and to provide a summary of the identified visual effects.
- 1.1.2 In section 8.22 of the Relevant Representations from Wiltshire Council, it is noted: *“An assessment of cumulative visual effects of Sites A-E must be undertaken in two parts. Firstly, a combined or in combination assessment is required, which will be undertaken to cover a) where more than one site is visible in a viewing arc; b) where the receptor turns and is able to see another, or several other sites, in 360 degrees but without moving for the viewpoint location. Combined intra-project viewpoints can be simply ascertained by utilising a detailed ZTV methodology, suitable for the project scale, as detailed above in ZTV and Zol”.*
- 1.1.3 In section 8.24 of the Relevant Representations from Wiltshire Council, it is noted that *“due to the disaggregated / disparate nature of the Lime Down Sites A to E, the Applicant has structured their assessment to include a combined or intra-project assessment of individual DCO sites combined. The council considers that it is not appropriate to simply conclude that because no individual site on its own generates significant effects above a certain threshold, then the combined resulting impact for these sites assessed together could therefore not be greater than for the assessment of the individual site areas. Intra-project cumulative effects should be treated separately from the site-specific Landscape and Visual Impacts”.*
- 1.1.4 It is worth noting that section 8.22 above relates specifically to intra project cumulative visual effects and section 2.4 relates to both landscape and visual intra project cumulative effects.

## 2 Methodology

2.1.1 As set out in the LVIA Methodology in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-1 [APP-187]**, the Cumulative Site landscape and visual effects relating to the Cumulative Sites effects is considered as part of the LVIA. Cumulative Site effects relating to the Scheme are considered within the Cumulative Site Assessments for both Landscape and Visual receptors.

2.1.2 On Cumulative Site Effects the Methodology in section 8.7 of the LVIA **[APP-060]** states:

*“Due to the dispersed nature of the Solar PV Sites within the Scheme, an assessment of the landscape and visual effects of Lime Down A - E, taken together, has been undertaken to determine the effects of the Solar PV Sites as a whole.*

*The cumulative effects of each of the Solar PV Sites are assessed and the combined set of effects of the Scheme to reach an overall conclusion on where likely significant effects might occur as a result of the Scheme.”*

### 2.2 Visual Assessment

2.2.1 For each visual receptor assessed, the visibility of the Scheme was identified firstly to the Lime Down Site in closest proximity (Primary Site/); secondly to the visibility of any other site (Secondary Site(s)) and thirdly to the Included Cumulative Development Sites.

2.2.2 There are therefore three assessments for each identified Visual Receptor which are set out in:

- ES Volume 3 Appendix 8-3-2-1 Visual Assessment Sheets (Non-Significant) **[ APP- 190]**; and
- ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-2 Landscape and Visual Assessment Sheets (Significant) **[APP-191]**.

2.2.3 A summary of Visual effects is provided in:

- ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-3 Summary of Visual Effects **[APP-192]**.

2.2.4 Following the baseline description of each visual receptor there are three assessment sheets:

- Visual Assessment (Scheme) where the primary Lime Down Site is assessed;
- Cumulative Site Visual Assessment where the effects of any secondary Lime Down Site(s) are assessed; and

- Visual Assessment (Cumulative) where the Inter-Cumulative Development Sites from the included list are assessed - refer to Table 8-31 Included Cumulative Development Sites of the LVIA [**APP-060**] and Table 28 Identified Cumulative Development Sites (Included Renewable Schemes) in Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-2: Landscape and Visual Assessment Sheets (Significant) [**APP-191**].

2.2.5 Although this TN relates to Cumulative Site Assessment or Scheme effects (2<sup>nd</sup> bullet above), it should be noted that no visual inter cumulative adverse effects (3<sup>rd</sup> bullet above) were recorded on any of the assessed Receptors where Significant or Non-Significant effects were recorded – i.e., there was no identified inter visibility between any of the 5 Lime Down Sites and the Included Cumulative Developments. Refer to post Submission Assessment of Cumulative Sequential Visual Effects.

## 2.3 Receptor versus Viewpoint Assessment

2.3.1 The Visual assessment in the LVIA is receptor based and not viewpoint based.

2.3.2 In accordance with GLVIA3 (paragraph 6.19) *'representative viewpoints, have been selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ – for example, certain points may be chosen to represent the views of users of particular public footpaths and bridleways'*.

2.3.3 In assessing the effects of the Scheme on the Receptor, the whole experience of the user is considered. This includes 360 degree views from the receptor and for Transport and Public Right of Way Receptors this includes consideration of the progressive views from the whole length of the identified route.

2.3.4 Photography from selected and agreed viewpoints are representative of views experienced from a particular route and are used to support the assessment.

2.3.5 It should be noted that the assessment of visual effects can include assessing effects on specific views as well as on the general visual amenity experienced by people.

### Types of Views

2.3.6 With reference to GLVIA3 (Paragraph 6.19), viewpoints selected for inclusion in the assessment and for illustration of the visual effects fall broadly into three groups. These include:

- **representative viewpoints**, selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ – for example, certain points may be chosen to represent the views of users of particular public footpaths and bridleways;
- **specific viewpoints**, chosen because they are key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, including for example specific local visitor attractions, viewpoints in areas of particularly noteworthy visual and/or recreational amenity such as landscapes with statutory landscape designations, or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations;
- **illustrative viewpoints**, chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations.

2.3.7 In the LVIA, only representative views are used to represent the visual amenity of the area.

2.3.8 It should be noted that through the iterative design process, some viewpoints have become 'illustrative' rather than representative. These predominantly occur on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) where infrastructure was removed from the Scheme following consultation. For instance, Viewpoints 3 and 4 are now illustrative viewpoints which demonstrate that no infrastructure is visible from the CNL from these locations.

### 3 Assessment Findings

- 3.1.1 Table 1: Summary of Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects lists the 22 Visual Receptors where more than one Lime Down Site is visible as requested by Wiltshire Council **[RR4934]** which states “ a) *‘more than one site is visible in a viewing arc’* and where b) *‘the receptor turns and is able to see another, or several other sites, in 360 degrees but without moving for the viewpoint location’*”.
- 3.1.2 The assessment for these 22 individual visual receptors have been extracted from the assessment sheets and are summarised below:
- There are seven Private Receptors;
  - There are nine Public Receptors; and
  - There are six Transport Receptors.
- 3.1.3 Full details of the assessments for these receptors are presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-1: Visual Assessment Sheets (Non-Significant) [APP-190]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-2: 2 Landscape and Visual Assessment Sheets (Significant) [APP-191]**.
- 3.1.4 Of the 22 receptors identified, there are six receptors which have been assessed as experiencing significant effects. These are shown in Table 2 below and discussed in section 4 of the Technical Note.

**Table 1: Summary of Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects**

Receptor Code	Receptor Name	Primary Site Assessed	Effect Significant /Non Significant	Secondary Site Assessed	Significant /Non Significant	APP Number
<b>Private Receptor</b>						
RS008	Norton	D	Not Significant	B	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
RS015	Corston	E	Not Significant	D	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
RG010	New Barn, Easton Grey	B	Not Significant	A	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
RG017	Ladyswood Farm, Ladyswood	B	Not Significant	A	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
RI019	Lords Wood House, Sherston	C	Not Significant	A	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
RI037	Lord's Wood Farm, Lordswood	C	Significant	A	Significant	8-3-2-2
RI042	Ladyswood House, Ladyswood	A	Not Significant	B	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
<b>Public Receptor</b>						
TP027	WT SHER 15	A	Not Significant	B and D	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TP029	WT SHER 14	A	Not Significant	B	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TP032	WT SHER 13	B	Not Significant	A	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TP095	WT SHER 17	A	Significant	C	Significant	8-3-2-2
TP097	WT SHER 16	A	Significant	C	Significant	8-3-2-2
TP109	WT NORT 5	B	Not Significant	C	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TP158	WT HULL 8	D	Significant	E	Significant	8-3-2-2
TP162	WT MALW 47	D	Not Significant	E	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TP165	WT MALW 52	D	Significant	E	Significant	8-3-2-2

Transport Receptor						
TR040	Road to Alderton North Past Widleys Farm to Cross Roads South of Sherston, Sherston	C	Not Significant	A	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TR055	Crossroads south of Forlorn South east to road to Norton, Ladyswood	A	Not Significant	C and B	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TR057	Road from Sherston North East to junction in Norton, Norton	C	Not Significant	B and D	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TR145	Fosse Way	C	Significant	B	Significant	8-3-2-2-
TR179	Farleaze south east to Railway Bridge, Norton	D	Not Significant	C	Not Significant	8-3-2-1
TR215	West Park Farm Access, Corston	D	Not Significant	E	Not Significant	8-3-2-1-

**Table 2: Summary Table of Receptors with Significant Effects**

Receptor Code	Receptor Name	Primary Site Assessed	Significant /Non Significant	Secondary Site Assessed	Significant /Non Significant	APP Number
<b>Private Receptor</b>						
RI037	Lord's Wood Farm, Lordswood	C	Significant	A	Significant	8-3-2-2-2
<b>Public Receptor</b>						
TP095	WT SHER 17	A	Significant	C	Significant	8-3-2-2-2
TP097	WT SHER 16	A	Significant	C	Significant	8-3-2-2-2
TP158	WT HULL 8	D	Significant	E	Significant	8-3-2-2-2
TP165	WT MALW 52	D	Significant	E	Significant	8-3-2-2-2
<b>Transport Receptor</b>						
TR145	Fosse Way	C	Significant	B	Significant	8-3-2-2-4

## **4 Significant Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects**

4.1.1 The Significant Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects have been robustly assessed in the LVIA and are summarised in **Table 2: Summary Table of Receptors with Significant Effects** above and include:

- One Private Receptor;
- Four Public Receptors; and
- One Transport Receptor.

4.1.2 For the full assessment on these receptors refer to **ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-2: Landscape and Visual Assessment Sheets (Significant) [APP191]**.

4.1.3 In all cases, the effect of the secondary site is less than the effects of the primary Site, and does not increase the level of intra cumulative effect on the receptors. This is predominantly due to the distance to the secondary Site, intervening vegetation. and screening related to topography. As such, this would not increase the level of effects above those described for the primary Site.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1.1 Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects were identified for 22 receptors and significant Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects were identified for six receptors.
- 5.1.2 In all cases, the effect of the secondary site is less than the primary Site. This is predominantly due to the distance to the Sites or the fact that they are seen from a different location from the route (referred to a sequential visibility). As such, this would not increase the level of effects above those described for the primary Site. Therefore, the Intra Project Cumulative Visual Effects are as identified for the primary Site.
- 5.1.3 This is due to the “disaggregated / disparate nature of the Lime Down Sites A to E” combined with rolling character of the Hullavington Lowlands. As such, the assessment does not consider there to be a greater Cumulative Visual Effect for these receptors than for the assessment of the level of harm identified from the individual sites themselves.