



Lime Down

Solar Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-2: Landscape and Visual Assessment Sheets (Significant) (Clean)

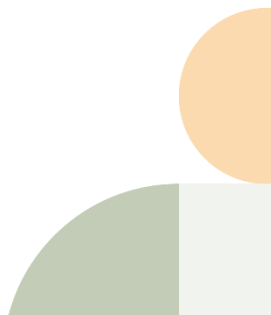
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Revision 3

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Schedule of Changes

Revision	Section Reference	Description of Changes	Reason for Revision
2	Section 5.1	In reviewing the assessment of visual effects for Grain Store Barn (Receptor RG020), it was noted that the magnitude of change had been incorrectly stated as 'Medium' rather than 'Low' at Year 15 for this receptor. This is an appropriate magnitude of change given the juxtaposition and distance between the receptor and the Scheme, including open aspects retained to the south, dwellings and their immediate curtilage (and wider paddocks), and the Scheme's proposed mitigation planting. The significance of the effect at this receptor remains correctly as Moderate/ Minor Adverse at Year 15.	Updated for Deadline 3 of Examination as a result of Applicant due diligence.
3	Section 7	Removal of Assessment Tables for Receptors TR043, TR143 and TR038	Following the removal of the southern part of A1 and the northern part of C9, these receptors no longer have significant effects and have been transferred to ES Volume 3, Appendix 8-3-2-1 Visual Assessment Sheets (Non-Significant)

List of Contents

1	Appendix 8-3-2-2-1: Landscape Assessment Sheets (Significant)	1
1.1	Landscape Assessment Summary–Scheme Effects	2
1.2	Landscape Assessment Summary – Landscape Fabric	3
1.3	Landscape Assessment Summary – The 1km Local Study Area	4
1.4	Landscape Assessment Summary – The 2km Wider Study Area	5
1.5	Landscape Assessment Summary – The 5km Outer Study Area	6
2	Lime Down Scheme Assessment	7
2.1	Assessment of the Scheme on Landscape Fabric	8
2.2	Assessment of the Scheme within the 1Km Local Study Area	17
2.3	Assessment of the Scheme within the 2km Wider Study Area	25
2.4	Assessment of the Scheme within the 5Km Outer Study Area	33
3	Lime Down Site Assessment	43
3.1	Landscape Fabric	43
3.2	Landscape Character – The 1km Local Study Area (Individual Sites)	78
3.3	Landscape Character – The 2km Wider Study Area (Individual Sites)	110
3.4	Landscape Character – The 5km Outer Study Area (Individual)	137
4	Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects	165
4.1	Summary of Cumulative Development Effects	165
4.2	Identification of Cumulative Development Sites	166
4.3	Included Cumulative Development Sites	169
4.4	Cumulative Assessment on Landscape Fabric	171
4.5	Cumulative Assessment on 1km Local Study Area	174
4.6	Cumulative Assessment on 2km Wider Study Area	178
4.7	Cumulative Assessment on 5km Outer Study Area	182
4.8	Cumulative Assessment on 10km Cumulative Study Area	187
5	Appendix 8-3-2-2-2: Visual Assessment Sheets of Private Receptors (Significant)	193
5.1	Private Receptor- Group	193
5.2	Private Receptor - Individual	197
6	Appendix 8-3-2-2-3: Visual Assessment Sheets for Public Receptors (Significant)	223
6.1	Public Receptors - BOAT	223
6.2	Public Receptors -Bridleway	230

6.3	Public Receptors Footpath	244
7	Appendix 8-3-2-2-4 Visual Assessment Sheets of Transport Receptors (Significant).....	309
7.1	Transport Receptors – A-Road	309
7.2	Transport Receptors - Unclassified Unnumbered	313
7.3	Transport Receptors - Unclassified.....	323
7.4	Transport Receptors - Unknown	336

List of Tables

Table 1	Landscape Assessment Summary - (Cumulative) Scheme Effects	2
Table 2	Landscape Assessment Summary – Landscape Fabric	3
Table 3	Landscape Assessment Summary - The Local Study Area (1km)	4
Table 4	Landscape Assessment Summary –The Wider Study Area (2km).....	5
Table 5	Landscape Assessment Summary –The 5km Outer Study Area	6
Table 6	Lime Down A, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric	44
Table 7	Lime Down B, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric.....	51
Table 8	Lime Down C, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric.....	57
Table 9	Lime Down D, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric.....	64
Table 10	Lime Down E, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric.....	71
Table 11	Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area.....	79
Table 12	Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area	85
Table 13	Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)	92
Table 14	Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)	98
Table 15	Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)	104
Table 16	Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km).....	111
Table 17	Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)	117
Table 18	Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)	122
Table 19	Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)	127
Table 20	Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)	132
Table 21	Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The Outer Study Area (5km)	138
Table 22	Lime Down B, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km).....	143
Table 23	Lime Down C, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)	149
Table 24	Lime Down D, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)	154
Table 25	Lime Down E, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km).....	160
Table 26	Summary of Cumulative Scheme Effects.....	165
Table 27	Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (All Renewable Schemes)	166
Table 28	Identified Cumulative Development Sites (Included Renewable Schemes)	169
Table 29	Cumulative Assessment on Landscape Fabric	172
Table 30	Cumulative Assessment on 1 km Local Study Area	175
Table 31	Cumulative Assessment on 2 km Wider Study Area	179

Table 32 Cumulative Assessment on 5 km Outer Study Area.....	183
Table 33 Cumulative Assessment on 10 km Cumulative Study Area.....	188

**1 Appendix 8-3-2-2-1: Landscape Assessment
Sheets (Significant)**

1.1 Landscape Assessment Summary–Scheme Effects

Table 1 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects of the Scheme as a whole on the landscape fabric of the Site and the three different study areas, assessed in Section 2 of this Appendix.

Table 1 Landscape Assessment Summary - (Cumulative) Scheme Effects

Lime Down Solar Park: Summary of (Cumulative) Scheme Effects				
Receptor	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Landscape Fabric	Moderate / Minor Neutral	Moderate / Minor Neutral	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Local Study Area	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Wider Study Area	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Outer Study Area	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

1.2 Landscape Assessment Summary – Landscape Fabric

Table 2 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the Landscape Fabric of the individual Sites A-E and the Scheme.

Table 2 Landscape Assessment Summary – Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: - Landscape Assessment Summary – Landscape Fabric				
Site	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Lime Down A	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Lime Down B	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Lime Down C	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Lime Down D	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Lime Down E	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Assessment of Cumulative Site Effects (Scheme) – Landscape Effects				
Assessment of Cumulative Solar PV Sites Effects	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)

1.3 Landscape Assessment Summary – The 1km Local Study Area

Table 3 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 1km Local Study Area of the individual Sites A-E and the Scheme.

Table 3 Landscape Assessment Summary - The Local Study Area (1km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Landscape Assessment Summary -The Local Study Area (1km)				
Site	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Lime Down A	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down B	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down C	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down D	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down E	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Assessment of Cumulative Site Effects (Scheme) –The Local Study Area (1km)				
Assessment of Solar PV Sites Effects (the Scheme)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

1.4 Landscape Assessment Summary – The 2km Wider Study Area

Table 4 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 2km Wider Study Area of the individual Sites A-E and the Scheme.

Table 4 Landscape Assessment Summary –The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Landscape Assessment Summary –The Wider Study Area (2km)				
Site	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Lime Down A	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down B	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down C	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down D	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down E	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Assessment of Cumulative Site Effects (Scheme) –The Wider Study Area (2km)				
Assessment of Solar PV Sites Effects (the Scheme)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

1.5 Landscape Assessment Summary – The 5km Outer Study Area

Table 5 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 5km Outer Study Area of the individual Sites A-E and the Scheme overall - refer to Section 3.4 of this Appendix.

Table 5 Landscape Assessment Summary –The 5km Outer Study Area

Lime Down Solar Park: Landscape Assessment Summary –The 5km Outer Study Area				
Site	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Lime Down A	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down B	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down C	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Lime Down D	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible
Lime Down E	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible
Assessment of Cumulative Site Effects (Scheme) –The Outer Study Area (5km)				
Assessment of the Scheme Effects (Cumulative Site effects)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

2 Lime Down Scheme Assessment

2.1 Assessment of the Scheme on Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down Scheme, Landscape Fabric
Baseline
Baseline Context: The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character: The Scheme is located within two National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as: NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds to the west; NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales to the east. Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: The following Local level Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 1km Local Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3: North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Areas. These include: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. The Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland. West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland. These character areas are described in detail in the LVIA (refer to ES Volume 1: Chapter 8. Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1] and the Published Landscape Character Assessments are within ES Volume 3: Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions. The whole of the Scheme is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland whilst the Landscape Character Areas within the Regional and National Assessments provide the broader context.

Landscape Character
LCA 8 - Hullavington Rolling Lowland is also one of the Character Areas within the Limestone (Forest Marble) Farmland Landscape Type which is described as: <i>“Gently undulating lowland farmland underlain by limestone. Open landscape with broad low hills and shallow river valleys. Limestone walls boundaries in places and stone built settlements”</i>. The Hullavington Rolling Lowland is large area which lies between Malmesbury in the north and Chippenham in the south. It is a rural area of gently rolling hills and shallow valleys, based on a number of geological formations, predominantly Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash. The landform rises from approximately 60 m AOD in the east of the area close to the Avon valley, to over 120 m with some localised high points of up to 139 m AOD to the west.
Key Characteristics
The main characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland are defined as follows: • Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120 m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash. • Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils. • Continuous hedges with many mature oaks. • Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses. • Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms. • Historic Corsham Park. • Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates. • Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.
Management Guidelines
The overall objectives for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character, and to ensure that any new development respects the grain of the dispersed settlement in the area and the vernacular building materials. The continuity of hedgerows is important in shaping the character of the area and should be encouraged through appropriate land management programmes. River valleys should be enhanced by encouraging habitat creation and planting of riverside trees.

The use of limestone in buildings and free-standing walls should be supported, both in helping conserve existing features, and in the appropriate use of materials in new construction.

Protect the setting and intrinsic character of Corsham Park.

Minimise the landscape and visual effects of the expansion of Chippenham.

Management strategy actions

The following actions are recommended to help realise the overall objectives for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland:

- Conserve hedgerows and mature trees, including planting new trees in existing hedges and planting specimen trees in field corners.
- Encourage woodland management to provide continuity of cover while optimising ecological value.
- Enhance the wetland character in riverside locations by planting wouldows along water courses in informal groups and broken lines, and by encouraging landowners to help in the creation of more diverse waterside habitats.
- Ensure development reinforces the locally distinctive character and respects the vernacular. The use of traditional building materials including limestone are important in this area.

Key views management strategy

Many wide views are possible over this broad, rolling landscape. Within the rural hinterland, the key visual elements are the mature trees and the patchwork of small irregular fields. A number of major roads cross the area, including the M4 motorway and the A429 and A420. Views from these roads, and the connecting B roads, are important for the perceptions of many local people. Much of the rural hinterland, however, is relatively remote and tranquil.

Indicators of change from chosen viewpoints within this character area might include:

- Loss of hedgerows and mature oak trees.
- Landscape elements associated with riverside environments – in particular wet meadows, waterside trees, and reed beds or other wetland species.
- Built form using traditional stone materials and detailing.

Landscape sensitivity

On Landscape Sensitivity, the assessment for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland states:

“Corsham Park is designated as an Historic park and garden and forms part of a small Special Landscape Area which is an indication of its perceived high value. The broader area is typified by a gently undulating patchwork of arable and pasture with mature hedgerows, some woodlands and nucleated

settlement in the form of fine stone villages. In some areas the distinctive features of the landscape have been lost, such as the relative lack of diversity in river corridors.

The landscape retains many features which are of local value, especially the woodlands, mature trees and continuous hedgerows. These could be lost through intention or neglect, especially if agricultural futures for pastureland in particular become more uncertain. The riverside and wetland areas, however, have lost much of their visual and ecological diversity.

The whole area has an essentially tranquil and pastoral character within which only small-scale, sensitively designed development, appropriately associated with existing built form, could be successfully accommodated without adverse landscape impacts.”

Value

The Scheme is situated wholly within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends into the Sherston Dipslope Lowland to the north and west and the Upper Avon Valley to the north which are both located within the Cotswold National Landscape. This increases the overall Value of the landscape. As a result of this, the value is considered to be High to Medium reflecting the presence of the Cotswold National Landscape to the north and west of the Scheme

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: **High to Medium**

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Overall, the Hullavington Rolling Lowland has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value

High to Medium Value

Receptor Susceptibility

Medium Susceptibility

Receptor Sensitivity

High to Medium Sensitivity

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the landscape within the Scheme and further measures are contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

Mitigation measures have been informed by the specific Management Guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands as well as Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4; the Broad Management Objectives for the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands; and the Statements of Environmental Opportunities for the Cotswold and Avon Vale National Character Areas.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for the Scheme has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, Conservation Areas and the Fosse Way. A buffer of at least one field has been provided in Sites A, B and C where the Scheme adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape. In Site A, the northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. The design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. In Site C, parcels C2, C3, C4 have been removed from the Order Limits. Parcel C1, C6, C8, C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape are to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species to maintain the relationship of the Church within Alderton Conservation Area and the surrounding landscape.

The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the existing field boundaries. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Fosse Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Scheme and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, new native hedgerows with trees are proposed across the Scheme which reinstates lost hedgerows. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Scheme. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA and support the aims of Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4.

Mitigation measures across the Scheme have been informed by the Management Guidelines and Strategy Actions for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland, in particular:

- To conserve and enhance its pastoral character.
- To maintain the continuity of hedgerows through appropriate land management.
- To enhance river valleys by encouraging habitat creation and planting of riverside trees.
- To conserve hedgerows and mature trees, including planting new trees in existing hedges and planting specimen trees in field corners.
- To enhance the wetland character in riverside locations by planting wouldows along water courses in informal groups and broken lines, and by encouraging the creation of more diverse waterside habitats.

The proposals would result in land within the Scheme transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the arrays, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Scheme within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Scheme, not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation to be Retained and Enhanced	24.04
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	452.44
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	64.48
	Proposed Damp Grassland	18.53
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation - Set Aside	63.29
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	66.08
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	13.95
Total:		702.80 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	7.07
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	3.76

	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0.62
Total:		11.45 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	7.78
Total:		7.78 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	45.63
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	9.31
Total:		54.94 km
Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	15.49
Total:		15.49 km
Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Indicative New Pond Locations	1
	Ghost Pond Locations	13
Total:		14

The proposed embedded mitigation described above is shown in the LEMP- refer to **ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2]**

Assessment of Landscape effects of the Scheme on Landscape Fabric

The effects of the Scheme (the cumulative effect of the Lime Down Sites A-E and associated works) is made by combining the effects of the individual Sites A-E, to form a judgement on the overall cumulative effect of the Scheme on Landscape Fabric.

Table 2 in Section 1.2 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the Landscape Fabric of the individual Sites A-E. All Sites A-E are assessed individually as having long-term Moderate Beneficial Effects on Landscape Fabric.

Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the existing landscape features within the Scheme. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in ES Volume 1: Chapter 7.12 [EN010168/APP/7.12] sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured. Details of species and density for each typology is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) in ES Volume 1: Chapter 7.18 [EN010168/APP/7.18]).

Construction activities within the Scheme would be managed by the Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) in ES Volume 1: Chapter 7.12 [EN010168/APP/7.12] and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume 3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] to ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase. The magnitude of change of the Scheme during the Construction Phase on Landscape Fabric is assessed as Low.

The Cable Route Corridor is a key element of the Scheme which runs between the Lime Down Sites and to National Grid Substation at Melksham. It would require digging of trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. The effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to short-term temporary effects during the Construction Phase. The effect of the Cable Route Corridor on Landscape Fabric within the Scheme would not be over and above those assessed for Lime Down Sites A-E.

The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.

Although the effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) described above, would be limited initially, by Year 15 the embedded mitigation planting would be established and would contribute positively to the character of the Scheme by adding to its Green Infrastructure and providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits which would make a positive contribution to BNG.

Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Scheme and its immediate landscape setting, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The effects on the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme are assessed as **Moderate Beneficial at Year 15**.

The benefits of the Scheme are set out above and include considerable beneficial changes in land management away from arable; areas of new woodland to create green corridors and enhanced riparian corridors through the scheme, reinforcement to all hedgerows with additional linear tree planting across the Scheme; proposed new native hedgerows with trees to improve landscape character and create greater age and species diversity (including the reintroduction of disease resistant Elm); and reintroduction of historic ponds and new ponds to provide ecological benefits across the Scheme.

These proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. As the landscape proposals matures they would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. It would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. There would be localised benefits to landscape fabric of the Sites, as a result of the

enhancement measures. Although the change in land use within the Scheme would be adverse, it would be readily assimilated into the Schemes immediate landscape setting within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc. Therefore, as infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the Legacy Landscape. The landscape would be able to readily absorb the decommissioning processes with limited impacts on Landscape Fabric and the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. There would be minimal change to the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme and the effects of the Scheme as compared to the baseline situation would remain **Moderate Beneficial**.

Legacy Landscape is where, because of the development, the landscape would be left in a better condition than current day. These improvements, established as a consequence of the landscape proposals, would result in greater species variety, greater age depth, enhanced structure, resilience to pest and disease and reinforcement of local landscape character across the Scheme. The substantial provision of new planting combined with the minimal losses to accommodate the Scheme are the driver behind the beneficial effects associated with the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme.

The combined Scheme effects on Landscape Fabric are set out below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

2.2 Assessment of the Scheme within the 1Km Local Study Area

Table 2-2 - Scheme Effect on the Local Study Area (1km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down Scheme, The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area)
Baseline Baseline Context: The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 1km Local Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107 - Cotswolds (NE 420), to the west of the Wider Study Area. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) to the centre and east of the Wider Study Area. Regional Landscape Character: The Scheme within the 1km Local Study Area is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west). North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north). In addition to the above, the Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland. West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland. These local level assessments provide the best level of detail of the characteristics of the landscape over a smaller geographical area and is appropriate to the 1km Local Study Area whilst the Regional and National Assessments provide the broader context.

These character areas are described in detail in the LVIA (refer to **ES Volume 1: Chapter 8. Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and the Published Landscape Character Assessments are within **ES Volume 3: Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions**.

The whole of the Scheme is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Local Study Area. This Study Area also includes the Upper Avon Valley to the north and the Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west). The Cable Route Corridor extends south predominantly through the Hullavington Rolling Lowland but also passes through LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland and LCA A3: Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland near Melksham substation.

All of the Solar PV Sites are situated within LCA 8 - Hullavington Rolling Lowland. However, parts of Lime Down A and C adjoin boundaries with LCA 7 - Sherston Dipslope to the west and LCA 6 - Upper Avon Valley to the north. Lime Down B has a visual relationship with LCA 6 - Upper Avon Valley.

Landscape Character

LCA 8 - Hullavington Rolling Lowland is also one of the Character Areas within the Limestone (Forest Marble) Farmland Landscape Type which is described as: *"Gently undulating lowland farmland underlain by limestone. Open landscape with broad low hills and shallow river valleys. Limestone walls boundaries in places and stone built settlements"*.

The Hullavington Rolling Lowland is a large area which lies between Malmesbury in the north and Chippenham in the south. It is a rural area of gently rolling hills and shallow valleys, based on a number of geological formations, predominantly Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash. The landform rises from approximately 60 m AOD in the east of the area close to the Avon valley, to over 120 m with some localised high points of up to 139m AOD to the west.

There is one existing solar development within the 1km Local Study Area. Hullavington Solar Farm (a 7MW scheme) which is situated just south of parcel D1 and the railway line.

Key Characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland (1km Local Study Area)

The main characteristics of the area are defined as follows:

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120 m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.

- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Management Guidelines

The overall objectives for the area from the above Landscape Character Assessments are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character, and to ensure that any new development respects the grain of the dispersed settlement in the area and the vernacular building materials.

The continuity of hedgerows is important in shaping the character of the area and should be encouraged through appropriate land management programmes.

River valleys should be enhanced by encouraging habitat creation and planting of riverside trees.

The use of limestone in buildings and free-standing walls should be supported, both in helping conserve existing features, and in the appropriate use of materials in new construction.

Protect the setting and intrinsic character of Corsham Park.

Minimise the landscape and visual effects of the expansion of Chippenham.

Management strategy actions

The following actions are recommended to help realise the overall objectives for the area:

- Conserve hedgerows and mature trees, including planting new trees in existing hedges and planting specimen trees in field corners.
- Encourage woodland management to provide continuity of cover while optimising ecological value.
- Enhance the wetland character in riverside locations by planting wouldows along water courses in informal groups and broken lines, and by encouraging landowners to help in the creation of more diverse waterside habitats.
- Ensure development reinforces the locally distinctive character and respects the vernacular. The use of traditional building materials including limestone are important in this area.

Key views management strategy

Many wide views are possible over this broad, rolling landscape. Within the rural hinterland, the key visual elements are the mature trees and the patchwork of small irregular fields. A number of major roads cross the area, including the M4 motorway and the A429 and A420. Views from these roads, and the connecting B roads, are important for the perceptions of many local people. Much of the rural hinterland, however, is relatively remote and tranquil.

Indicators of change from chosen viewpoints within this character area might include:

- Loss of hedgerows and mature oak trees.
- Landscape elements associated with riverside environments – in particular wet meadows, waterside trees, and reed beds or other wetland species.
- Built form using traditional stone materials and detailing.

Landscape sensitivity

On Landscape Sensitivity, the assessment states:

“Corsham Park is designated as an Historic park and garden and forms part of a small Special Landscape Area which is an indication of its perceived high value. The broader area is typified by a gently undulating patchwork of arable and pasture with mature hedgerows, some woodlands and nucleated settlement in the form of fine stone villages. In some areas the distinctive features of the landscape have been lost, such as the relative lack of diversity in river corridors.

The landscape retains many features which are of local value, especially the woodlands, mature trees and continuous hedgerows. These could be lost through intention or neglect, especially if agricultural futures for pastureland in particular become more uncertain. The riverside and wetland areas, however, have lost much of their visual and ecological diversity.

The whole area has an essentially tranquil and pastoral character within which only small-scale, sensitively designed development, appropriately associated with existing built form, could be successfully accommodated without adverse landscape impacts.”

Value

The Scheme is situated wholly within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Local Study Area. The 1km Local Study Area extends into the Sherston Dipslope Lowland to the north and west and the Upper Avon Valley to the north, which are both located within the Cotswold National Landscape. This increases the overall Value of the landscapes within the 1km Local Study Area. As a result of this, the value is considered to be High to Medium reflecting the presence of the Cotswold National Landscape to the north and west of the Scheme.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: **High to Medium**

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects on the landscape and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation.

Overall, the landscape within the 1km Local Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value	Receptor Susceptibility	Receptor Sensitivity
High to Medium Value	Medium Susceptibility	High to Medium Sensitivity

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the landscape within the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

Mitigation measures have been informed by the specific Management Guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands as well as Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4; the Broad Management Objectives for the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands; and the Statements of Environmental Opportunities for the Cotswold and Avon Vale National Character Areas.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for the Scheme has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, Conservation Areas and the Fosse Way. A buffer of at least one field has been provided in Sites A, B and C where the Scheme adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape. In Site A, the northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. The design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. In Site C, Parcel C1, C6, C8, part of

C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species to maintain the relationship of the Church within Alderton Conservation Area and the surrounding landscape.

The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Foss Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, new native hedgerows with trees are proposed across the Scheme which reinstates lost hedgerows. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Scheme within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland and support the aims of Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Scheme, not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 11.45 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 7.78 ha

Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Reinforcement: 54.94 km

Proposed Hedgerows: 15.49 km

Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds: 14

The proposed embedded mitigation described above is shown in the LEMP- refer to **ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2]**

Assessment of Landscape effects of the Scheme within the 1km Local Study Area

The effects of the Scheme (the cumulative effect of the Lime Down Sites A-E and associated works) is made by combining the effects of the individual Sites A-E, assessed below, to form a judgement on the overall cumulative effect of the Scheme within the 1 km Local Study Area.

Table 3 in Section 3.1 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 1km Local Study Area of the individual Sites A-E. All Sites A-E are assessed as having Moderate Adverse Effects during construction and Operation Year 1 which reduce to Moderate/ Minor Adverse at Year 15 and Decommissioning.

All Sites A-E within the Scheme were assessed as having Medium Magnitude of Change during Construction and Year 1, reducing to Low Magnitude of Change by Year 15 and to very low at Decommissioning.

The Scheme would have a localised effect on some parts of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Local Study Area, especially during the construction phase of the development. The Scheme is located centrally within the widest part of the character area. The topography falls eastwards from high ground within the Cotswolds beyond the county boundary to the west and east to the lowlands of the River Avon to the east. Watercourses within the area generally run west to east which gives rise to a gently rolling landform creating a series of low valleys and ridges. Woodlands on elevated land provide wooded skylines which combined with the topography of the landscape, limits intervisibility between the individual Lime Down Sites.

Construction activities would have an impact locally, and the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme would cause a noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study Area. There would be short term Moderate Adverse effects during the construction phase.

The Cable Route Corridor is a key element of the Scheme which runs through the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Study Area. It would require digging of trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. The effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to short-term temporary effects during the Construction Phase. The effect of the Cable Route Corridor on landscape character within the 1km Study Area would not be over and above those assessed for Lime Down Sites A-E.

The proposed mitigation is in line with the Guidelines and Strategy for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland which proposes to retain and enhance hedgerows, proposes a significant number of new hedgerows, specimen trees and native woodland and meadow creation to provide continuity of cover while optimising ecological value. The proposals would enhance the wetland character in riverside locations along the Gauze Brook to create more diverse waterside habitats.

The effect of the proposed mitigation planting across the Scheme would be limited initially. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. As it matures it would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. Planting would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. Although there would be localised benefits to landscape fabric of the Sites, as a result of the enhancement measures, the change in land use within the Scheme would result in changes to the character of the individual sites as they transition from open agricultural farmland to a solar development. By Year 15, as mitigation planting matures, these changes would be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little effect on the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Local Study Area.

All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape would have the ability to absorb the short-term decommissioning activities of the solar infrastructure. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned to agriculture and as infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the decommissioning processes with limited impacts to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the 1km Local Study Area.

The combined Scheme effects on Landscape Character within the 1km Local Study Area are set out below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

2.3 Assessment of the Scheme within the 2km Wider Study Area

Table 2-3 - Scheme Effect within The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down Scheme, within the 2km Wider Study Area
Baseline Baseline Context: The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 2km Wider Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107 - Cotswolds (NE 420), to the west of the Wider Study Area. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) to the centre and east of the Wider Study Area. Regional Landscape Character: The Scheme within the 2km Study Area is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. A very small area of LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale is within the eastern extent of the 2km Study Area. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west). North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north). A very small area of LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland is within the eastern extent of the 2km Study Area In addition to the above, the Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland.

West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland.

These character areas are described in detail in the LVIA (refer to **ES Volume 1: Chapter 8. Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and the Published Landscape Character Assessments are within **ES Volume 3: Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions**.

The Scheme is situated wholly within the LCT 16 - Limestone Lowland and within LCA 16A - Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. It forms baseline context for the Scheme within the Wider Study Area as shown on Volume 2: Figure 8-5-1: National and regional Landscape Character Areas. This is in addition to the Local Character Areas within the 2km Study Area.

This regional assessment which provides general characteristics over a fairly large geographical area appropriate to the 2km Wider Study Area whilst the National Assessments provide the broader context. This Character Area is described below:

Landscape Character

The Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands is the only Character Area within the Limestone Lowland Landscape Type which covers a large swathe of northwest Wiltshire occurring between areas of limestone valleys and higher limestone wold to the west (outside the county) and clay to the east. The area is predominantly rolling mixed pastoral and arable farmland, in a pattern of large fields bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees.

The western edge of the Limestone Lowlands Landscape Type forms part of the Cotswolds National Landscape.

The landform undulates, rising from around 60m to 130m AOD with an overall slope from higher ground in the west to the lower clay land to the east. Some flatter areas occur on higher ground and localised valleys associated with the numerous rivers are also evident throughout.

The Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands are described as a peaceful rural landscape with panoramic views from higher ground. It has a strong network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and occasional woodland copses; dry stone walls; remaining areas with medieval field pattern; and historic parklands. There are remaining areas of ancient woodland, chalk grassland and other areas of ecological diversity, as well as distinctive traditional limestone villages and a network of rural roads.

There are two existing solar developments within the 2km Wider Study Area. Hullavington Solar Farm (a 7MW scheme) is situated just south of parcel and the railway line D1 (within the 1km Local Study Area) and Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, a 6.5 MW scheme is located between the A429 and Grange Lane, to the northeast of Corston.

Key Characteristics

Key Characteristics of the Limestone Lowland Landscape Type include:

- Gently undulating lowland farmland over underlying geology of predominantly mudstone and limestone with some pockets of clay.
- A peaceful and rural landscape with subtle variations in character relating to the varied geology, topography and water courses.

- Mix of permanent pasture and arable farmland.
- Strong network of hedgerows with hedgerow trees.
- Dry stone walls field boundaries in some areas and around settlements.
- Field pattern predominantly large geometric field typical of eighteenth and nineteenth century enclosure with small scale irregular fields of medieval pattern close to close to settlement.
- More open areas of higher ground to the west offer panoramic views over the type, elsewhere occasional woodland blocks, copses and frequent hedgerow trees give a greater sense of enclosure, with intermittent views.
- Numerous rivers forming shallow valleys, with the watercourses sometimes lined with wouldows.
- Settlements in the form of historic market towns, villages and scattered farmsteads distributed throughout the type linked by network of rural roads.
- Traditional buildings of local limestone buildings an outstanding feature.
- Presence of historic parkland and estates marked by stone estate walls, grand entrances and parkland trees and avenues.

Condition, Strength of Character and Strategy

The Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment notes that the condition of the Limestone Lowland Landscape type is generally good with intact hedgerows, traditional villages of vernacular stone dwellings, village greens and stone walls. In some sections of the areas there are elements in poorer condition such as gappy and flailed hedgerows, overgrown stone walls and encroaching horse pasture close to some of the larger settlement.

The Limestone Lowland Landscape Type is united by the strong character of its traditional stone built settlements however, other elements such as land use, topography and field boundaries vary subtly across the type making it less distinctive and cohesive and therefore the strength of character overall is judged as moderate.

The strategy for the Limestone Lowland Landscape Type is to conserve those elements intrinsic to the type's character or important in their own right, such as the distinctive stone villages, the areas of ecological importance and the historic parkland and to strengthen locally degraded elements such as the flailed hedgerows and overgrown stone walls.

Broad Management Objectives

Broad Management Objectives for the Limestone Lowland Landscape Type include:

- Conserve the network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodland copses and take opportunities for new planting where this would strengthen local character (for instance avoiding planting that would affect the open views in the high ground at the west of the area).
- Encourage conservation and rebuilding of dry stone wall field boundaries, particularly close to settlement.

- Conserve the remaining areas of ecological interest such as those with statutory designations, areas of ancient woodland, veteran hedgerow trees and chalk grassland.
- Maintain the subtle variations that occur throughout the landscape, encouraging local distinctiveness for instance in the variation in field boundaries from hedgerows to stone walls.
- Encourage management and restoration of the historic parkland landscapes that are characteristic of the area.
- Retain the distinctive character of the villages; ensuring any change respects the traditional stone built character and vernacular form.
- Resist urbanisation of the country lanes through addition of road markings and concrete kerbs or lamp posts or excessive signage that detracts from the rural character of the area.

Value

Inherent landscape sensitivities are noted for the for the Limestone Lowland Landscape Type which include: the peaceful rural nature of the area; areas of ecological importance including ancient woodland and chalk grassland; the setting, containment and scale of the limestone villages; the remaining medieval field patterns and dry-stone walls around and close to settlement; and historic parkland. The limestones lowlands extend into the Cotswold National Landscape to its western fringe of the county boundary and shares some of the key characteristics of the dipslope which is a transitional landscape between the higher wold to the east and the Avon Valley to the east. As a result of this the value is considered to be High to Medium reflecting the west to east transition.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: **High to Medium**

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape within the 2km Study Area is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a higher Susceptibility to Change within the 2km Study Area the majority of landscape is not within the CNL, including the Scheme itself.,

The rest of the 2km Study Area is a relatively ordinary landscape

Overall, the 2km Study Area because it is a has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme Receptor Susceptibility: Medium		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value High to Medium	Receptor Susceptibility Medium	Receptor Sensitivity High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the landscape within the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. Mitigation measures have been informed by the specific Management Guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands as well as Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4; the Broad Management Objectives for the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands; and the Statements of Environmental Opportunities for the Cotswold and Avon Vale National Character Areas. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for the Scheme has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, Conservation Areas and the Fosse Way. A buffer of at least one field has been provided in Sites A, B and C where the Scheme adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape. In Site A, the northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. The design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. In Site C, Parcel C1, C6, C8, part of C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species to maintain the relationship of the Church within Alderton Conservation Area and the surrounding landscape.

The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by field boundaries within the Site. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Fosse Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed in many areas of the Scheme to provide connectivity between existing woodland and new native woodlands. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the west. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA and support the aims of Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Scheme within the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands.

The proposed embedded mitigation described above is shown in the LEMP- refer to **ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2]**

Assessment of Landscape effects of the Scheme within the 2km Wider Study Area

The effects of the Scheme (the cumulative effect of the Lime Down Sites A-E and associated works) is made by combining the effects of the individual Sites A-E, assessed below, to form a judgement on the overall cumulative effect of the Scheme within the 2 km Wider Study Area.

Table 4 in Section 1 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 2km Wider Study Area of the individual Sites A-E. as noted below:

- All Sites A-E are assessed as having Moderate /Minor Adverse Effects during construction and Operation Year 1 which reduce to Minor Adverse at Year 15 and Decommissioning.
- All Sites A-E within the Scheme were assessed as having Low Magnitude of Change during Construction and Year 1, reducing to Very Low Magnitude of Change by Year 15 and Decommissioning.

The western part of the Scheme would have a localised effect on some parts of the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands within the 2km Wider Study Area, especially during the construction phase of the development, as noted in the assessment of the Scheme within the 1km Study Area. The Scheme is located centrally within the widest part of the character area. The topography falls eastwards from high ground within the Cotswolds beyond the county boundary to the west and east to the lowlands of the River Avon to the east. Watercourses within the area generally run west to east which gives

rise to a gently rolling landform creating a series of low valleys and ridges. Woodlands on elevated land provide wooded skylines which combined with the topography of the dipslope limits intervisibility in places.

Construction activities, whilst having an impact locally, as recognised in the assessment of the 1km Local Study Area, would cause less impact to the character of the 2km Wider Study and would lead to some localised changes to the character of the landscape. These changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to landscape character within the 2km Study Area.

The Cable Route Corridor is a key element of the Scheme which runs through the Hullavington Rolling Lowland and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands within the 2km Study Area. It would require digging of trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. The effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to short-term temporary effects during the Construction Phase. The effect of the Cable Route Corridor on landscape character would not be over and above those assessed for Lime Down Sites A-E.

The proposed mitigation is in line with the guidelines and strategy objectives for the Landscape Characters within the 2km Wider Study Area particularly: to conserve the network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodland copses and take opportunities for new planting where this would strengthen local character; and to conserve the remaining areas of ecological interest such as those with statutory designations, areas of ancient woodland, veteran hedgerow trees and chalk grassland.

The effect of the proposed mitigation planting across the Scheme would be limited initially. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. As it matures it would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. It would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. Although there would be localised benefits to landscape fabric of the individual Sites, as a result of the enhancement measures, the change in land use within the Scheme would be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little effect on the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands within the 2km Local Study Area.

All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture and as infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the decommissioning processes with limited impacts to the character of the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands within the 2km Local Study Area.

The combined Scheme effects (in conjunction with the two existing solar developments at Hullavington Solar Farm and Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm which form part of the baseline), on Landscape Character within the 2km Outer Study Area are set out below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low

Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

2.4 Assessment of the Scheme within the 5Km Outer Study Area

Table 2-4 - Scheme Effect on Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down Scheme, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)
Baseline
Baseline Context: The following National Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the Outer Study Area as shown on Volume 2: Figure 8-5-1: National and regional Landscape Character Areas. These include: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107 - Cotswolds (NE 420), to the west of the Wider Study Area. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) tin the centre and east of the Wider Study Area. Regional Landscape Character within Wiltshire: The Scheme within the 2km Study Area is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 9A: Cotswold Dipslope. LCA 10A: By Brook Limestone Valley. LCA 11B: Minty Rolling Clay Lowland. LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale. LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character within Wiltshire: North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minty and Malsbury Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west). North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north).

North Wiltshire LCA 9: By Brook Valley.

North Wiltshire LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland.

In addition to the above, The Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland.

West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland.

The 5km Outer Study Area includes an additional three Local Landscape Character Area which straddle the 5km boundary. These include LCA 5: Minty and Malmsbury Rolling Lowland to the northeast; LCA 9: By Brook Valley to the southwest; and LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland to the east and southeast. These additional local Character Areas reflect the diversity of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area.

Lime Down A, C and the western part of Lime Down B are situated within the Cotswolds NCA. Lime Down D, E to the west of the Wider Study Area; and the eastern part of Lime Down B are situated within the Avon Vales NCA in the centre and east of the Wider Study Area.

These character areas are described in detail in the LVIA (refer to **ES Volume 1: Chapter 8. Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and the Published Landscape Character Assessments are within **ES Volume 3: Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions**.

There are three existing solar farms **within the 5km Outer Study Area**. These include Hullavington Solar Farm (within the 1km Local Study Area); Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, northeast of Corston (within the 2km Wider Study Area) and Lake Farm Solar Scheme at Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger, within the 5km Outer Study Area. These three existing schemes form part of the baseline context for the Scheme and are considered within the Landscape Assessment of the Scheme.

The high-level National Character Area assessment for the Cotswold and Avon Vales provide general characteristics over a large geographical area appropriate to the 5km Outer Study Area. These two Character Areas are described below:

107 – Cotswolds	117- Avon Vales
Landscape Character	
The Cotswolds area extends from Mells in Somerset to Brackley in Northamptonshire. It is a distinctive landscape of national significance. 65 per cent of the area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)/ National Landscape. The Cotswolds are part of the oolitic limestone outcrop that stretches from Dorset to Lincolnshire. The steep western scarp is the edge of the harder, more resistant limestone lying on top of predominantly softer mudstones which form the landscape to the	The distinctiveness of the Vales lies as much in the settlement pattern and building styles along the (Bristol) Avon as in the countryside. The areas next to the Avon Vales – the dip slope of the Cotswolds to the west, the North Wessex Downs to the east, and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs to the southeast– have been designated for their outstanding scenic and natural beauty; in a few, very small areas, these landscapes extend into the Avon Vales.

west of the rolling high wold and the long, descending eastern dipslope. All this creates a rich and diverse landscape, unified by the underlying geology.	
Key Characteristics (of relevance to the 5km Outer Study Area)	
• Defined by its underlying geology: a dramatic limestone scarp rising above adjacent lowlands with steep combes, and outliers illustrating • the slow erosion of escarpments. The limestone geology has formed the scarp and dipslope of the landscape, which in turn has influenced drainage, soils, vegetation, land use and settlement. • Open and expansive scarp and high wold dipping gently to the southeast, dissected by river valleys. • Arable farming dominates the high wold and dipslope while permanent pasture prevails on the steep slopes of the scarp and river valleys with pockets of internationally important limestone grassland. • Drystone walls define the pattern of fields of the high wold and dipslope. On the deeper soils and river valleys, hedgerows form the main field boundaries. • Ancient beech hangers line stretches of the upper slopes of the scarp, while oak/ash woodlands are characteristic of the river valleys. Regular blocks of coniferous and mixed plantations are scattered across the open high wold and dipslope. • Large areas of common land, important for unimproved calcareous grassland, are characteristic of the scarp and high wold. • The majority of the principal rivers flow south-eastwards forming the headwaters of the Thames with the exception of rivers in the west which flow into the River Avon and then the Severn Estuary.	• An undulating clay vale with a mix of arable and pasture. • Small- and medium-sized fields with mostly hedgerow boundaries with few hedgerow trees, varying in shape from irregular piecemeal enclosure to rectilinear planned enclosure. • Numerous low ridges with local views over towns and villages. • Wide River Avon corridor, with an ancient pattern of flood meadows and closely associated settlements and more recent development. • Transport corridors along roads and watercourses, heavily influential on all development in the NCA. • Large historic parks and mansions, often established from former monastic establishments. • Attractive stone-built centres to market towns that reflect the former agricultural productivity and wealth of the area. • Wide views across whole area from higher areas of surrounding chalk downs.

Statements of Environmental Opportunities	
SEO 1: Protect and enhance the highly distinctive farmed landscape, retaining the balance between productive arable, pastoral and wooded elements and the open, expansive views particularly from the scarp, high wold and dipslope. SEO 2: Safeguard and conserve the historic environment, cultural heritage and geodiversity that illustrate the history, evolution, foundations, land use and settlement of the Cotswolds landscape, and enable access to and interpretation of the relationship between natural processes and human influences. SEO 3: Protect, maintain and expand the distinctive character of the Cotswolds and the network of semi-natural and arable habitats, including limestone grassland, beech woods and wetlands along streams and rivers, to enhance water quality, strengthen ecological and landscape connectivity, support rare species and allow for adaptation to changes in climate. SEO 4: Safeguard and manage soil and water resources, allowing naturally functioning hydrological processes to maintain water quality and supply; reduce flooding; and manage land to reduce soil erosion and water pollution and to retain and capture carbon.	SEO 1: Protect, manage and enhance the semi-natural habitats, including the pastoral waterside landscape of permanent pasture and wet grassland, calcareous and neutral grasslands, and (as site appropriate) ponds, and investigate and pursue opportunities to create such habitats, to increase resilience to climate change, reduce soil erosion and provide benefits to the water environment and biodiversity in general. SEO 2: Protect, manage and enhance the area's woodlands and parklands for their rich ecological, historical and archaeological resource, to foster a sense of place and to provide benefits to wildlife, and work to establish appropriate access, thus enhancing cultural, health and recreational benefits for local residents. SEO 3: Plan for the creation of new landscapes associated with the expansion of towns such as Chippenham, Melksham and Trowbridge, while incorporating the existing landscape features into green infrastructure planning. This would serve the interests of local landscape character, access and recreation, biomass provision, biodiversity and water flow regulation. SEO 4: Protect and manage the varied rural landscape of small urban areas amid gently rolling arable and pasture, and thick hedges interspersed with small woods, securing wide-ranging views, reinforcing landscape character, preventing soil erosion, promoting sense of place and tranquillity, and providing recreational benefits.

Landscape Value	
The distinctive Cotswold NCA is of High Value as 65% of the area is within the National Landscape. This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher	This is a good quality landscape, outside of the National Landscapes of the Cotswolds, North Wessex Downs and Cranborne Chase & West Wiltshire Downs.

landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation. Receptor Value: High	It is a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is some potential for substitution and generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement. Receptor Value: Medium
Susceptibility	
Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the Cotswold NCA is highly susceptible to the Scheme and has a low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have limited ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Receptor Susceptibility: High	Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Receptor Susceptibility: Medium
Landscape Sensitivity	
High	Medium
Overall Landscape Sensitivity of the 5km Outer Study Area	
The overall Sensitivity of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area is considered to be High to Medium. This takes account of the variation in sensitivity from west to east and the change in character across the landscape from the Cotswolds to the River Avon.	
Embedded Mitigation	

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the landscape fabric within the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The approach to mitigation for the Scheme is set out in Table 3-5: Scheme specific Design Principles in the **Design Approach Document (DAD)** [EN010168/APP/7.3] and includes the following nine Scheme Specific Design Principles:

No.	Scheme Specific Design Principle
1	The design of the Scheme would be 'Landscape Led' and give due weight to the intrinsic character and beauty of the surrounding countryside.
2	Adherence to the mitigation hierarchy to reduce impacts and control any adverse effects on the environment throughout the lifecycle of the Scheme from construction through to operation and maintenance and decommissioning.
3	The Scheme would deliver a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity through strategic habitat creation and enhancement measures.
4	The Scheme design would retain a degree of flexibility to enable it to adapt over time, be functional and fit for purpose, and respond to innovative and new technologies as well as building resilience to climate change.
5	The Scheme would be carefully designed to minimise where practicable impacts on amenity from air quality, traffic and noise effects and safeguard the health and safety of local residents by securing suitable control measures during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme.
6	The Scheme would protect the water environment by adhering to good pollution control practice and be resilient from flooding both now and in the future and not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.
7	The design of the Scheme would be sensitive to above and below ground heritage assets and their setting, by locating infrastructure at a suitable distance and through appropriate landscape screening.
8	The Scheme would be sensitive to existing land uses where practicable and maximise opportunities to strengthen green and blue infrastructure.

9	The Scheme would seek to minimise the effects of the development on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) by incorporating measures to maintain, and where practicable, explore opportunities to improve the local footpath network.
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Of the 9 Design Principles, the following are specifically relevant to LVIA:

Design Principle 1

Mitigation measures have been informed by the specific Management Guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands as well as Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4; the Broad Management Objectives for the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands; and the Statements of Environmental Opportunities for the Cotswold and Avon Vale National Character Areas.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Design Principle 2

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Scheme has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. A buffer of at least one field has been provided in Sites A, B and C where the Scheme adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape. In Site A, the northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. The design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. In Site C, Parcel C1, C6, C8, part of C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species to maintain the relationship of the Church within Alderton Conservation Area and the surrounding landscape.

The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, proposed native hedgerows informed by reference to historic mapping, new hedgerow trees and areas of new native woodland and tree belts.

Design Principle 3

In the wider landscape within the Scheme, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Mitigation measures have been designed to strengthen landscape character, provide stronger green infrastructure and improve landscape character along Public Rights of Way.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed in many areas of the Scheme to provide connectivity between existing woodland and new native woodlands. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the west.

The proposals would result in the Scheme transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Scheme, which would deliver a minimum 10% net gain for biodiversity through strategic habitat creation and enhancement measures.

The approach to the Scheme has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland, the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands and the wider Cotswold and Avon Vales NCAs.

The proposed embedded mitigation described above is shown in the LEMP- refer to **ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2]**

Assessment of Landscape effects of the Scheme within the 5km Outer Study Area

The effects of the Scheme (the cumulative effect of the Lime Down Sites A-E and associated works) is assessed by combining the effects of the individual sites assessed below to form a judgement on the overall cumulative effect of the Scheme within the 5 km Study Area.

Table 5 in Section 1.5 provides a summary of the Landscape Effects on the 5km Outer Study Area of the individual Sites A-E as noted below:

- Sites A, B and C are assessed as having Moderate /Minor Adverse Effects during construction and Operation Year 1 which reduce to Minor Adverse at Year 15 and Decommissioning.
- Sites D and E are assessed as having Minor Adverse Effects during construction and Operation Year 1 which reduce to Minor / Negligible Adverse at Year 15 and Decommissioning.

In the assessment of the Lime Down Sites A-E within the 5km Outer Study Area as summarised in Table 1.5, the difference in the level of effect between Site A-C and D and E is as a consequence of the difference in Landscape Value. The value of landscape within Sites A-C, within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape is of High Landscape value as compared to Sites D and E, assessed as having Medium. All Sites were assessed as having a Very Low magnitude of Change on the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area.

The overall scheme effects within the 5km Outer Study Area therefore should take consideration of the identified higher level of effects associated with the Cotswold National Landscape where parts of Site A-C are within its setting.

Although it is recognised that there would be localised effects as a result of the Scheme, especially during the construction phase of the development (as recognised by the assessments of the Scheme within the 1km Study Area and the 2km Study Area), the change on landscape character within the 5km

Study would be Very Low. The Scheme is located within the transitional dipslope landscape which falls eastwards from the distinctive escarpment to the west to the lowlands associated with river Avon. Watercourses within the dipslope generally run west to east which gives rise to a gently rolling landform creating a series of low valleys and ridges. Woodlands on elevated land provide wooded skylines which combined with the topography of the dipslope limits intervisibility in places.

Construction activities, whilst having an impact locally would cause a Very Low level of change to the character of the wider area and would result in Moderate / Minor Effects on the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area.

The Cable Route Corridor is a key element of the Scheme which runs through the Hullavington Rolling Lowland and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands and two National Character Areas within the 5km Study Area. It would require digging of trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. The effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to short-term temporary effects during the Construction Phase. The effect of the Cable Route Corridor on landscape character within the 5km Study Area would not be over and above those identified for Lime Down Sites A-E.

The proposed mitigation is in line with the specific Management Guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands as well as Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy for the Cotswolds Limestone Lowlands - Area 4; the Broad Management Objectives for the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands; and the Statements of Environmental Opportunities for the Cotswold and Avon Vale National Character Areas. The Scheme protects the Cotswold National Landscape by avoiding panels within its immediate setting and would expand the distinctive character of the Cotswolds and the network of semi-natural and arable habitats, including limestone grassland, woodlands and wetlands along streams and rivers, to enhance water quality, strengthen ecological and landscape connectivity.

The effect of the proposed mitigation planting across the Scheme would be limited initially. As the landscape mitigation matures it would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. It would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become absorbed into the receiving landscape. Although there would be localised benefits to the landscape fabric of the Site as a result of the enhancement measures, there would be a Very Low level of change to the landscape within the 5km Study Area as the landscape character of the area allows the Scheme to be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little to no appreciation of the Scheme.

All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture and as infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the decommissioning processes with limited impacts to the character of the landscape within the 5km Study Area.

The combined Scheme effects (in conjunction with the three existing solar developments at Hullavington Solar Farm, Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm and Lake Farm Solar Scheme, Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger which form part of the baseline), on Landscape Character within the 5km Outer Study Area are set out below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate /Minor	Minor	Minor

3 Lime Down Site Assessment

3.1 Landscape Fabric

Lime Down A

Table 6 Lime Down A, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down A is located approximately 240m to the southeast of the small village of Sherston which is situated on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds National Landscape. The village is situated approximately 8km west of main town of Malmesbury. The area of Lime Down A is 94ha and is entirely in agricultural use. The area consists of parcels of farmland either side of the road running between Sherston and the Fosse Way (Roman Road) to the east and Commonwood Lane, a no through road to the west. Key Features: The land broadly slopes up from east to west from 105m to 115m elevation. The nearest properties are located at Lordswood Farm, Ladyswood Farm and Southfields. The land is characterised by agricultural fields separated by hedgerows and scattered trees. To the south blocks of woodland surrounding Lordswood House provide separation between Lime Down A and C. The topography to the north of the area falls steeply towards the River Avon (Sherston Branch) before rising towards the village of Sherston which has a designated Conservation Area. There are four PRoW located on the boundary or within Lime Down Solar Site A. Landscape designations in and around Lime Down Solar Site A are shown on ES Volume 2 Figure 8.6.1. Site Character: The whole of Lime Down Solar Site A is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. Land parcels within Site A are characteristic of the area with a patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, pastoral fields and larger areas of arable land especially on the richer soils. Continuous hedges, many mature oaks and medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses are typical of the area. Hedgerow trees are declining and predominantly consist of Oak. Lime Down Site A contains a dry-stone wall which is evident but not a common feature of the landscape.

The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character and maintain the continuity of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which is important in shaping the character of the area.

Value
GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19 recognises that relative value is attached to different landscapes and states that “<i>value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.</i>” And that “<i>the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.</i>” Landscape Fabric is the individual tangible elements or features such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation that make up a landscape or site. These features are the fundamental elements that contribute to our perception of a landscape, and as such are duly recognised for this importance. The Landscape Fabric is therefore considered High Value. This is not to say that the landscape itself is of a high value (i.e., a Valued Landscape) but that the individual features within it such as the landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover and vegetation are worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. Site A has a positive landscape character which includes its topographic features, trees, hedgerow and landcover which provide a strong sense of place within the landscape. These are features worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. The features of the Sites are generally of high-quality with a strong strength of character which are representative of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. Receptor Value: High
Susceptibility
The features that make up the fabric of the landscape are to be retained and thus have a low susceptibility to the Scheme. The landscape fabric of Site A which contributes to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland landscape has a medium tolerance to change /some scope for landscape change. It has low susceptibility to the Scheme, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, with little, or no, undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Throughout the iterative design of the scheme embedded mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the use of buffers and offsets into the design to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. Receptor Susceptibility: Low
Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology) High	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology) Low	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology) Medium
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Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects.

Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site A has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. The northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. Positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a native woodland block to the south of parcel A1 which follows the pattern of the landscape in that area.

All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

In the remainder of Site A, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. A new section of hedgerow is proposed alongside Bridleway SHER 16 on the edge of A7, whilst also maintaining the existing section of stone wall along the route. A large buffer to the Bridleway of Diverse Wildflower Meadow is proposed to provide an attractive setting to the route.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed to the western boundary of Site A and a new native woodland to A10 would provide connectivity between existing woodland blocks. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the north and west.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation to be Retained and Enhanced	0.37
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	45.34
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	6.36
	Proposed Damp Grassland	0
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation – Set Aside	23.29
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	13.65
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	0.08
Total:		89.09 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	0.82
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	0
	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0
Total:		0.82 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	0
Total:		0
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	8.59
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	1.59

Total:		10.18 km
Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	1.79
Total:		1.79 km
Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Indicative Pond Locations	0
	Ghost Pond Locations	0
Total:		0

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features on Site to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume 3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] would ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase.	The landscape fabric of the Site would be retained and enhanced through the embedded mitigation measures (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) as shown in LEMP. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. Details of species and density for each typology is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP). As the effect of this embedded mitigation would be limited initially, prior to the establishment there would be an immediate change across the Site as it changes from an	Embedded Mitigation planting established and adding to the Green Infrastructure of the Site, providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits and making positive contribution to BNG. Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the fabric of the Site. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy As new vegetation matures there would be significant beneficial effects to the landscape fabric within the Site.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape within the Site would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the Landscape Fabric of the Site as all structural landscape mitigation would be retained, providing a long-term benefit

		area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.		towards the legacy landscape.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Lime Down B

Table 7 Lime Down B, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down B consists of parcels of farmland located to the east of Fosse Way; located approximately 300m to the north and west of the village of Norton, and approximately 180m to the south of Foxley to the north, where there are some isolated residential properties. The area of Lime Down is 70ha. Mallmesbury is the nearest major settlement and is located approximately 3.4km to the north-east of Lime Down B. Sherston lies to the west and the hamlet of Easton Grey. Is sited approximately 1.3km to the north. Key Features: The western part of the Site is relatively flat at a height of approximately 100m, with the eastern part sloping away to the east to a height of approximately 85m. Foxley Road runs east to west approximately 180m north of Lime Down B at its nearest point. Honey Lane bounds part of the south-east of Lime Down B. The south-west site boundary is bounded by an unnamed road between Norton to the south and Easton Grey to the north. The Fosse Way forms a distinctively straight boundary to the west of the area. Including the Fosse way (SHER 37) there are seven Public Rights of Way (ProW) located within Lime Down B. The area of Lime Down B is 114ha and the area is entirely in agricultural use. The land is characterised by agricultural fields separated by hedgerows, with small irregular blocks of woodland in the wider area. Landscape designations in and around Lime Down B are shown on ES Volume 2 Figure 8.6.2. Site Character: The whole of Lime Down Solar Site B is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. Land parcels within Site B are characteristic of the area with a patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields,

pastoral fields and larger areas of arable land especially on the richer soils. Continuous hedges many mature oaks and medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses are typical of the area. Hedgerow trees are declining and predominantly consist of Oak. The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character and maintain the continuity of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which is important in shaping the character of the area.

Value
GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19 recognises that relative value is attached to different landscapes and states that “<i>value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.</i>” And that “<i>the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.</i>” Landscape Fabric is the individual tangible elements or features such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation that make up a landscape or site. These features are the fundamental elements that contribute to our perception of a landscape, and as such are duly recognised for this importance. The Landscape Fabric is therefore considered High Value. This is not to say that the landscape itself is of a high value (i.e., a Valued Landscape) but that the individual features within it such as the landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover and vegetation are worthy of conservation. Site B has a positive landscape character which includes its topographic features, trees, hedgerow and landcover which provide a strong sense of place within the landscape. These are features worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. The features of the Sites are generally of high-quality with a strong strength of character which are representative of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. Receptor Value: High
Susceptibility
The features that make up the fabric of the landscape are to be retained and thus have a low susceptibility to the Scheme. The landscape fabric of the Site B which contributes to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland landscape has a medium tolerance to change /some scope for landscape change. It has low susceptibility to the Scheme, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, with little, or no, undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Throughout the iterative design of the scheme embedded mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the use of buffers and offsets into the design to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. Receptor Susceptibility: Low
Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Low	Medium
Embedded Mitigation		
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Lime Down Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. No panels are proposed in parcel B12 which is close to the Cotswold National Landscape boundary and the village of Foxley. The area is proposed as diverse wildflower meadow which provides positive enhancement within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape Mitigation in this area also includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a native woodland block to the east of B9 which extends existing woodland cover southwards. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan. The design for Lime Down Site B utilises the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Diverse wildflower meadow is also proposed along the Fosse Way to the west. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below. The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).		

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation to be Retained and Enhanced	10.41
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	37.33
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	9.42
	Proposed Damp Grassland	0
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation – Set Aside	3.03
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	17.60
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	0.25
Total:		78.03 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	0.32
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	0
	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0
Total:		0.32 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	0
Total:		0 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	3.71
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	0.23
Total:		3.94 km
Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	1.70
Total:		1.7 km

Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Indicative Pond Locations	0
	Ghost Pond Locations	1
Total:		1

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features on Site to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume	The landscape fabric of the Site would be retained and enhanced through the embedded mitigation measures (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) as shown in LEMP. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. Details of species and density for each typology is described	Embedded Mitigation planting established and adding to the Green Infrastructure of the Site, providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits and making positive contribution to BNG. Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the fabric off the Site. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape within the Site would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities.

	3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] would ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase.	within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP). As the effect of this embedded mitigation would be limited initially, prior to the establishment there would be an immediate change across the Site as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.	Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy As new vegetation matures there would be significant beneficial effects to the landscape fabric within the Site.	At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the Landscape Fabric of the Site as all structural landscape mitigation would be retained, providing a long-term benefit towards the legacy landscape.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Lime Down C

Table 8 Lime Down C, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down C consists of parcels of land both to the east and west of Fosse Way, which lies to the east of the village of Alderton. Its church spire within the Conservation area is visible in some views within Lime Down C. The boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape follows the southwestern parcels of land. To the south the Great Western railway line runs through the area. The area of Lime Down C is 241ha and is entirely in agricultural use. Key Features: The land is relatively flat at a height of approximately 120m elevation though it predominantly slopes down to the east. Gauze Brook, a tributary of the River Avon runs east west through the area giving rise to gently sloping land in its vicinity. The area of Lime Down C is 241ha and the area is entirely in agricultural use. There are hedgerows and some woodland blocks scattered outside Lime Down C. Landscape designations in and around Lime Down C are shown on ES Volume 2 Figure 8.6.3. Site Character: The whole of Lime Down Solar Site C is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. Land parcels within Site C are characteristic of the area with a patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, pastoral fields and larger areas of arable land especially on the richer soils. Continuous hedges many mature oaks and medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses are typical of the area. Hedgerow trees are declining and predominantly consist of Oak. The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character and maintain the continuity of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which is important in shaping the character of the area.

Value
GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19 recognises that relative value is attached to different landscapes and states that “<i>value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.</i>” And that “<i>the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.</i>” Landscape Fabric is the individual tangible elements or features such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation that make up a landscape or site. These features are the fundamental elements that contribute to our perception of a landscape, and as such are duly recognised for this importance. The Landscape Fabric is therefore considered High Value. This is not to say that the landscape itself is of a high value (i.e., a Valued Landscape) but that the individual features within it such as the landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover and vegetation are worthy of conservation. Site C has a positive landscape character which includes its topographic features, trees, hedgerow and landcover which provide a strong sense of place within the landscape. These are features worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. The features of the Sites are generally of high-quality with a strong strength of character which are representative of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. Receptor Value: High
Susceptibility
The features that make up the fabric of the landscape are to be retained and thus have a low susceptibility to the Scheme. The landscape fabric of the Site C which contributes to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland landscape has a medium tolerance to change /some scope for landscape change. It has low susceptibility to the Scheme, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, with little, or no, undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Throughout the iterative design of the scheme embedded mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the use of buffers and offsets into the design to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. Receptor Susceptibility: Low

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Low	Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site C has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. In Lime Down Site C, a buffer of one field parcel to the Cotswold National Landscape boundary provides an extensive area for positive enhancement within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape. Further positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows and new hedgerows with hedgerow trees to reinforce landscape character. In places these replace lost hedgerows. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan. In the remainder of Site C, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Existing water corridors have been identified, and new riparian planting has been proposed to enhance these features as they pass through the Site. Areas of existing habitats have been retained and would be managed to enhance their landscape and ecological value. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, Set-Aside for ground nesting birds or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation to be Retained and Enhanced	3.94
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	130.37
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	19.83
	Proposed Damp Grassland	2.41
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation – Set Aside	36.97
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	29.08
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	10.32
Total:		232.92 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	1.26
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	1.09
	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0
Total:		2.34 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	2.33
Total:		2.33 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	11.43
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	4.04
Total:		15.47 km

Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	3.79
Total:		3.79 km
Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Indicative Pond Locations	0
	Ghost Pond Locations	11
Total:		11

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features on Site to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume 3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] would ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase.	The landscape fabric of the Site would be retained and enhanced through the embedded mitigation measures (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) as shown in LEMP. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. Details of species and density for each typology is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP). As the effect of this embedded mitigation would be limited initially, prior to the establishment there would be an immediate change across the Site as it changes from an	Embedded Mitigation planting established and adding to the Green Infrastructure of the Site, providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits and making positive contribution to BNG. Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the fabric off the Site. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy. As new vegetation matures there would be significant beneficial effects to the landscape fabric within the Site.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape within the Site would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the Landscape Fabric of the Site as all structural landscape mitigation would be retained, providing a long-term benefit

		area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.		towards the legacy landscape.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Lime Down D

Table 9 Lime Down D, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down D lies within the centre of the Study Area immediately north of the Great Western railway line, 640m north of Hullavington and Hullavington Airfield, and south of Bradfield Wood. The area extends along the Gauze Brook towards the village of Corston to the east. The area of Lime Down D is 213ha. The area is situated to the east and west of the Hullavington to Norton Road and the wester parcels adjoins the Great Western railway line. There are relatively few residential properties in the vicinity with isolated farms such as Bradfield Manor Farm, West Park Farm and Gorsey Leaze Farm. Buckley Barracks, a British Army site lies approximately 1km south of Lime Down D. RAF operations on the site ceased in 1992 and the site was transferred to the British Army and is still in active use as an army training base. Part of Hullavington airfield was used for RAF gliding operations until 2016. Hullavington Solar Farm (a 7MW scheme) is situated just south of parcel D1 and the railway line. Key Features: The land slopes from an elevation of 100m to the west to 75m to the east and Gauze Brook, a tributary of the River Avon, runs west -east through the area giving rise to gently sloping land on either side of the Brook. The site area of Lime Down D is 213ha and the area is entirely in agricultural use. Large fields are bounded by hedgerows and mature trees with little woodland except Bradfield Wood (Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland) to the north of the area. There are several Public Rights of Way located within Lime Down D. These are described fully in in the Visual Baseline. In general footpaths dissect fields and Bridleways form treed corridors on the boundaries of fields. Landscape designations in and around Lime Down D are shown on ES Volume 2 Figure 8.6.4. Site Character:

The whole of Lime Down Solar Site D is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. Land parcels within Site D are characteristic of the area with a patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, pastoral fields and larger areas of arable land especially on the richer soils. Continuous hedges many mature oaks and medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses are typical of the area. Hedgerow trees are declining and predominantly consist of Oak.

The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character and maintain the continuity of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which is important in shaping the character of the area.

Value
GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19 recognises that relative value is attached to different landscapes and states that <i>“value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.”</i> And that <i>“the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.”</i> Landscape Fabric is the individual tangible elements or features such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation that make up a landscape or site. These features are the fundamental elements that contribute to our perception of a landscape, and as such are duly recognised for this importance. The Landscape Fabric is therefore considered High Value. This is not to say that the landscape itself is of a high value (i.e., a Valued Landscape) but that the individual features within it such as the landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover and vegetation are worthy of conservation. Site D has a positive landscape character which includes its topographic features, trees, hedgerow and landcover which provide a strong sense of place within the landscape. These are features worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. The features of the Sites are generally of high-quality with a strong strength of character which are representative of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. Receptor Value: High
Susceptibility
The features that make up the fabric of the landscape are to be retained and thus have a low susceptibility to the Scheme. The landscape fabric of the Site D which contributes to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland landscape has a medium tolerance to change /some scope for landscape change. It has low susceptibility to the Scheme, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, with little, or no, undue consequences

for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Throughout the iterative design of the scheme embedded mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the use of buffers and offsets into the design to protect the landscape fabric of the Site.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Low**

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Low	Medium
Embedded Mitigation		
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Site D utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan. In Lime Down Site D, parcels D9 and 10 are proposed as a substantial riparian area associated with the watercourse. It also provides a buffer to the ancient Bradfield Wood. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. A new native woodland is proposed in D5 to the rear of Bradfield Manor to protect the setting of the Grade I listed buildings and its associated grade II listed barns. A further triangular shaped native woodland is proposed in D1 along the railway line to provide landscape structure in character with the existing pattern of woodland and screening of the BESS area. Woodland continues along the bund to screen the required acoustic fence. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to		

meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation to be Retained and Enhanced	1.31
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	146.19
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	16.58
	Proposed Damp Grassland	16.12
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation – Set Aside	0
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	4.05
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	2.39
Total:		186.64 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	1.06
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	1.82
	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0.62
Total:		3.51 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	3.56
Total:		3.56 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	12.78
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	2.97
Total:		15.75 km

Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	4.82
Total:		4.82km
Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Indicative Pond Locations	1
	Ghost Pond Locations	1
Total:		2

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features on Site to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume 3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] would ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase.	The landscape fabric of the Site would be retained and enhanced through the embedded mitigation measures (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) as shown in LEMP. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. Details of species and density for each typology is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP). As the effect of this embedded mitigation would be limited initially, prior to the establishment there would be an immediate change across the Site as it changes from an	Embedded Mitigation planting established and adding to the Green Infrastructure of the Site, providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits and making positive contribution to BNG. Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the fabric off the Site. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy As new vegetation matures there would be significant beneficial effects to the landscape fabric within the Site.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape within the Site would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the Landscape Fabric of the Site as all structural landscape

		area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.		mitigation would be retained, providing a long-term benefit towards the legacy landscape.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Lime Down E

Table 10 Lime Down E, Landscape Character - Landscape Fabric

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down E is located 500m to the to the south of Corston and to the south of the village of Rodbourne which is located on higher ground. The area of Lime Down E is 131ha. The water tower at Rodbourne is located on the hill and being white in colour forms a prominent feature of the landscape which is visible in many views from the wider landscape. The area extends southwards beyond the Great Western railway line and forms an intrusive feature of the landscape as it runs on an embankment in this location. The area extends towards Stanton St Quintin to the south and is partially enclosed by Seagry Wood to the east and Bincombe Wood to the west. A number of farms located in the vicinity such as Hangar Farm (approximately 160m southwest of E18), Haresfield Farm (approximately 180m southeast of E27 and Avil's Farm (approximately 270m south of E32). Buckley Barracks is located approximately 780m west of Lime Down E. Rodbourne Rail Farm Solar Park is located 1.1km, from Site E to the northeast of Corston. Key Features: There are no roads within the area itself although it is criss-crossed by bridleways and footpaths. Gabriel's Well, another tributary to the River Avon, is a stream which runs west-east through the Area and forms the base of a distinct valley. Rodbourne sits at the top of the valley slope and Rodbourne Bottom, as its name suggests, sits at the bottom of the valley. A track along the Rodbourne ridgeline separates the northwest facing slopes to Corston from the landscape to the South associated with the valley. The topography in Area E is more complex than areas A-D which gives rise to smaller scale field pattern and a more intimate landscape character. The area of Lime Down E is 131ha and the area is also entirely in agricultural use, However, the more intimate pattern of sloping fields enclosed by hedgerows and trees provides quite a different character to the landscape. Lime Down E contains a significant number of Public Rights of Way comprising four bridleways and nine footpaths which are described in detail in the Visual Baseline. Landscape designations in and around Lime Down E are shown on ES Volume 2 Figure 8.6.1. Site Character:

The whole of Lime Down Solar Site E is situated within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. Land parcels within Site E are characteristic of the area with a patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, pastoral fields and larger areas of arable land especially on the richer soils. Continuous hedges many mature oaks and medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses are typical of the area. Hedgerow trees are declining and predominantly consist of Oak.

The overall objectives for the area are to conserve and enhance its pastoral character and maintain the continuity of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which is important in shaping the character of the area.

Value

GLVIA3 paragraph 5.19 recognises that relative value is attached to different landscapes and states that “*value can apply to areas of landscape as a whole, or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape.*” And that “*the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape – such as trees, buildings or hedgerows – may also have value.*”

Landscape Fabric is the individual tangible elements or features such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation that make up a landscape or site.

These features are the fundamental elements that contribute to our perception of a landscape, and as such are duly recognised for this importance. The Landscape Fabric is therefore considered High Value. This is not to say that the landscape itself is of a high value (i.e., a Valued Landscape) but that the individual features within it such as the landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover and vegetation are worthy of conservation.

Site E has a positive landscape character which includes its topographic features, trees, hedgerow and landcover which provide a strong sense of place within the landscape. These are features worthy of conservation and there is a general absence of detracting features in the landscape. The features of the Sites are generally of high-quality with a strong strength of character which are representative of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

The features that make up the fabric of the landscape are to be retained and thus have a low susceptibility to the Scheme. The landscape fabric of the Site E which contributes to the character of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland landscape has a medium tolerance to change /some scope for landscape change. It has low susceptibility to the Scheme, and a high ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, with little, or no, undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Throughout the iterative design of the scheme embedded mitigation measures have been applied. This includes the use of buffers and offsets into the design to protect the landscape fabric of the Site.

Receptor Susceptibility: Low		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Low	Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Lime Down Site E utilises the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Opportunities to increase woodland along the Rodbourne ridge have been taken, with native woodland proposed in parcels E1, E7 and E9, in line with landscape guidelines for the area. Existing water corridors have been identified, and new riparian planting has been proposed to enhance these features as they pass through the Site. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, Set-Aside for ground nesting birds or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below. The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Broad Category Type	Subcategory Type	Area / Length / Number
Proposed Ground Cover	Existing Vegetation To Be Retained And Enhanced	8.01
	Proposed Grassland Creation (Beneath Panels)	93.20
	Proposed Tussock Grassland Margins	12.30
	Proposed Damp Grassland	0
	Proposed Ground Nesting Bird Mitigation – Set Aside	0
	Proposed Diverse Wildflower Meadow	1.69
	Proposed Low Density Scrub	0.92
Total:		116.12 ha
Green Corridor and Woodland Planting	Proposed Native Woodland Belt	3.61
	Proposed Native Woodland Block	0.85
	Proposed Scrub and Tree Planting (On Bund)	0
Total:		4.46 ha
Enhanced Native Riparian Planting	Proposed Riparian Corridor	1.89
Total:		1.89 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement and Roadside Reinforcement	Hedgerow Reinforcement	9.10
	Proposed Linear Tree Planting	0.48
Total:		9.58 km
Proposed Hedgerows	Proposed Native Hedgerow with Trees	4.13
Total:		4.13km
	Indicative Pond Locations	0

Reintroduction of Historic Ponds and New Ponds	Ghost Pond Locations	0
Total:		0

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Fabric (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Embedded Mitigation measures have been included within the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site. This includes various buffers to offset the development from existing landscape features on Site to ensure their protection and permanence. The Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) sets out how these Embedded Mitigation measures are to be secured and the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Method Statement in Volume 3: Appendix 10-4 [EN010168/APP/6.3] would ensure the protection of all existing landscape features to be retained during the Construction Phase.	The landscape fabric of the Site would be retained and enhanced through the embedded mitigation measures (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) as shown in LEMP. The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. Details of species and density for each typology is described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP). As the effect of this embedded mitigation would be limited initially, prior to the establishment there would be an immediate change across the Site as it changes from an	Embedded Mitigation planting established and adding to the Green Infrastructure of the Site, providing extensive habitat and biodiversity benefits and making positive contribution to BNG. Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the fabric off the Site. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy As new vegetation matures there would be significant beneficial effects to the landscape fabric within the Site.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The reinforced landscape within the Site would have the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the Landscape Fabric of the Site as all structural landscape

		area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure.		mitigation would be retained, providing a long-term benefit towards the legacy landscape.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

3.2 Landscape Character – The 1km Local Study Area (Individual Sites)

Lime Down A

Table 11 Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down A is located approximately 240m to the southeast of the small village of Sherston which is situated on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds National Landscape. The village is situated approximately 8km west of main town of Malmesbury. The area of Lime Down A is 94ha and is entirely in agricultural use. The area consists of parcels of farmland either side of the road running between Sherston and the Fosse Way (Roman Road) to the east and Commonwood Lane, a no through road to the west. The topography to the north of the area falls steeply towards the River Avon (Sherston Branch) before rising towards the village of Sherston which has a designated Conservation Area. The northern part of Lime Down A is adjacent to the Cotswolds National Landscape. National Landscape Character: Lime Down A is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as: NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). Regional Landscape Character: Lime Down A is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. The following regional LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and the Cotswold National Landscape, Landscape Character Assessment. Lime Down A is located within the local LCA:

LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

The following local LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west).

North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north).

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland (to the north).

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands (to the west).

Key Features of the North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.
- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Landscape Character of Site A, 1 km Local Study Area:

Site A is located on the rolling lowland hills that is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA 8. The topography falls from higher ground within the Cotswold National Landscape on the Dipslope to the west; and to the north, where Site A adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape boundary, the topography drops into the steeper Avon valley within the Upper Avon Valley LCA 6 to the south of Sherston. The Avon valley (North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley) separates Sherston within the North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland from the Site. However, there are cross valley views towards the northern edge of Site A from the settlement edge. The majority of the Site is beyond a low ridge which defines the boundary of the Upper Avon Valley and the Hullavington Rolling Lowland on the northern boundary of the Site.

The landscape is characterised by large scale arable fields with smaller areas of pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are generally clipped low but some are tall which enclose the landscape. To the south blocks of woodland separate the field parcels in Site A from Site C. This is a rural landscape with scattered farms, generally on higher ground, with few detracting features.

Sherston Conservation Area is within the 1km Study Area of Site A and covers the historic core of the village to the north of Lime Down A where there is a concentration of listed buildings, including the Grade 1 Listed Church of the Holy Cross which is a locally prominent feature of the landscape. There are occasional views of the church from rural lanes and footpaths in and around Site A.

Value		
The northern boundary of Site A adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape boundary to the south of Sherston and to the west, Site A is 345m to the Cotswold National Landscape boundary which follows the Sherston to Alderton Road. There is a physical and visual association between Site A and Cotswold National Landscape and as such parts of Site A are within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 1km Study area is considered to be High. This is where there is generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation. Receptor Value: High		
Susceptibility		
Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme. Overall, the 1km Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme Receptor Susceptibility: Medium		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The Iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site A has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. The northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. Positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a native woodland block to the south of parcel A1 which follows the pattern of the landscape in that area. This would also screen views of infrastructure beyond from the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape to the north.

All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

In the remainder of Site A, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. A new section of hedgerow is proposed alongside Bridleway SHER 16 on the edge of A7, whilst also maintaining the existing section of stone wall along the route. A large buffer to the Bridleway of Diverse Wildflower Meadow is proposed to provide an attractive setting to the route.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed to the western boundary of Site A and a new native woodland to A10 would provide connectivity between existing woodland blocks. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the west.

The layout of the array within Site A has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 0.82 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 0

Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Reinforcement: 10.18km

Proposed Hedgerows: 1.79km

Proposed Ponds & Wader Scrapes: 0

Groundcover: 89.09ha

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area)
(Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])

Assessment of Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure over grassland.	The effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site A would remain the same as during Construction.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities.

	Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would have an immediate noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study area of Site as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to this area of countryside in the immediate area in the context of this LCA. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within its immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.	At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

Lime Down B

Table 12 Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down B consists of parcels of farmland located to the east of Fosse Way; located approximately 300m to the north and west of the village of Norton, and approximately 180m to the south of Foxley to the north, where there are some isolated residential properties. Malmesbury is the nearest major settlement and is located approximately 3.4km to the north-east of Lime Down B. Sherston lies to the west and the hamlet of Easton Grey is sited approximately 1.3km to the north. Foxley Road runs east to west approximately 180m north of Lime Down B at its nearest point. Honey Lane bounds part of the south-east of Lime Down B. The south-west site boundary is bounded by an unnamed road between Norton to the south and Easton Grey to the north. The Fosse Way forms a distinctively straight boundary to the west of the area. Including the Fosse Way (SHER 37) there are seven Public Rights of Way (ProW) located on Lime Down B. The northern part of Lime Down B is near to the Cotswolds National Landscape. National Landscape Character: Lime Down B is located within two National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420) and NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: The Site is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. The following regional LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character:

The Site is located within the local LCAs:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

The following local LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Key Features of the North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.
- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Landscape Character of Site B, 1 km Local Study Area:

Site B is located on the gently rolling lowland hills that is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA 8). The topography generally falls from higher ground along the Fosse Way to the river Avon valley within the North Wiltshire Upper Avon Valley LCA 6). The Study Area is also dissected by a series of east/west watercourses which flow eastwards.

The landscape is characterised by large scale arable fields with smaller areas of pastoral fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are generally clipped low, but some are tall which enclose the landscape. There are some small woodland blocks which form wooded skylines in places which separate the field parcels and provide a degree of enclosure. This is a rural landscape with scattered farms, generally on higher ground, with few detracting features.

The hamlet of Foxley is within the 1km Study Area of Site B which has a number of listed buildings, including the Grade II Listed Foxley Manor. There are occasional views of the church from rural lanes and footpaths in and around Site A.

Value

The northern boundary of Site B adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape boundary to the south of Sherston. The boundary follows Foxley road between Sherston and Foxley. There is a physical and visual association between Site B and the Cotswold National Landscape and as such Site B is within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape.

Due to this, the value of the landscape the 1km Study Area is considered to be of High. This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 1km Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme

Receptor Susceptibility: Medium

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site B and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a proposed native hedge with trees to provide screening to panels in B1. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan. In the remainder of Site B, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has avoided infrastructure along the Fosse Way where the topography provides open views across the landscape. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Open space provides a large buffer to Footpath NORT 1 proposed as Diverse Wildflower Meadow and a new woodland is proposed alongside between B9 which provides connectivity to existing woodland to the north.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, a new native hedge with trees is proposed to the southwest boundary of B9 and the northwest boundary of B6 which reinstates a lost hedgerow. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The approach at Site B has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 0.32 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 0

Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Reinforcement: 3.94km

Proposed Hedgerows: 1.7km

Proposed Ponds & Wader Scrapes: 1

Proposed Ground Cover : 78.03 ha

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure over grassland. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would have an immediate noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study area of Site as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.	The effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site B would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to this area of countryside in the	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape.

			immediate area in the context of this LCA. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within its immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

Lime Down C

Table 13 Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down C consists of parcels of land both to the east and west of Fosse Way, which lies to the east of the village of Alderton. Its church spire within the Conservation area is visible in some views within Lime Down C. The boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape follows the southwestern parcels of land. To the south the Great Western railway line runs through the area. Gauze Brook, a tributary of the River Avon runs east west through the area giving rise to gently sloping land in its vicinity. The area of Lime Down C is 318ha and the area is entirely in agricultural use. There are hedgerows and some woodland blocks scattered outside Lime Down C. The western and southwestern parts of Lime Down C is adjacent to the Cotswolds National Landscape. National Landscape Character: Lime Down C is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). Regional Landscape Character: The Site is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. The following regional LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: The Site is located within the local LCAs:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

The following local LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Key Features of the North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.
- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Landscape Character of Site C, 1 km Local Study Area:

Site C is located on the gently rolling lowland hills that is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland. The topography generally falls from higher ground within the Cotswold National Landscape although the landform here is dissected by a tributary water course of the River Avon to the west with Luckington on higher ground to the west. To the east the land slopes towards the Fosse Way where tributaries of the Gauze Brook run eastwards giving rise to gently rolling topography. The Study Area is also dissected by the railway which is partly underground within the Study Area.

The landscape is characterised by large scale arable fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are smaller pastoral fields surrounding the village of Alderton to the west of the Study Area. Woodland coverts are characteristic of the study area with larger blocks of woodland to the south which form wooded skylines in places. Alderton church spire within the Conservation Area is visible in views within Lime Down C. There are also views towards Sherston Church from high ground in the south.

Value

The western boundary of Site C adjoins the Cotswold National Landscape boundary to the east of Alderton. There is a physical and visual association between Site C and the Cotswold National Landscape and as such Site C is within the setting of the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 1km Study area is High

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 1km Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme

Receptor Susceptibility: Medium

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site C and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site C has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Alderton and the Fosse Way. In addition to this, views of Alderton Church have been considered. Parcel C1, C6, C8, part of C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows.

The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Foss Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, new native hedgerows with trees are proposed within C6, to the north of C8 and within C10 which reinstates lost hedgerows. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The approach at Site C has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 2.34 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 2.33 ha
Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Reinforcement: 15.47km
Proposed Hedgerows: 3.79km
Proposed Ponds & Wader Scrapes: 11
Proposed Ground Cover: 232.92 ha

**Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area)
(Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])**

Assessment of Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure over grassland. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the	The effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site C would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to

	Embedded Mitigation, would have an immediate noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study area of Site as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to this area of countryside in the immediate area in the context of this LCA. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within its immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.	be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

Lime Down D

Table 14 Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down D lies within the centre of the Study Area immediately north of the Great Western railway line, 640m north of Hullavington and Hullavington Airfield, and south of Bradfield Wood. The area extends along the Gauze Brook towards the village of Corston to the east. The area is situated to the east and west of the Hullavington to Norton Road and the wester parcels adjoins the Great Western railway line. There are relatively few residential properties in the vicinity with isolated farms such as Bradfield Manor Farm, West Park Farm and Gorsey Leaze Farm. Bradfield Manor is Grade 1 Listed and there are three associated Grade II listed barns. Buckley Barracks, a British Army site lies approximately 1km south of Lime Down D. RAF operations on the site ceased in 1992 and the site was transferred to the British Army and is still in active use as an army training base. Part of Hullavington airfield was used for RAF gliding operations until 2016. Hullavington Solar Farm (a 7MW scheme) is situated just south of parcel D1 and the railway line. National Landscape Character: Lime Down D is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). Regional Landscape Character: The Site is located within the following regional LCAs: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands The following regional LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands Local Landscape Character: The Site is located within the local LCAs:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

The following local LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

Key Features of the North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.
- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Landscape Character of Site D, 1 km Local Study Area:

Site D is located on the gently rolling lowland hills that is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland (LCA 8). The topography generally falls from higher ground near Bradfield Wood towards the Gauze Brook which flows northeast through the Study Area to Corston. The topography rises to the southeast to form a distinct ridgeline which separates the landscape associated with Site D from Site E to the southeast. The railway line forms the southern boundary of the Site to the west of Bradfield Cottages Road.

The landscape is characterised by large scale arable fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are smaller pastoral fields associated with the Gauze Brook. Woodlands are characteristic of the study area with larger blocks of ancient woodland of Bradfield Wood and West Park Wood to the north which form wooded skylines in places. Smaller blocks of woodlands are found along the railway line. This is a rural landscape with scattered farms, with some detracting features associated with the railway land and Hullavington air base to the south.

Value		
The southern boundary of Site D adjoins the railway line. There is no landscape or visual association between Site D and the Cotswold National Landscape. Although the landscape within the 1km Study Area shares some characteristics of the Cotswolds Character, there is a notable change in landscape quality within the Study Area. Dry stone walls are far less frequent and instead hedgerows are more characteristic of the landscape. This and the presence of detracting features in the Study Area such as major roads, the railway line and Hullavington airfield reduce its value as compared to the Cotswold National Landscape. The value of the landscape within the 1km Study Area of Site D is therefore considered to be Medium. This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement Receptor Value: Medium		
Susceptibility		
Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme, and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme. Overall, the 1km Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme Receptor Susceptibility: Medium		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects.

Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Site D utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In Lime Down Site D, parcels D9 and 10 are proposed as a substantial riparian area associated with the watercourse. It also provides a buffer to the ancient Bradfield Wood. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. A new native woodland is proposed in D5 to the rear of Bradfield Manor to protect the setting of the Grade I listed buildings and its associated grade II listed barns. F A further triangular shaped native woodland is proposed in D1 along the railway line to provide landscape structure in character with the existing pattern of woodland and screening of the BESS area. Woodland continues along the bund to screen the required acoustic fence.

All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The approach at Site D has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 3.51 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 3.56 ha

Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Vegetation: 15.75km

Proposed Hedgerows: 4.0.8km

Proposed Ponds & Wader Scrapes: 2 Proposed Ground Cover: 186.64 ha				
Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure over grassland. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would have an immediate noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study area of Site as a	The effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site D would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with

	result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to this area of countryside in the immediate area in the context of this LCA. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within its immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.	landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

Lime Down E

Table 15 Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The Local Study Area (1km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down E is located 500m to the south of Corston and to the south of the village of Rodbourne which is located on higher ground. A white, water tower on the hill forms a prominent feature of the landscape which is visible in many views from the wider landscape. The area extends southwards beyond the Great Western railway line and forms an intrusive feature of the landscape as it runs on an embankment in this location. The area extends towards Stanton St Quintin to the south and is partially enclosed by Seagry Wood to the east and Bincombe Wood to the west. A number of farms located in the vicinity such as Hangar Farm (approximately 160m southwest of E18), Haresfield Farm approximately 180m southeast of E27 and Avil's Farm (approximately 270m south of E32). Buckley Barracks is located approximately 780m west of Lime Down E. Gabriel's Well, another tributary to the River Avon, is a stream which runs west-east through the Area and forms the base of a distinct valley. Rodbourne sits at the top of the valley slope and Rodbourne Bottom, as its name suggests, sits at the bottom of the valley. The topography in Area E is more complex than areas A-D which gives rise to smaller scale field pattern and a more intimate landscape character. The area of Lime Down E is 145ha and the area is entirely in agricultural use, However, the more intimate pattern of sloping fields enclosed by hedgerows and trees provides quite a different character to the landscape. National Landscape Character: Lime Down E is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.5.1 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 107-Cotswolds (NE 420). Regional Landscape Character: The Site is located within the following regional LCAs: • LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. The following regional LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area: • LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands.

Local Landscape Character:

The Site is located within the local LCAs:

- North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

The following local LCAs are located within the 1km Study Area:

- North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.
- North Wiltshire LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland.

Key Features of the North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland

- Rolling or lowland hills between 60-120m AOD, on Forest Marble limestone, Oxford Clay and Cornbrash.
- Patchwork of irregular, medium sized fields, mainly pasture, and larger more recent enclosures used for arable, especially in on the richer soils.
- Continuous hedges with many mature oaks.
- Medium sized woodlands and deciduous copses.
- Fine stone villages with muted colours and dispersed farms.
- Historic Corsham Park.
- Use of undressed limestone to walls, ashlar quoins, lintels and mullions, and stone slates.
- Detractors of the M4, the edge of Chippenham and Hullavington airfield.

Landscape Character of Site E, 1 km Local Study Area:

Site E is located on the gently rolling lowland hills that is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland (LCA 8). The topography generally falls rises from the A429 Corston Road to the southeast to a low ridge associated with Rodbourne, where the water tower is a distinctive feature of the landscape. The land then drops towards Gabriel's Brook which flows northeast to the River Avon near Great Somerford. Site D lies on rising land to each side of this watercourse which spits to flow either side of Rowden Wood, which is located on a low knoll on the southwestern boundary of the Site.

The landscape is characterised by large scale arable fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are smaller pastoral fields associated with Gabriels Brook. Woodlands are characteristic of the study area with larger blocks of ancient woodland of Bincombe Wood and Seagry Wood on higher ground to the west and east, as well as Rowden Wood to the south north which form wooded skylines in places. Smaller blocks of woodlands are found along the railway line which dissects the Site This is a rural landscape with scattered farms, with some detracting features associated with the railway land and Hullavington air base to the south.

Value		
Site E is located to the east of the A249 and is dissected by the railway line. There is no physical and visual association between Site E and the Cotswold National Landscape. Although the landscape within the 1km Study Area shares some characteristics of the Cotswolds Character, there is a notable change in landscape quality within the Study Area. Dry stone walls are far less frequent and instead hedgerows are more characteristic of the landscape. This and the presence of detracting features in the Study Area such as major roads, the railway line and Hullavington airfield a reduce its value as compared to the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 1km Study Area of Site E is considered to be Medium. This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement. Receptor Value: Medium		
Susceptibility		
Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme. Overall, the 1km Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme Receptor Susceptibility: Medium		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects.

Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Lime Down Site E utilises the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Opportunities to increase woodland along the Rodbourne ridge have been taken with native woodland proposed in parcels E1, E7 and E9, in line with landscape guidelines for the area. Existing water corridors have been identified, and new riparian planting has been proposed to enhance these features as they pass through the Site.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, Set-Aside for ground nesting birds or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

The approach at Site B has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA. All embedded mitigation measures would provide reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements, in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and the Cotswolds National Landscape Nature Recovery Plan.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

The below measurements are for the areas of the Site not including existing hedgerow understories, existing woodland understories, existing tracks or roads within the Site and the proposed Scheme infrastructure (substations, invertors etc).

Green Corridor & Woodland Planting: 4.46 ha

Enhanced Riparian Native Planting: 1.89 ha

Hedgerow Reinforcement & Reinforced Roadside Vegetation: 9.58km

Proposed Hedgerows: 4.13km
Proposed Ponds & Wader Scrapes: 0
Proposed Ground Cover: 116.12 ha

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The 1km Study Area (The Local Study Area)
(Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])

Assessment of Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the array is well integrated into its context. However, locally prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, there would be an immediate change to the character of the area as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure over grassland. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would have an immediate	The effect of proposed mitigation planting (including hedgerow reinforcement, new hedgerows, reinforced roadside screening and enhanced riparian native planting) would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site E would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the Local Study Area, allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. The Scheme provides reinforcement to the host landscape fabric of the Site, strengthening and reinforcing existing landscape elements in accordance with LCA aims and guidelines and Wiltshire's Nature Recovery Strategy. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture.

	noticeable change to the character of the 1km Local Study area of Site as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		to the Scheme allowing it to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting provide positive contributions to this area of countryside in the immediate area in the context of this LCA. However, given the scale of the proposals, there would be an appreciation of the Scheme within its immediate surroundings which would be notably different from the character of the surrounding arable countryside.	As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards the legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor

3.3 Landscape Character – The 2km Wider Study Area (Individual Sites)

Lime Down A

Table 16 Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down A is located approximately 240m to the southeast of the small village of Sherston which is situated on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds National Landscape. The village is situated approximately 8km west of main town of Malmesbury. The area of Lime Down A is 94ha and is entirely in agricultural use. The area consists of parcels of farmland either side of the road running between Sherston and the Fosse Way (Roman Road) to the east and Commonwood Lane, a no through road to the west. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Wider Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands. Landscape Character of Site A, 2km Wider Study Area:

Site A is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA 8 which extends to the east and south.

The Wider 2km Study Area consists of the Sherston Dipslope Lowland LCA 7 to the west and to a lesser extent the Upper Avon Valley LCA 6 to the northeast which are both within the Cotswold National Landscape.

The Landscape within the 2km Wider Study Area of Site A is characterised by three different local character areas as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. The Dipslope is gently undulating lowland farmland underlain by limestone. It is an open landscape with broad low hills rising to 90m to 125m AOD towards the Cotswolds in the west and shallow river valleys and associated alluvial soils, and some dry valleys especially towards the south. Woodland cover is limited to intermittent copses and shelterbelts within agricultural land, but balanced by extensive broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantations within large estates and associated distinctive planned parkland landscapes. Medium to large scale, regular fields predominate which are mainly enclosed by continuous hedgerows, with veteran oak trees, together with some limestone walls in places and stone built settlements synonymous with the Cotswolds. There are long distance footpaths in the area from where there are some broad panoramas and distant views from the broad low hills. The dipslope extends west into the Cotswolds National Landscape which comprises a broad tract of land that forms the transition between the High Wold Dip-Slope to the north-west, and the lower lying and flatter Thames Basin to the south-east.

The Upper Avon valley is situated to the north of Site A where landscape character area is defined by a settled farmland valley landscape which and is described as a distinct valley which is enclosed in places. It is focussed on the valley floor of the Sherston branch of the Upper Avon and the river course which runs between Malmesbury and Chipping Sodbury The river runs eastwards on a convoluted course, in a valley which is in places steep sided, and in other locations more open and shallower. The landscape is characterised by mixed farming and a scattered rural settlement with small blocks of woodland and copses, both deciduous and coniferous. Mature oak trees are found on drier land, and wouldow and alder by stream-sides. Stone buildings and dry-stone walls, synonymous with the Cotswolds provide a quiet and unspoilt character with a strong sense of time depth. The area extends into the Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment which notes the number of woodlands on the southern side of the River which comprise a mix of small geometric coniferous farm plantations, broadleaved woodland with a number of these being of ancient in origin, and parkland trees and shelter belts which contribute significantly to woodland cover in the character area.

Value

The Wider 2km Study Area of Site A contains the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 2km Wider Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme

Receptor Susceptibility: Medium

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site A and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site A has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. The northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. Positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a native woodland block to the south of parcel A1 which follows the pattern of the landscape in that area. This would also screen views of infrastructure beyond from the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape to the north.

In the remainder of Site A, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. A new section of hedgerow is proposed alongside Bridleway SHER 16 on the edge of A7, whilst also maintaining the existing section of stone wall along the route. A large buffer to the Bridleway of Diverse Wildflower Meadow is proposed to provide an attractive setting to the route.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed to the western boundary of Site A and a new native woodland to A10 would provide connectivity between existing woodland blocks. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the west.

The approach at Site A has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site A.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities within Site A would have an immediate change to the character of the Site and its immediate context as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure. Within the Wider Study Area, these changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would result in a perceivable change to the character of the landscape across the 2km Local Study Area of Site A as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site A would remain the same as during Construction.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside within the Wider Study Area would reduce the landscape effects of the Scheme by Year 15. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little appreciation of the Scheme.	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down B

Table 17 Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down B consists of parcels of farmland located to the east of Fosse Way; located approximately 300m to the north and west of the village of Norton, and approximately 180m to the south of Foxley to the north, where there are some isolated residential properties. Malmesbury is the nearest major settlement and is located approximately 3.4km to the north-east of Lime Down B. Sherston lies to the west and the hamlet of Easton Grey. Is sited approximately 1.3km to the north. Foxley Road runs east to west approximately 180m north of Lime Down B at its nearest point. Honey Lane bounds part of the south-east of Lime Down B. The south-west site boundary is bounded by an unnamed road between Norton to the south and Easton Grey to the north. The Fosse Way forms a distinctively straight boundary to the west of the area. Including the Fosse way (SHER 37) there are seven Public Rights of Way (ProW) located on Lime Down B. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Wider Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Landscape Character of Site B, 2km Wider Study Area:

Site B is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends eastwards.

The Wider 2km Study Area of Site B consists of the Upper Avon Valley LCA to the north Sherston and to a lesser extent the Dipslope Lowland LCA to the northwest which are both within the Cotswold National Landscape.

The Upper Avon valley is situated to the north of Site A where landscape character area is defined by a settled farmland valley landscape which and is described as a distinct valley which is enclosed in places. It is focussed on the valley floor of the Sherston branch of the Upper Avon and the river course which runs between Malmesbury and Chipping Sodbury The river runs eastwards on a convoluted course, in a valley which is in places steep sided, and in other locations more open and shallower. The landscape is characterised by mixed farming and a scattered rural settlement with small blocks of woodland and copses, both deciduous and coniferous. Mature oak trees are found on drier land, and wouldow and alder by stream-sides. Stone buildings and dry-stone walls, synonymous with the Cotswolds provide a quiet and unspoilt character with a strong sense of time depth. The area extends into the Cotswolds National Landscape Character Assessment which notes the number of woodlands on the southern side of the River which comprise a mix of small geometric coniferous farm plantations, broadleaved woodland with a number of these being of ancient in origin, and parkland trees and shelter belts which contribute significantly to woodland cover in the character area.

Value

The Wider 2km Study Area of Site B contains the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National

Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 2km Wider Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not influenced by the National Landscape.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site B and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a proposed native hedge with trees to provide screening to panels in B1.

In the remainder of Site B, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has avoided infrastructure along the Fosse Way where the topography provides open views across the landscape. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Open space provides a large buffer to Footpath NORT 1 proposed as Diverse Wildflower Meadow and a new woodland is proposed alongside between B9 which provides connectivity to existing woodland to the north.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, a new native hedge with trees is proposed to the southwest boundary of B9 and the northwest boundary of B6 which reinstates a lost hedgerow. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site B.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area)

Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.2

Assessment of Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities within Site B would have an immediate change to the character of the Site and its immediate context as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure. Within the Wider Study Area, these changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site B would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to

	Embedded Mitigation, would result in a perceivable change to the character of the landscape across the 2km Wider Study Area of Site B as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside within the Wider Study Area would reduce the landscape effects of the Scheme by Year 15. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little appreciation of the Scheme.	be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down C

Table 18 Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down C consists of parcels of land both to the east and west of Fosse Way, which lies to the east of the village of Alderton. Its church spire within the Conservation area is visible in some views within Lime Down C. The boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape follows the southwestern parcels of land. To the south the Great Western railway line runs through the area. Gauze Brook, a tributary of the River Avon runs east west through the area giving rise to gently sloping land in its vicinity. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Wider Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands. Landscape Character of Site C, 2km Wider Study Area:

Site C is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends to the north, east and south.

The Wider 2km Study Area consists of the Sherston Dipslope Lowland LCA to the west which is within the Cotswold National Landscape.

The Landscape within the 2km Wider Study Area of Site C is characterised by two different local character areas as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment. The Dipslope is gently undulating lowland farmland underlain by limestone. It is an open landscape with broad low hills rising to 90m to 125m AOD towards the Cotswolds in the west and shallow river valleys and associated alluvial soils, and some dry valleys especially towards the south. Woodland cover is limited to intermittent copses and shelterbelts within agricultural land, but balanced by extensive broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantations within large estates and associated distinctive planned parkland landscapes. Medium to large scale, regular fields predominate which are mainly enclosed by continuous hedgerows, with veteran oak trees, together with some limestone walls in places and stone built settlements synonymous with the Cotswolds. There are long distance footpaths in the area from where there are some broad panoramas and distant views from the broad low hills. The dipslope extends west into the Cotswolds National Landscape which comprises a broad tract of land that forms the transition between the High Wold Dip-Slope to the north-west, and the lower lying and flatter Thames Basin to the south-east.

Value

The Wider 2km Study Area of Site C contains the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 2km Wider Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not influenced by the National Landscape.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	Medium	High to Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site C and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site C has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Alderton and the Fosse Way. In addition to this, views of Alderton Church have been considered. All fields within Site C, on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape are to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows. The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Foss Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, new native hedgerows with trees are proposed within C6, to the north of C8 and within C9 and C10 which reinstates lost hedgerows. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site C.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.3				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities within Site C would have an immediate change to the character of the Site and its immediate context as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure. Within the Wider Study Area, these changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would result in a perceivable change to the character of the landscape across the	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site C would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside within the	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall

	2km Wider Study Area of Site C as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		Wider Study Area would reduce the landscape effects of the Scheme by Year 15. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little appreciation of the Scheme.	benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down D

Table 19 Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])	
Baseline	
Baseline Context: Lime Down D lies within the centre of the Study Area immediately north of the Great Western railway line, 640m north of Hullavington and Hullavington Airfield, and south of Bradfield Wood. The area extends along the Gauze Brook towards the village of Corston to the east. The area is situated to the east and west of the Hullavington to Norton Road and the wester parcels adjoins the Great Western railway line. There are relatively few residential properties in the vicinity with isolated farms such as Bradfield Manor Farm, West Park Farm and Gorsey Leaze Farm. Buckley Barracks, a British Army site lies approximately 1km south of Lime Down D. RAF operations on the site ceased in 1992 and the site was transferred to the British Army and is still in active use as an army training base. Part of Hullavington airfield was used for RAF gliding operations until 2016. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Wider Study Area: National Landscape Character : NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley. North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minety and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland.	

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Landscape Character of the 2km Wider Study Area:

Site D is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends to the north, south, east and west.

The 2km Wider Study Area is also within Hullavington Rolling Lowland and the northern fringe is within the LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley which is within the Cotswold National Landscape.

Landscape Character of Site D, 2 km Wider Study Area:

Site D is located on the gently rolling lowland hills which is a defining characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland (LCA 8). The topography generally falls eastwards from higher ground associated with the dipslope to the west. The Gauze Brook flows through the Study Area to Corston and continues eastwards to join the River Avon. The valley gives rise to the rolling character of the area which is characterised by large scale arable fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are smaller pastoral fields associated with the watercourses and woodlands are characteristic of the study area with larger blocks of ancient woodland on higher ground which form wooded skylines in places. This is a rural landscape with scattered farms, with some detracting features associated with the railway land and Hullavington air base to the south.

Value

The southern boundary of Site D adjoins the railway line. There is no landscape or visual association between Site D and the Cotswold National Landscape. Although the landscape within the 1km Study Area shares some characteristics of the Cotswolds Character, there is a notable change in landscape quality within the Study Area. Dry stone walls are far less frequent and instead hedgerows are more characteristic of the landscape. This and the presence of detracting features in the Study Area such as major roads, the railway line and Hullavington airfield reduce its value as compared to the Cotswold National Landscape. The value of the landscape within the 1km Study Area of Site D is therefore considered to be Medium.

This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement

Receptor Value: Medium

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change.

This is where the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 2km Wider Study Area of Site D has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not located within the National landscape itself.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The Iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects.

Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Site D utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In Lime Down Site D, parcels D9 and 10 are proposed as a substantial riparian area associated with the watercourse. It also provides a buffer to the ancient Bradfield Wood. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. A new native woodland is proposed in D5 to the rear of Bradfield Manor to protect the setting of the Grade I listed buildings and its associated grade II listed barns. A

further triangular shaped native woodland is proposed in D1 along the railway line to provide landscape structure in character with the existing pattern of woodland and screening of the BESS area. Woodland continues along the bund to screen the required acoustic fence.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across Site D.

The approach at Site D has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area)

Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.4

Assessment of Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities within Site D would have an immediate change to the character of the Site and its immediate context as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure. Within the Wider Study Area, these changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site D would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities.

	Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would result in a perceivable change to the character of the landscape across the 2km Wider Study Area of Site D as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.		The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside within the Wider Study Area would reduce the landscape effects of the Scheme by Year 15. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little appreciation of the Scheme.	At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down E

Table 20 Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The Wider Study Area (2km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down E is located 500m to the south of Corston and to the south of the village of Rodbourne which is located on higher ground. A white, water tower on the hill forms a prominent feature of the landscape which is visible in many views from the wider landscape. The area extends southwards beyond the Great Western railway line and forms an intrusive feature of the landscape as it runs on an embankment in this location. The area extends towards Stanton St Quintin to the south and is partially enclosed by Seagry Wood to the east and Bincombe Wood to the west. A number of farms located in the vicinity such as Hangar Farm (approximately 160m southwest of E18), Haresfield Farm approximately 180m southeast of E27 and Avil's Farm (approximately 270m south of E32). Buckley Barracks is located approximately 780m west of Lime Down E. Gabriel's Well, another tributary to the River Avon, is a stream which runs west-east through the Area and forms the base of a distinct valley. Rodbourne sits at the top of the valley slope and Rodbourne Bottom, as its name suggests, sits at the bottom of the valley. The topography in Area E is more complex than areas A-D which gives rise to smaller scale field pattern and a more intimate landscape character. Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, a 6.5 MW scheme is located between the A429 and Grange Lane, to the northeast of Corston within the 2km Wider Study Area. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Wider Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland.

Landscape Character of Site E, 2km Wider Study Area:

Site E is located on the gently rolling lowland hills within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends to the north, south and west. To the east the landscape gently falls towards the Avon Valley to the west which consists of low-lying mixed farmland centred on the River Avon and its tributaries where riparian vegetation including damp meadow and pasture is found on the valley floor with species such as poplar and wouldow. Hedges, frequently with hedgerow trees, are the main enclosure and there are scattered settlements in slightly higher areas. The area has a rural and somewhat isolated feel in remoter parts of the character area with a strong rural sense of place, which begins to break down around Chippenham and the communication corridor.

Value

Site E is located to the east of the A249 and is dissected by the railway line. There is no physical and visual association between Site E and the Cotswold National Landscape. Although the landscape within the 1km Study Area shares some characteristics of the Cotswolds Character, there is a notable change in landscape quality within the Study Area. Dry stone walls are far less frequent and instead hedgerows are more characteristic of the landscape. This and the presence of detracting features in the Study Area such as major roads, the railway line and Hullavington airfield a reduce its value as compared to the Cotswold National Landscape. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 1km Study Area of Site E is considered to be Medium.

This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

Receptor Value: Medium

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change.

This is where the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 2km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 2km Wider Study Area of Site E has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not located within the National landscape itself.

Receptor Susceptibility: Medium		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Lime Down Site E utilises the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Opportunities to increase woodland along the Rodbourne ridge have been taken with native woodland proposed in parcels E1, E7 and E9, in line with landscape guidelines for the area. Existing water corridors have been identified, and new riparian planting has been proposed to enhance these features as they pass through the Site. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, Set-Aside for ground nesting birds or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across Site. The approach at Site E has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Character – The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area) Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.5				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities within Site E would have an immediate change to the character of the Site and its immediate context as it changes from an area of arable farmland to solar infrastructure. Within the Wider Study Area, these changes would be less pronounced within the existing landscape which is able to absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area. Construction activities, prior to the establishment of the Embedded Mitigation, would result in a perceivable change to the character of the landscape across the 2km Wider Study Area of Site E as a result of the change in land use from arable farmland to a solar scheme above grassland.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development in Site E would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside within the Wider Study Area would reduce the landscape effects of the Scheme by Year 15. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little appreciation of the Scheme.	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

3.4 Landscape Character – The 5km Outer Study Area (Individual)

Lime Down A

Table 21 Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character – The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])	
Baseline	
Baseline Context: Lime Down A is located approximately 240m to the southeast of the small village of Sherston which is situated on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds National Landscape. The village is situated approximately 8km west of main town of Malmesbury. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Outer Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). NCA Profile :108- Upper Thanet Clay Vale (NE570). Regional Landscape Character: Wiltshire LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands. Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 9D: Cotswolds High Wold Dip-Slope.	

Character of Site A, 5km Outer Study Area

The Outer Study Area of Lime Down A encompasses the whole of the Cotswolds Dipslope and the High Wolds within the Cotswold National Landscape, to the west of the Study Area. The topography gently falls across the dip slope towards the lower lying land of the Avon Valley to the east. The dip slope is a transitional landscape of undulating farmland characterised by its limestone geology between the High Wolds within the Cotswolds Avon Vales.

Value

The Outer Study Area of Site A contains the Cotswold National Landscape. As the Study Area increases to 5km the greater the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape becomes on the Study Area. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape and its High value noted above, the landscape receptor is also highly susceptible to the Scheme and has a low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have limited ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation due to Cotswold National Landscape within the Study Area of Site A.

Overall, the 5km Outer Study Area of Site A has a High Susceptibility to Change.

Receptor Susceptibility: High

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)

Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)

Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)

High	High	High
Embedded Mitigation		
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site A and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site A has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape. The northern part of parcel A1 is to be retained as farmland and parcels A11 and A12 are to be utilised for skylark mitigation as arable set aside. Positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a native woodland block to the south of parcel A1 which follows the pattern of the landscape in that area. This would also screen views of infrastructure beyond from the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape to the north. In the remainder of Site A, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. A new section of hedgerow is proposed alongside Bridleway SHER 16 on the edge of A7, whilst also maintaining the existing section of stone wall along the route. A large buffer to the Bridleway of Diverse Wildflower Meadow is proposed to provide an attractive setting to the route. In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, additional linear tree planting is proposed to the western boundary of Site A and a new native woodland to A10 would provide connectivity between existing woodland blocks. These proposals would strengthen landscape character and provide screening to views from the Cotswold National Landscape to the west. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site. The approach at Site A has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.		

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down A, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be localised to each individual Site and would be temporary and of a short duration. These activities, whilst having an impact locally would cause limited impacts to the character of the wider area and would not lead to any notable change to the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development would remain the same as at Construction.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the Outer 5km Outer Study	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			Area with little to no appreciation of the Scheme.	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate /Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down B

Table 22 Lime Down B, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])	
Baseline	
Baseline Context: Lime Down B consists of parcels of farmland located to the east of Fosse Way; located approximately 300m to the north and west of the village of Norton, and approximately 180m to the south of Foxley to the north, where there are some isolated residential properties. Malmesbury is the nearest major settlement and is located approximately 3.4km to the north-east of Lime Down B. Sherston lies to the west and the hamlet of Easton Grey. is sited approximately 1.3km to the north. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Outer Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). NCA Profile :108- Upper Thanet Clay Vale (NE570). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. LCA 11B: Minety Rolling Clay Lowland. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley.	

North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minety and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Character of Site B, 5km Outer Study Area

The Outer Study Area of Lime Down A encompasses the whole of the Cotswolds Dipslope and the High Wold Dipslope to the west.

The Outer Study Area of Lime Down B encompasses the whole of the Cotswolds Dipslope and the High Wolds within the Cotswold National Landscape, to the west of the Study Area. The topography gently falls across the dip slope towards the lower lying land of the Avon Valley to the east. The dip slope is a transitional landscape of undulating farmland characterised by its limestone geology between the High Wolds within the Cotswolds Avon Vales.

Value

The Outer Study Area of Site B contains the Cotswold National Landscape. As the Study Area increases to 5km the greater the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape becomes. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and its High value noted above, the landscape receptor is also highly susceptible to the Scheme and has a low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation. due to Cotswold National Landscape within the Study Area of Site B.

Overall, the 5km Outer Study Area of Site A has a High Susceptibility to Change.

Receptor Susceptibility: **High**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	High	High

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site B and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a proposed native hedge with trees to provide screening to panels in B1.

In the remainder of Site B, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has avoided infrastructure along the Fosse Way where the topography provides open views across the landscape. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Open space provides a large buffer to Footpath NORT 1 proposed as Diverse Wildflower Meadow and a new woodland is proposed alongside between B9 which provides connectivity to existing woodland to the north.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, a new native hedge with trees is proposed to the southwest boundary of B9 and the north west boundary of B6 which reinstates a lost hedgerow. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down B, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.2)				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be localised to each individual Site and would be temporary and of a short duration. These activities, whilst having an impact locally would cause limited impacts to the character of the wider area and would not lead to any notable change to the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the Outer 5km Outer Study	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			Area with little to no appreciation of the Scheme	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate /Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down C

Table 23 Lime Down C, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down C consists of parcels of land both to the east and west of Fosse Way, which lies to the east of the village of Alderton. Its church spire within the Conservation area is visible in some views within Lime Down C. The boundary of the Cotswolds National Landscape follows the southwestern parcels of land. To the south the Great Western railway line runs through the area. Gauze Brook, a tributary of the River Avon runs east west through the area giving rise to gently sloping land in its vicinity. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Outer Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile : 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile : 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). NCA Profile :108- Upper Thanet Clay Vale (NE570). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. LCA 9A: Cotswolds Dipslope. LCA 10A: By Brook Limestone Valley. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 12A: Upper By Brook Valley.

Character of Site C, 5km Outer Study Area

The Outer Study Area of Lime Down C encompasses the whole of the Cotswolds Dipslope and the High Wolds within the Cotswold National Landscape, to the west of the Study Area. The topography gently falls across the dip slope towards the lower lying land of the Avon Valley to the east. The dip slope is a transitional landscape of undulating farmland characterised by its limestone geology between the High Wolds within the Cotswolds Avon Vales.

Value

The Outer Study Area of Site C contains the Cotswold National Landscape. As the Study Area increases to 5km the greater the influence of the Cotswold National Landscape becomes. Due to this, the value of the landscape within the 2km Study area is considered to be of High Value.

This is where there is a generally a lower landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement, and higher landscape value and quality associated with the Cotswold National Landscape designation.

Receptor Value: High

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and its High Landscape Value as noted above the landscape receptor is also highly susceptible to the Scheme and has a low ability to accommodate the specific proposed change. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have limited ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. The Cotswold National Landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area of Site A has a High Susceptibility to Change.

Receptor Susceptibility: **High**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
High	High	High

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site C and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site C has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Alderton and the Fosse Way. In addition to this, views of Alderton Church have been considered. Parcel C1, C6, C8, part of C9 and the majority of C10 which are on the boundary of the Cotswold National Landscape is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. The positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows.

The design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has for the most part avoided infrastructure on both sides of the Foss Way. However, for the short section where panels are proposed within opposing fields C11 and C14, increased buffers to infrastructure are provided. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, new native hedgerows with trees are proposed within C6, to the north of C8 and within C10 which reinstates lost hedgerows. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down C, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.3				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be localised to each individual Site and would be temporary and of a short duration. These activities, whilst having an impact locally would cause limited impacts to the character of the wider area and would not lead to any notable change to the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the Outer 5km Outer Study	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			Area with little to no appreciation of the Scheme	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Lime Down D

Table 24 Lime Down D, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])	
Baseline	
Baseline Context: Lime Down D lies within the centre of the Study Area immediately north of the Great Western railway line, 640m north of Hullavington and Hullavington Airfield, and south of Bradfield Wood. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Outer Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds (NE 420). NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522). NCA Profile: 108 - Upper Thames Clay Valley (NE570). Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. LCA 11B: Minety Rolling Clay Lowland. LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale. Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley. North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minety and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland.	

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland.

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 11A: South and Mid Cotswolds Lowlands.

Character of Site D, 5km Outer Study Area

Site D is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends to the north, south, east and west.

The 5km Wider Study Area is also within Hullavington Rolling Lowland To the north the study area is with LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley and LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland which are both within the Cotswold National Landscape.

Value

The southern boundary of Site D adjoins the railway line. There is no physical and visual association between Site D and the Cotswold National Landscape. The value of the landscape within the 1km Study Area is considered to be Medium. This is due to the 5km Study Area of Site D being less influenced by the Cotswold National Landscape.

This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

Receptor Value: Medium

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change.

The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 5km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 5km Study Area of Site D has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme

Overall, the 5km Outer Study Area of Site D has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not located within the National landscape itself.

Receptor Susceptibility: **Medium**

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The Iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects.

Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Site D utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure.

In Lime Down Site D, parcels D9 and 10 are proposed as a substantial riparian area associated with the watercourse. It also provides a buffer to the ancient Bradfield Wood. The Gauze Brook provides opportunities for watercourse enhancements. Setbacks to the brook, new riparian planting and hedgerows are proposed, especially along footpaths, to provide long term riparian corridors along the brook as they pass through the Site. A new native woodland is proposed in D5 to the rear of Bradfield Manor to protect the setting of the Grade I listed buildings and its associated grade II listed barns. F A further triangular shaped native woodland is proposed in D1 along the railway line to provide landscape structure in character with the existing pattern of woodland and screening of the BESS area. Woodland continues along the bund to screen the required acoustic fence.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across Site D

The approach at Site D has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of Lime Down Solar PV Site B and would be included within the design of the Scheme and further measures would be contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP.

The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Using the mitigation hierarchy, the design for Site B has been to avoid harm to the Cotswold National Landscape, the Conservation Area of Foxley and the Fosse Way. Parcel B12 closest to the Cotswold National Landscape and Foxley Conservation Area is to be sown with Diverse Wildflower Meadow species. Ther positive enhancement measures on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape includes the reinforcement and gapping up of all existing hedgerows, and a proposed native hedge with trees to provide screening to panels in B1.

In the remainder of Site B, the design utilises and builds upon the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The design has avoided infrastructure along the Fosse Way where the topography provides open views across the landscape. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows and the use of new native tree planting to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Open space provides a large buffer to Footpath NORT 1 proposed as Diverse Wildflower Meadow and a new woodland is proposed alongside between B9 which provides connectivity to existing woodland to the north.

In addition to the reinforcement of all hedgerows, a new native hedge with trees is proposed to the southwest boundary of B9 and the north west boundary of B6 which reinstates a lost hedgerow. These proposals would strengthen landscape character in line with the guidelines for the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.

The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across the Site as identified below.

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down D, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.4				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be localised to each individual Site, temporary and of a short duration. These activities, whilst having an impact locally would not cause any impacts to the character of the wider area and would not lead to any notable change to the character of the landscape within the Outer Study Area. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	Effect of proposed mitigation planting to enhance landscape character initially limited.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the wider landscape with little to no appreciation of the Scheme from within the Outer Study Area.	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

				As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape. The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Minor	Minor	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible

Lime Down E

Table 25 Lime Down E, Landscape Character - The Outer Study Area (5km)

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) (Based on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) in ES Volume 2: Figure 3-4 [EN010168/APP/6.2])
Baseline
Baseline Context: Lime Down E is located 500m to the to the south of Corston and to the south of the village of Rodbourne which is located on higher ground. A white, water tower on the hill forms a prominent feature of the landscape which is visible in many views from the wider landscape. The following Landscape Character Areas / Landscape Character Types form the baseline context for the Outer Study Area: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds (NE 420) NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) NCA Profile: 108 - Upper Thames Clay Valley (NE570) Regional Landscape Character: LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands LCA 11B: Minety Rolling Clay Lowland LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale Local Landscape Character: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minety and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland North Wiltshire LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland

Cotswolds National Landscape LCA 14B: West Malmesbury Lowland Farmland

Character of Site E, 5km Outer Study Area

Site E is located within Hullavington Rolling Lowland which extends to the north, south, east and west.

The 5km Wider Study Area is also within Hullavington Rolling Lowland. To the north the study area is with LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley and LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland which are both within the Cotswold National Landscape. To the northwest the study area extends into LCA 5: Minety and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland and to the west into the LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland

Value

Site E is located to the east of the A249 and is dissected by the railway line. There is no physical and visual association between Site E and the Cotswold National Landscape. The value of the landscape within the 5km Study Area of Site E is considered to be Medium. This is due to the 5km Study area of Site E being less influenced by the Cotswold National Landscape.

This is a good quality landscape with some potential for substitution, a reasonably attractive landscape, where there is generally a medium landscape tolerance or only some scope for landscape change or positive enhancement.

Receptor Value: Medium

Susceptibility

Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the Scheme and has a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change.

The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects and without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation. Although the Cotswold National Landscape has a High Susceptibility to Change, the rest of the landscape within the 5km Study Area is ordinary agricultural farmland outside of designations with a Medium susceptibility to change as it can readily accommodate the scheme.

Overall, the 5km Study Area of Site E has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme

Overall, the 5km Outer Study Area has a Medium Susceptibility to the Proposed Scheme as it is not located within the National landscape itself.

Receptor Susceptibility: Medium

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (refer to Table 8.1.1.3 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Susceptibility (refer to Table 8.1.1.4 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)	Receptor Sensitivity (refer to Table 8.1.1.5 within Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology)
Medium	Medium	Medium
Embedded Mitigation		
The embedded mitigation measures for construction/operation/decommissioning have been incorporated into the Scheme design. Proposed embedded mitigation seeks to avoid impacts to the fabric of the Site and has been included within the design of the Proposed Development with further measures contained within the OCEMP and OLEMP. The iterative design process that has been undertaken for the Scheme has allowed for landscape features to be retained and incorporated into the layout. However, a development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects. Where possible, the final design of the scheme has included for measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The design for Lime Down Site E utilises the existing landscape framework provided by the field boundaries. The approach to mitigation has been to reinforce the existing hedgerows to provide greater enclosure to the Site and provide screening of the infrastructure. Opportunities to increase woodland along the Rodbourne ridge have been taken with native woodland proposed in parcels E1, E7 and E9, in line with landscape guidelines for the area. Existing water corridors have been identified, and new riparian planting has been proposed to enhance these features as they pass through the Site. The proposals would result in the Site transitioning away from open agricultural fields to large areas of meadow creation, whether beneath the array, or alongside in the form of Tussock Grassland Margins, Damp Grassland, Set-Aside for ground nesting birds or as Diverse Wildflower Meadows. These interventions would lead to meaningful increases in natural habitat and biodiversity benefits across the Site, with the overall quantum of landscape features extensively increasing across Site E. The approach at Site E has been to build upon and reinforce the existing field boundary vegetation with new trees to help bring greater species diversity and age depth to the tree stock whilst supporting the key characteristics of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA.		

Lime Down Solar Park: Lime Down E, Landscape Character - The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area) Based on Indicative Masterplan- Figure 8.15.5				
Assessment of Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be localised to each individual Site and would be temporary and of a short duration. These activities, whilst having an impact locally would cause limited impacts to the character of the wider area and would not lead to any notable change to the character of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area. The existing landscape would be able to readily absorb the construction processes with limited impacts to the character of the area.	The proposals would provide new landscape features that fit the key characteristics of the character area, whilst ensuring the proposals are well integrated into its context. The effect of proposed mitigation planting would be limited initially and the effects of the development would remain the same.	Embedded landscape mitigation would strengthen and reinforce the landscape character of the immediate context to the Site allowing the scheme to become absorbed into the receiving countryside. As new vegetation matures it would begin to provide screening and containment to the Site allowing the proposals to become more absorbed into the receiving landscape. The substantial areas of new woodland, hedgerow and meadow planting build upon the existing landscape fabric of the area, reinforcing and strengthening the character of the countryside. The low-level nature of the proposals allows for them to be readily assimilated into the Outer 5km Outer Study	All Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Solar PV Sites and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Reinforced landscape would have ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities. At decommissioning, agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. As infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation retained providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape.

			Area with little to no appreciation of the Scheme	The reinforced landscape would be retained as there is an expectation that at Year 60 that there would be an equivalent of current countryside policies in place to ensure the protection of hedgerows, woodland, trees etc.
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Minor	Minor	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible

4 Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects

4.1 Summary of Cumulative Development Effects

4.1.1 Table 26 provides a summary of the Cumulative Landscape Effects of the Scheme in combination with the identified Cumulative Developments, assessed in Section 4 of this Appendix.

Table 26 Summary of Cumulative Scheme Effects

Summary of Cumulative Development Effects				
The following cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects. The following represents a worse case assessment in that it is based upon all of the included Cumulative Developments to have been built out.				
Receptor	Significance of Effect			
	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Landscape Fabric	Cumulative Developments are located outside of the Site and would not impact upon the Landscape Fabric. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) or Decommissioning Phase.			
1km Local Study Area	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
2km Wider Study Area	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
5km Outer Study Area	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
10km Cumulative Study Area	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible	Negligible

4.2 Identification of Cumulative Development Sites

As agreed with WC a 10km Study Area has been applied from the Solar PV Sites. Table 27 provides a list of all of the Cumulative Development Sites which are renewable schemes identified from the Short List (refer to **ES Volume 1, Chapter 21: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects [EN010168/APP/6.1]**).

Table 27 Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (All Renewable Schemes)

Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (All Renewable Schemes)				
ID	App Reference	Description	Distance from Scheme	Included within Assessment of Cumulative Effects
129	PL/2022/09253	Installation of underground cable. (Enso Energy) on land adjacent to Melksham National Grid Substation, Melksham	0 from Cable route Corridor	YES Cable Route Corridor
207	19/10628/FUL	10MW Battery Storage Facility at Yatton Keynell,	0.25 km (Cable Route Corridor)	Yes Cable Route Corridor and 10km Study Area
208	PL/2021/07610	20MW battery storage facility at Yatton Keynell	0.25 km (Cable Route Corridor)	Yes Cable Route Corridor and 10km Study Area
215	N/13/01495/FUL	Installation of Solar PV facility on 17.50ha site to produce up to 7MW of renewable electricity, on land at Hill Hayes Lane, Hullavington (Hullavington Solar Park)	0km (Cable Route Corridor) 1.28km (Lime Down Site D)	NO – Existing development, Included within LVIA Baseline.
216	N/12/01122/FUL	Construction of Solar Park to Include Installation of Solar Panels to Generate 5MW with Inverter Housings, Security Fencing, Cameras, Landscaping and Associated Works at Rodbourne Rail Farm, Grange Lane, Corston, (Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm)	1.42 km (Lime Down E)	NO – Existing development, Included within LVIA Baseline
218	20/08618/FUL	Solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with a generating capacity of up to 49.9MW on land west of A429 (Crudwell Road), North of Malmesbury	6.03 km (Lime Down B)	YES Approved (23/08/2023) – Baseline within 10km
221	PL/2021/06100	Solar farm of up to 49.9MW of generating capacity on land to the south of the M4 at Leigh Delamere, to the west of Leigh	1.32 km (Cable Route Corridor) and	YES – within 5km Outer Study Area

Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (All Renewable Schemes)				
		Delamere Motorway Services, Approved. (Leigh Delamere Solar Farm).	3.84km to Lime Down C	
224	PL/2023/04625	Battery Energy Storage Scheme on land at Woolley Park Farm, Leigh Road, Trowbridge	6.03 km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO -Beyond 10km Study Area
225	PL/2023/01914	Solar farm of up to 24.14MW of generating capacity at Whistle Mead Solar Farm, Little Chalfield, Melksham	4.46 km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
226	PL/2021/08690	Solar farm and battery storage facility on land at Studley Farm, Atworth, Melksham, Wiltshire.	2.4 km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
227	20/06517/SCR	EIA Screening Opinion in relation to the proposed development of solar farm on land West of Ganbrook Farm, Little Chalfield	4.6 km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO- Beyond 10km Study Area
229	PL/2022/01695	EIA Screening Opinion for a proposed 20MW Solar Farm development, northwest of Corston	1.76 km (Lime Down B)	YES- within 2km Study Area
231	20/03528/FUL	Renewable energy scheme on land Near Minety Substation, Minety, Wiltshire, SN16 9DX	9km (Lime Down D and E)	YES beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km
234	20/05893/SCO	EIA screening/scoping opinion for installation of a solar farm with a 49.9MW output including battery storage units on land at Bishoper Farm,	6.3 km (Lime Down B)	YES beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km
237	PL/2022/00664	Battery storage facility at land off Pond Lane, Minety	9.42 km (Lime Down E)	YES Approved on Appeal Baseline within 10km
240	PL/2022/05504	Battery Energy Storage System at Land at Stonehill, Minety,	9.41 km (Lime Down E)	YES Approved on Appeal Baseline within 10km
241	PL/2022/02824	Battery Storage at land at Somerford Farm, Brinkworth,	9.05 km (Lime Down E)	YES Approved on Appeal Baseline within 10km
242	PL/2024/03276	Grid connection cable route at land to the south of the National Grid Minety substation, Minety,	9.33 km (Lime Down E)	YES Approved on Appeal Baseline within 10km

Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (All Renewable Schemes)				
243	PL/2023/08481	Solar farm of up to 40MW at land at Red Barn, East of Kington St Michael, Chippenham	3.27 km (Lime Down E) and 0.1km (Cable Route Corridor)	YES- within 5km Study Area
244	20/06840/FUL	Solar Farm and Bess at land north of Melksham Substation, Near Melksham,	1.08 km (Cable Route Corridor)	No - Beyond 10km Study Area
254	PL/2023/10077	Land West of Lyneham Substation, West of Dauntsey Lock, Wiltshire	4.91 km (Lime Down E)	NO Application Refused Permission on 20/03/2025
310	PL/2024/10434	EIA Screening Opinion for proposed battery energy storage scheme of up to c. 50MW (Starlight Energy)- EIA not required.	0.2km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
311	PL/2024/06899	Erection of an electrical substation, boundary timber fence and associated planting at The Pavilion, Roundwood Way, Corsham	2.9km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
330	PL/2024/09454	Erection of a substation on land at Verbena Court, Melksham	3.1km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
333	PL/2024/10089	EIA Screening Opinion in relation to the proposed development of "Battery Energy Storage Scheme" (Starlight) on land on the Southwest Side of Bath Road, Shaw, Melksham	1.3 km (Cable Route Corridor)	NO - Beyond 10km Study Area
346	PL/2024/09410	Construction and operation of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure on Land East of Battens Farm, Allington, Chippenham	0.1km (from Cable Route Corridor)	YES Cable Route Corridor and beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km

4.3 Included Cumulative Development Sites

Table 28 provides a list of the included Cumulative Development Sites identified from Table 27 above). It includes all Cumulative Development Sites (CD Sites) within the 10km Cumulative Study Area and/or within the 500m Cable Route Corridor.

Table 28 Identified Cumulative Development Sites (Included Renewable Schemes)

Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (Included)				
ID	App Reference	Description	Distance from Scheme	Included within Assessment of Cumulative Effects
129	PL/2022/09253	Installation of underground cable. (Enso Energy) on land adjacent to Melksham National Grid Substation, Melksham	0 from Cable route Corridor 14.98km from Solar Sites	YES Cable Route Corridor
207	19/10628/FUL	10MW Battery Storage Facility at Yatton Keynell,	0.22 km from Cable Route Corridor 6.56km from Solar Sites	Yes Cable Route Corridor and 10km Study Area
208	PL/2021/07610	20MW battery storage facility at Yatton Keynell	0.22 km from Cable Route Corridor 6.56km from Solar Sites	Yes Cable Route Corridor and 10km Study Area
218	20/08618/FUL	Solar farm comprising ground mounted solar PV panels with a generating capacity of up to 49.9MW on land west of A429 (Crudwell Road), North of Malmesbury,	1.13 km from Cable Route Corridor 5.62km from Solar Sites	YES Approved (23/08/2023) – Within 10km
221	PL/2021/06100	Land to the south of the M4 at Leigh Delamere, to the west of Leigh Delamere Motorway Services, Chippenham. Approved	0.48 km from Cable Route Corridor 3.57km from Solar Sites	YES – within 5km Outer Study Area
229	PL/2022/01695	EIA Screening Opinion for a proposed 20MW Solar Farm development northwest of Corston	1.54km from Cable Route Corridor 1.56km from Solar Sites	YES- within 2km Study Area

Identification of Cumulative Development Sites (Included)				
231	20/03528/FUL	Renewable energy scheme on land Near Minety Substation, Minety, Wiltshire, SN16 9DX	5.3km from Cable Route Corridor 8.87km from Solar Sites	YES beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km
234	20/05893/SCO	EIA screening/scoping opinion for installation of a solar farm with a 49.9 output including battery storage units on land at Bishoper Farm,	1.13km from Cable Route Corridor 5.62km from Solar Sites	YES beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km
237	PL/2022/00664	Proposed Development is for a battery storage facility. The use of the site would change from agricultural to energy infrastructure. On land off Pond Lane, Minety	6.42km from Cable Route Corridor 9.29km from Solar Sites	YES Approved on Appeal Within 10km
240	PL/2022/05504	Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) together with associated ancillary infrastructure, equipment and access arrangements. On land at Stonehill, Minety, Wiltshire.,	5.8km from Cable Route Corridor 9.35km from Solar Sites	YES Approved on Appeal Within 10km
241	PL/2022/02824	Proposed Development is for a battery storage facility and ancillary development. On land at Somerford Farm, Brinkworth	6.94km from Cable Route Corridor 8.98km from Solar Sites	YES Approved on Appeal Within 10km
242	PL/2024/03276	Proposed development of a grid connection cable route for the approved Milou battery energy storage system. On land to the south of the National Grid Minety substation, Minety	5.86km from Cable Route Corridor 9.11km from Solar Sites	YES Approved on Appeal Within 10km Outer Study Area
243	PL/2023/08481	Solar farm of up to 40MW at land at Red Barn, East of Kington St Michael, Chippenham	2.53km from Cable Route Corridor 2.53km from Solar Sites	YES- within 5km Study Area
346	PL/2024/09410	Construction and operation of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment and necessary infrastructure on Land East of Battens Farm, Allington, Chippenham	0.02km from Cable Route Corridor 6.05km from Solar Sites	YES Within Cable Route Corridor, and beyond 5km Outer Study Area but within 10km

4.4 Cumulative Assessment on Landscape Fabric

Table 29 Cumulative Assessment on Landscape Fabric

Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects: Landscape Fabric
Cumulative Baseline
The following is an assessment of potential cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects on the Landscape Fabric within the Scheme All Cumulative Developments Sites are located outside of the Order Limits. Landscape Context: The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character: The Scheme is located within two National Character Areas (NCA's) as defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds to the west and NCA Profile. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales to the east. Regional Landscape Character as defined by the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character: The following Local level Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 1km Local Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3: North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Areas. These include: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. The Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland. West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland.

These character areas are described in detail in the LVIA (refer to **ES Volume 1: Chapter 8. Landscape and Visual [EN010168/APP/6.1]** and the Published Landscape Character Assessments are within ES Volume 3: Appendix 8.4 Landscape Character Area Descriptions.

The Cumulative Effects are assessed in consideration of the Scheme within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland whilst the Landscape Character Areas within the Regional and National Assessments provide the broader context.

Sensitivity of the Landscape Fabric

The Sensitivity of the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme was assessed in Section 2.1 of this Appendix and applies to the assessment of Cumulative Effects as follows:

Receptor Value	Receptor Susceptibility	Receptor Sensitivity
High to Medium Value	Medium Susceptibility	High to Medium Sensitivity

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

All Cumulative Development Sites are located outside the boundaries of the Scheme and there would be no additional impact upon the Landscape Fabric within the Scheme.

No Cumulative Effects are identified at any point the Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) or Decommissioning Phase.

As there are no Cumulative Effects on the Landscape Fabric of the Scheme, the effects are as shown in Table 2-1 – Scheme Effect on Landscape Fabric in Section 2, as shown below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Medium	None
Type of Effect	Neutral	Neutral	Beneficial	Beneficial
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

4.5 Cumulative Assessment on 1km Local Study Area

Table 30 Cumulative Assessment on 1 km Local Study Area

Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects on the 1km Local Study Area
Cumulative Baseline
The following is an assessment of potential cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects. There are no Cumulative Development Sites within the 1km Local Study Area of the Scheme. The existing Hullavington Solar Farm (within the Local Study Area) forms part of the baseline context for the Scheme and is considered within the Landscape Assessment of the Scheme. Landscape Character The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the 1km Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character as defined by Natural England The Scheme is located within two National Character Areas (NCA's): NCA Profile: 107- Cotswolds to the west and NCA Profile. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales to the east. Regional Landscape Character as defined by the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands. Local Landscape Character as defined in the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. The Cable Route Corridor is located within the following Landscape Character Areas: North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland. North Wiltshire LCA 10: Corston Rolling Lowland. West Wiltshire LCA A3 Broughton Gifford Limestone Lowland.

The Cumulative Effects are assessed in consideration of the local level landscape character area – The Hullavington Rolling Lowland, within the context of the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands and Cotswold and Avon Vales NCAs within the 1km Study Area.

Sensitivity of the 1km Local Study Area

The Sensitivity of the 1km Local Study Area was assessed in Section 2.2 of this Appendix and applies to the assessment of Cumulative Effects as follows:

Receptor Value High to Medium	Receptor Susceptibility Medium	Receptor Sensitivity High to Medium
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Assessment of Cumulative Effects

There are no Cumulative Development Sites within the 1km Local Study Area of the Scheme.

The cumulative effects of the Scheme in combination with the additional Cumulative Schemes would not result in any additional effects upon the character of the landscape within the 1km study area.

There would be no impact upon the Hullavington Rolling Lowland Landscape Character Area (LCA 8) as defined in the North Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment or the within the 1km Study Area

No Cumulative Effects are identified at any point of the Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) or Decommissioning Phase.

As there are no additional effects on the 1km Local Study Area, the effects are as shown in **Table 2.2: Scheme Effects on 1km Local Study Area** in Section 2 of this Appendix and as shown below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low

Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

4.6 Cumulative Assessment on 2km Wider Study Area

Table 31 Cumulative Assessment on 2 km Wider Study Area

Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects on the 2km Wider Study Area
Cumulative Baseline
The following is an assessment of potential cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects. Existing Solar Schemes The existing Hullavington Solar Farm (within the 1km Local Study Area) and Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, northeast of Corston, forms part of the baseline context for the Scheme and is considered within the Landscape Assessment of the Scheme. These existing solar schemes are shown in ES Volume 3: Figure 8-15-1. [EN010168/APP/6.2] Cumulative Development Sites There is only one Cumulative Development Site within the 2km Wider Study of the Scheme. CD Site 229 is situated to southwest of Lawn Farm, to the northeast of Corston and south of Malmesbury. CD Site 229 straddles the boundary of the 2km Wider Study Area. The development relates to an EIA Screening Opinion in relation to a proposed development of a 20MW solar farm and associated development at Lawn Farm, Malmesbury, SN16 0EP. The Site area is 29 ha and the Scheme proposes 3m (h) panels, inverters and a substation - 12m (l) as well as fencing and CCTV, The CD Site 229 is situated on low lying land, directly east of the A429 and extends east across Grange Lane. The red line boundary of the Site includes three fields with a buffer of approximately 20m to external hedgerows. The Site is situated directly to the north of the existing Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm.. CD Site 229 was screened for EIA in 2022. No subsequent application has been submitted. Landscape Baseline The following Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 2km Wider Study Area as shown on ES Volume 2: Figure 8-5-3, series: Landscape Character. These include: National Landscape Character: NCA Profile: 107 - Cotswolds (NE 420), to the west of the Wider Study Area. NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) tin the centre and east of the Wider Study Area. Regional Landscape Character:

The Scheme within the 2km Study Area is located within the following regional LCAs:

LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands.

A very small area of LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale is within the eastern extent of the 2km Study Area.

Local Landscape Character:

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west).

North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north).

A very small area of LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland is within the eastern extent of the 2km Study Area.

The Site is assessed in consideration of the local level landscape character area – The Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Area and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and within the context of the Cotswold and Avon Vales NCAs within the 2km Study Area.

Sensitivity of the 2km Wider Study Area

The Sensitivity of the 2km Wider Study Area was assessed in Section 2.3 of this Appendix and applies to the assessment of Cumulative Effects as follows:

Receptor Value	Receptor Susceptibility	Receptor Sensitivity
High to Medium	Medium	High to Medium

Assessment of Cumulative Effects Development Effects: The 2km Study Area (The Wider Study Area)

CD Site 229 is located directly north of the existing Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm which is nestled into low lying land where it has a limited impact on the character of the wider landscape. Both CD Site 229 and the existing solar farm are enclosed by tall hedgerows to the A429 and to a lesser extent from Grange Lane.

The Gauze Brook meanders west through the village of Corston, directly to the south of Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm towards the River Avon. The topography is typical of the undulating lowland landscape within the Hullavington Rolling Lowland LCA. The topography rises to a distinct hill at 94m AOD to the southeast of the Site and to the northeast to the distinct Cam's Hill at 99m AOD where a wind turbine marks the top. To the west the land rises to a long ridgeline at 90m AOD which continues to West Park Wood, a distinct wooded knoll to the west of Corston. To the south of the Gauze Brook and to the south of the Site, the land rises to Rodbourne at 94m AOD where the water tower is a distinctive feature of the landscape and visible in many views from the wider landscape. These topographical features combined with blocks of woodlands, hedgerows and hedgerow trees all provide a sense of enclosure to the landscape where the low-lying land immediately surrounding site 229 is not perceivable from the wider landscape. This results in limited intervisibility between CD Site 229 and Lime Down B, 1.76 km away and Lime Down E, 1.55km away.

The Lime Down Scheme and CD Site 229 in combination would lead to an intensification of energy infrastructure locally, however, from within the wider area, both the Scheme and CD Site 229 would be absorbed by the rolling nature of the landscape which limits intervisibility. This would maintain the perception of the rural landscape as it can be readily absorbed into its location with limited appreciation from within the surrounding arable countryside. Due to the existing containment, effects on the character of the wider area would be very limited and not wide ranging.

Although it is recognised that there would be some localised effects on Landscape Character during the Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) or Decommissioning Phase as a result of the Lime Down Scheme, the additional effects of CD Site 229 on landscape character within the 2km Wider Study of the Scheme would be limited due to the nature of the rolling landscape and limited intervisibility.

The Cumulative Effects of the Lime Down Scheme in combination with CD Site 229 (including the existing Hullavington Solar Farm and Rodbourne Rail Solar) on the 2km Local Study Area, are as shown in Table 2.3: Scheme effects on 2km Wider Study Area in Section 2 and as shown below.

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

4.7 Cumulative Assessment on 5km Outer Study Area

Table 32 Cumulative Assessment on 5 km Outer Study Area

Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects on 5km Outer Study Area
Cumulative Baseline
The following is an assessment of potential cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects. The following represents a worse case assessment in that it is based upon all of the included Cumulative Developments within the 5km Outer Study Area having been built out. Existing Solar Schemes There is one existing solar farm at Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger, within the 5km Study Area in addition to Hullavington Solar Farm (within the 1km Local Study Area) and Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, northeast of Corston (within the 2km Study Area). These three existing schemes form part of the baseline context for the Scheme and is considered within the Landscape Assessment of the Scheme. These existing solar schemes are shown in ES Volume 3: Figure 8-15-1. [EN010168/APP/6.2] Cumulative Development Sites There are two Cumulative Development Sites within the 5km Outer Study Area of the Scheme. These include Development Sites 221 and 243 as shown on Volume 3: Figure 8-15-5. [EN010168/APP/6.2] These two Cumulative Development Sites are both solar schemes and are assessed in combination with the Scheme and CD Site 229 identified within the 2 km Study Area in consideration of the local level landscape character Areas within the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Area and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment; and the Avon Vales National Character Area within the 5km Study Area. Cumulative Development Sites 221 and 243 are located to the south of the M4 Motorway which forms a strong physical and visual divide within the landscapes identified within the 5km Outer Study Area. - Site 221 is an application for EIA screening/scoping opinion for installation of a solar farm with a 49.9 MW output for a temporary period of 40 years, including battery storage units, associated infrastructure, permanent grid connection hub and environmental enhancements. There is no further information about the scheme at this time. It is located directly to the south of the M4, close to the Cable Route Corridor at a distance of approximately 3.7km from Lime Down Solar Site C. - Site 243 (Red Barn Solar Farm) is an application for Development of a solar farm of up to 40MW ac of export capacity, comprising the installation of solar photovoltaic panels, associated infrastructure and associated works including grid connection. The Scheme was granted consent in

January 2025 and full details of the scheme are available. It is located approximately 600m (at the closest point) from the M4 near Junction 17, it straddles the A350 road to Chippenham and extends west towards the village of Kingston St Michael. It is 3.27 km from Lime Down E).

Landscape Character

The following National Landscape Character Areas form the baseline context for the Scheme within the 5km Outer Study Area as shown on Volume 2: Figure 8-5-1: National and regional Landscape Character Areas. These include:

National Landscape Character:

NCA Profile: 107 - Cotswolds (NE 420), to the west of the Wider Study Area.

NCA Profile: 117- Avon Vales (NE 522) in the centre and east of the Wider Study Area.

Regional Landscape Character within Wiltshire:

The Scheme within the 2km Study Area is located within the following regional LCAs:

LCA 9A: Cotswold Dipslope.

LCA 10A: By Brook Limestone Valley.

LCA 11B: Minty Rolling Clay Lowland.

LCA 12B: Avon Open Clay Vale.

LCA 16A: Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands.

Local Landscape Character within Wiltshire:

North Wiltshire LCA 5: Minty and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 8: Hullavington Rolling Lowland.

North Wiltshire LCA 7: Sherston Dipslope Lowland (to the north and west).

North Wiltshire LCA 6: Upper Avon Valley (to the north).

North Wiltshire LCA 9: By Brook Valley.

North Wiltshire LCA 11: Avon Valley Lowland.

The Site is assessed in consideration of the local level landscape character area – The Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Area and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and within the context of the Cotswold and Avon Vales NCAs within the 2km Study Area.

Sensitivity of the 5km Outer Study Area

The overall Sensitivity of the landscape within the 5km Outer Study Area is considered to be High to Medium as set out in Section 2.4 of this Appendix and applies to the assessment of Cumulative Effects This takes account of the variation in sensitivity from west to east and the change in character across the landscape from the Cotswolds to the Avon Vale.

Receptor Value	Receptor Susceptibility	Receptor Sensitivity
High to Medium	Medium	High to Medium

Assessment of Cumulative Assessment The 5km Study Area (The Outer Study Area)

Assessment of Effects

The CD Sites are located to the south of the M4. The M4 is a major east west transport route which cuts across the southern part of the Cotswolds NCA. Although many sections of the route are in cuttings which limits its impact in places, nevertheless, it generates noise and movement, which affects the peace of the surrounding rural landscape. High voltage power lines have a greater impact within the NCA, and the sequence of pylons are also intrusive elements in the landscape.

The M4 follows the general grain of the Dip-Slope and is a strong physical and visual barrier within the landscape. The intervening landscape between the M4 and the Lime Down Scheme contains numerous large woodlands, predominantly on high ground, including Sevington Covert, Leigh Delamere Wood, Stanton Park Wood and numerous woodlands along Scotland Hill which connect to Seagry Wood to the east of Lime Down Site E. These woodlands in conjunction with strong hedgerows and hedgerow tress provide enclosure to the mixed arable and pastoral landscape. The intervening topography is

characteristic of the Hullavington Rolling Lowland with watercourses running west to east through the dipslope towards the River Avon. These water courses give rise to the undulating topography characterised by enclosed valleys, steeply sloping in places, and low ridges where woodland predominates.

These characteristic features of the landscape, as well as the M4 provide a strong sense of separation between the Scheme and all the Cumulative Development Sites identified within the 5km Outer Study Area.

From within the 5km Outer Study Area the Scheme and the Cumulative Development Sites identified within the 5km Outer Study Area. would be well screened and readily absorbed into the rolling landscape with little to no appreciation from within the surrounding arable countryside.

No additional Landscape Effects are identified at any point of the Cumulative Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) or Decommissioning Phase.

Despite the intensification of solar schemes across the area, the receiving landscape has the ability to accommodate the Scheme and the CD Sites without resulting in any overall increase in the Significance of Effects. The additional effects on Landscape Character within the 5km Outer Study Area, are the effects as shown in Table 2.4: Scheme effects on 5km Wider Study Area in Section 1.5 as shown below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate / Minor	Moderate /Minor	Minor	Minor

4.8 Cumulative Assessment on 10km Cumulative Study Area

Table 33 Cumulative Assessment on 10 km Cumulative Study Area

Assessment of Cumulative Development Effects: The 10km Cumulative Study Area
Cumulative Baseline
The following is an assessment of potential cumulative effects associated with the Scheme and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the Assessment of Cumulative Effects that are within the 10km Cumulative Study Area. The following represents a worse case assessment in that it is based upon all of the included Cumulative Developments within the 10km Cumulative Study Area having been built out. Existing Solar Schemes There are 6 existing solar schemes within the 10km Cumulative Study area (in addition to the three existing solar farms at Hullavington, within the 1km Local Study Area; Rodbourne Rail Solar Farm, within the 2 km Study Area and Lake Farm, Sutton Benger, within the 5km Study Area) which have not been considered previously as the assessment on Lime Down focused on the 5km Study Area. These six additional existing schemes form part of the baseline context for the Scheme and are considered within the 10km Cumulative Study Area. These six existing solar schemes are shown in ES Volume 3: Figure 8-15-1 [EN010168/APP/6.2] and include: • A cluster of 3 solar farms at Long Newnton Airfield, Newton Dairy Farm, and Upper Marsh Farm, near Brokenborough, to the north of Malmesbury. • The solar farm on land at MOD Lyneham to the southeast of the Lime Down Scheme. • Castle Coombe Circuit Solar Farm to the southwest of the Lime Down Scheme. • The solar PV Farm on land at Battens Farm, to the northwest of Allington also to the southwest of the Lime Down Scheme. Cumulative Development Sites There is a total of 14 Cumulative Developments Sites within the 10km Cumulative Study Area of the Scheme. These are shown on Volume 3: Figure 8-15-5 [EN010168/APP/6.2] as follows: • CD Site 229 within the 2 km Study Area • CD Sites 221 and 243 within the 5km Study Area • CD Sites 218, 237, 240, 241 and 242 which have been granted permission (5 total). • CD Sites 207 and 208, both Battery Storage facilities near Yatton Keynell and are also within the Cable Route Corridor. • CD Site 129, a cable scheme within the Cable Route Corridor. • CD Sites 231, 234, and 346 are 3 Sites which are within the planning system. CD Site 231 is situated near Minty to the northeast of the Lime Down Scheme and the Site straddles the 10km Study Area Boundary; CD Site 234 is situated to the north of Malmesbury also to the northeast of the Lime Down Scheme; and CD Site 346 is situated adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor to the south of the Lime Down Scheme. These 11 additional Cumulative Development Sites are all solar energy schemes and are assessed in combination with the Lime Down Scheme and the 3 Cumulative Developments identified within the 2km and 5km Study Areas (CD Sites 229, 221 and 243) as well as the 6 existing solar farms within the 5-10 km Study Area previously not assessed. Landscape Character

National Landscape Character:

The majority of the Sites are within the Avon Vales NCA; CD Site 221 and the existing Hullavington solar farm straddle both the Avon Vales NCA and the Cotswolds NCA; The cluster of 3 existing solar farms at Long Newton Airfield, Newton Dairy Farm, and Upper Marsh Farm, near Brokenborough; the existing Castle Coombe Circuit scheme and CD Site 234 are situated within the Cotswolds NCA. The 10km Cumulative Study Area also includes NCA 108: The Upper Thames Clay Vales. However, there are no Cumulative Development Sites with this area.

Regional Landscape Character:

All of the Sites are located within the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands Regional Landscape Character Area as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character:

The Cumulative Development Sites and existing solar farms within the 5-10km Cumulative Study Area are within the following Landscape Character Areas:

CD Site 234 and the consented CD Site 218 are located predominantly within the Sherston Dipslope (LCA 7) but extend south into the Minty and Malmesbury Rolling Lowland (LCA 5). Note CD Site 254 is not included in the assessment as it was refused permission and no appeal of that decision was submitted (it is located within the (Lynham Hills (LCA 5) Local Landscape Character Area).

- The existing solar farms at Castle Coombe Circuit Upper Marsh Farm (near CD Sites 234 and 218) are also within Sherston Dipslope (LCA 7). However, there is a distance of 16km between the Castle Coombe Site and CD Sites 234 and 218.
- CD Site 346 and the consented CD Sites 207 and 208, within the Cable Route Corridor, are located within the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands Local Character Area (LCA 8).
- The existing solar PV Farm on land at Battens Farm, to the northwest of Allington is also within the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands Local Character Area (LCA 8).
- CD Sites 231 and the consented Sites 237, 240 241 242, to the northeast of the Lime Down Scheme are situated within the Avon Valley Lowland (LCA 11).
- The existing solar farm at Lake Farm, Draycot Cerne, Sutton Benger, is also within the Avon Valley Lowland (LCA 11).
- The existing solar farm on land at MOD Lyneham is located within the Lyneham Hills LCA 13.

The 14 identified PV Sites within the 10 km Cumulative Study Area are assessed in consideration of the local level landscape character areas within the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment; and the Cotswolds and Avon Vales National Character Areas which are situated within the 10km Cumulative Study Area.

The Site is assessed in consideration of the local level landscape character area – The Hullavington Rolling Lowland within the North and West Wiltshire Landscape Character Area and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands as defined in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment and within the context of the Cotswold and Avon Vales NCAs within the 10km Study Area.

Sensitivity of the 10km Cumulative Study Area

The 10km Cumulative Study Area covers an extensive area of land within five different Local Landscape Character Areas. The assessed sites are dispersed across these five landscapes where the Hullavington

Rolling Lowlands, Avon Valley Lowlands and the Minty and Malmsbury Rolling Lowland form a central corridor of undulating low-lying land through the 10km Study Area with rising land of the Dipslope associated with the Cotswolds to the west and Lynam Hills to the east. The higher ground, especially associated with the Cotswold dipslope has a High sensitivity to change while the lowland areas are of the Avon Vales NCA has a Medium sensitivity to change (as detailed in section 2.4). However, it is recognised that the landscape within the Avon Vales becomes more sensitive to change to the west, with the Hullavington Rolling Lowlands and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands assessed as having a High to Medium Sensitivity.

As noted in the Cumulative assessment within the 5Km Outer Study Area, the M4 follows the general grain of the Dip-Slope and is a strong physical and visual barrier within the landscape. This is less prominent at the scale of the 10km Study Area. However, the character of the different landscapes and their associated sensitivities to change have greater variation at the 10km scale. This is also recognised within the Site assessments of Lime Down A-E where Sites A, B and C have a higher sensitivity to change (High to Medium) due to their location on the edge of the Cotswold National Landscape as compared with Lime Down Sites C and D. In conclusion the sensitivity of the 10km Cumulative Study Area is assessed as having a **High to Medium** sensitivity to change.

Receptor Value High to Medium	Receptor Susceptibility Medium	Receptor Sensitivity High to Medium
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Assessment of Cumulative Assessment The 10km Cumulative Study Area

Assessment of Effects

Magnitude of change

The 23 assessed solar schemes within the 10km Cumulative Study Area includes 9 existing built out solar schemes (6 of which are 5-10km from the Lime Down Scheme) and 14 CD sites of which 5 have already been permitted. The Magnitude of Change within the 10km Cumulative Study Area is assessed in consideration of these 19 sites in combination with the Lime Down Scheme.

Construction Phase

During Construction, it is recognised that there would be localised impacts in relation to both the Lime Down Scheme and the individual CD Sites which would be temporary in nature. However, the dispersed nature of the Sites across the landscape means that there would be very limited intervisibility due to the character of the rolling topography of the landscape and large areas of woodland across the Cumulative Study Area. The magnitude of change within the 10km Cumulative Study Area would be **Very Low**.

The Cable Route Corridor is a key element of the Scheme which runs through the Hullavington Rolling Lowland and the Malmesbury-Corsham Limestone Lowlands and two National Character Areas within the 10km Study Area. It would require digging of trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. The effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to short-term temporary effects during the Construction Phase. The effect of the Cable Route Corridor on landscape character within the 10km Study Area would not be over and above those assessed for the Scheme and the identified Solar Schemes within the Cumulative Study Area.

Operation Phase (Year 1)

From within the 10km Cumulative Study Area the Scheme and the Cumulative Development Sites identified within the 10km Cumulative Study Area would be well screened and readily absorbed into the rolling landscape with little to no appreciation from within the surrounding arable countryside. Any proposed mitigation would have a limited effect initially and the magnitude of change would remain Very Low.

Operation Phase (Year 15)

From within the 10km Cumulative Study Area, the Scheme and the Cumulative Development Sites identified within the 10km Cumulative Study Area would be well screened and readily absorbed into the rolling landscape with little to no appreciation from within the surrounding arable countryside.

By Year 15 it is anticipated that the effect of mitigation measures would provide localised screening of all the Solar Schemes within the 10km Study Area which would increase the level of vegetation associated with the Schemes. This would reduce the effects on landscape character to Negligible by Year 15.

Decommissioning Phase.

It is assumed, that similar to the Lime Down Scheme, all Solar PV Panels, mounting piles, cabling, inverters, transformers, switchgear, BESS and substations would be removed from within the Cumulative Developments, and all existing agricultural fields are likely to be returned back to agriculture. It is anticipated that the reinforced landscape would be retained and as infrastructure is removed, there would be an overall benefit to the character of the area with landscape mitigation providing long term benefit towards legacy landscape. The landscape has the ability to absorb short term decommissioning activities and the effects on landscape character within the 10km Study Area would be **Negligible**.

In conclusion, despite the intensification of solar schemes across the area, the receiving landscape has the ability to accommodate the Scheme and the CD Sites without resulting in any overall increase in the

Significance of Effects. The cumulative effects on Landscape Character within the 10km Cumulative Study Area, are shown below:

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Magnitude of Change	Very Low	Very Low	Negligible	Negligible
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible

5 Appendix 8-3-2-2-2: Visual Assessment Sheets of Private Receptors (Significant)

5.1 Private Receptor- Group

Visual Baseline		
RG020: Grain Store Barn, Farleaze		
Baseline Context: Located to the west of Pig Lane, views west are open and expansive and take in the arable fields to the south of the railway line. Within wider views, there are few built structures or other detracting influences apart from the railway and the associated engineering structures. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced to the north by the presence of woodland at Farleaze Farm and other woodland blocks to the west. Within the landscape to the east, the views are influenced by the open nature of agricultural land use, where tree cover is sparse, even the watercourses have limited tree cover. Views east are across the adjacent roadside hedgerows. Access is via a small private drive for each property leading directly off Pig Lane. Type: Residential (Group of Dwellings) Distance to Nearest Site: 101m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Receptor: Converted barn set within a large curtilage/garden comprising hardstanding to the front of the properties. The plot is rectangular in shape with the main aspect of the properties facing approximately east-west.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Low	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial; Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down C. With a distance of approximately 101m, there are potential uninterrupted views with limited screening when looking north, west and east towards Lime Down C. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RG020: Grain Store Barn, Farleaze				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	The scheme has been designed to accommodate these residential properties, and infrastructure has been set back to allow separation and space for mitigation. Views of construction activity would be visible in open views across the surrounding fields, where visible, this would be set back from the properties by at least 150m. There is no proposed infrastructure within field C16 and open views are maintained to the south. The level of change in views would be High.	Reinforced roadside screening, new sections of hedgerow, hedgerow reinforcement and enhancement is proposed throughout the surrounding Site. This would yet to be established and so would have a limited effect initially and the level of change would remain High.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would filter views of the proposed infrastructure and reduce visibility of the Scheme. There would be a Low level of change to views.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by proposed mitigation which would integrate with existing vegetation along the horizon. Due to distance, panel removal would still be visible but screened in part.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Low	Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RG020: Grain Store Barn, Farleaze

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

5.2 Private Receptor - Individual

Visual Baseline		
RI014: Widley's Farm, Sherston		
Baseline Context: Outlook is enclosed by the vegetation within the garden/curtilage to the west, but the outlook to the east extends across the large scale, open arable fields and by the strong hedgerow and tree cover network within the immediate fields to the east at the boundary with Commonwood Lane (to include the boundary of the Order Limits for Lime Down A within the fields offset to the east of Commonwood Lane). To the south, the landscape has a good network of hedgerows and tree cover where the field sizes vary between medium and large scale. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced by the presence of nearby settlement at Sherston, the associated ribbon development and large-scale agricultural buildings. Access is via a short private drive leading from the public highway linking to the settlement of Sherston to the north. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 504m (Lime Down A) Closest Settlement: Sherston Description of Receptor: Detached two storey Grade II Listed (List Entry:1199103) farmhouse set within a rectangular plot comprising lawned gardens and small areas of woodland and tree belts. Widley's Farm affords an east west aspect with north south gable additions where views may be possible. The property is set within the Cotswold National Landscape.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) High	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down A. With a distance of approximately 504m, there are uninterrupted views with some limited screening when looking southeast towards Lime Down A. Due to the intervening topography, A1 to the east is not visible beyond Commonwood Lane while views towards the southeast are more open with New plantation visible on the horizon. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI014: Widley's Farm, Sherston				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Open views of construction of proposed infrastructure within Lime Down A to the southeast. Construction activity would be discernible in mid to long distance filtered views to the southeast. Topography would limit views of construction activity to the east beyond Commonwood Lane. No views of 132kw substation in A3 due to changing topography to east.	Visual change in Year 1 would be the same as described at construction.	Proposed new green corridor planting along the western extent of field A1, A2 and A10 and further hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would provide layers of vegetation screening views of proposed infrastructure. Proposed mitigation would integrate with existing vegetation along the horizon screening views of the Scheme.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by existing intervening vegetation and there would be no visual change.
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No Effect

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site Effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites. Site C to the south is beyond an intervening ridge line.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)

RI014: Widley's Farm, Sherston

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline

RI015 and RI016: The Stables and Caravan Stables, Commonwood Lane, Sherston

Baseline Context:

Single storey dwelling and stables enclosed by the vegetation to the west. The outlook to the east extends across the large scale, open arable fields towards the boundary of the Order Limits for Lime Down A. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced by the presence of nearby settlement at Sherston, the associated ribbon development and large-scale agricultural buildings.

Access is via a short private drive leading from Commonwood Lane linking to the settlement of Sherston to the north.

Type: Residential (Single Dwelling)

Distance to Nearest Site: 182m (Lime Down A)

Closest Settlement: Sherston

Description of Receptor: Two dwellings comprising Caravan Stables which is set within an elongated narrow plot with hardstanding to the front (east) and a small garden/curtilage to the south. Caravan Stables afford an east west facing aspect.

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)

Low

Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)

High

Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)

Medium

Initial Assessment:

Assessed in the context of Lime Down A. With a distance of approximately 182m, there are potential uninterrupted views and/or limited screening when looking east towards Lime Down A.

Carry forward into further assessment. YES

Visual Assessment (Scheme)

RI015 and RI016: The Stables and Caravan Stables, Commonwood Lane, Sherston				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Filtered views of construction of proposed infrastructure within fields located within Lime Down A to the east, including the 132 substation. Views to the east extend across the large-scale arable fields with A2 and A7 in near to middle distance and A3 to a lesser extent.	Proposed new green infrastructure to the western boundaries of A2 and A7 would be limited initially.	Proposed new green corridor planting along the western extent of field A2 and A7 and further hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would provide layers of vegetation screening views of proposed infrastructure. Proposed mitigation would integrate with existing vegetation along the horizon screening views of the Scheme.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by existing intervening vegetation and no visual change would be seen.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects
Cumulative Site Effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
RI017: Commonwood Farm, Sherston		
Baseline Context: Property enclosed by vegetation to the east and west. Outlook to the south extends across the large scale, open arable fields towards Lime Down C. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced by the large-scale field systems and large-scale agricultural buildings. Large blocks of woodland are also a feature of this landscape to the east. Access is via a private drive leading from Commonwood Lane linking to the settlement of Sherston to the north. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 337m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Sherston Description of Receptor: Detached farmhouse set within lawned gardens with some mature trees and vegetation cover. There is a collection of large-scale agricultural buildings to the west of the farmhouse. The property affords a north-south facing aspect.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Low	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down C. With a distance of approximately 337m, there are interrupted views and/or limited screening when looking south towards Lime Down C. Outlook is enclosed by the vegetation to the east and west, but the outlook to the south extends through garden vegetation across large scale, open arable fields. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		

RI017: Commonwood Farm, Sherston				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Direct upper storey views and filtered ground floor views south to construction activities within C19 and C3. Filtered views of construction within C20 and C21.	Proposed new green corridor planting to the northern boundary of C3, C19 and C20 would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen ground floor views and only allow for heavily filtered upper storey views of the proposed infrastructure. Panels may be just visible on the ridgeline above proposed planting	Panel removal would be predominantly screened by proposed mitigation which would integrate with existing vegetation along the horizon.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Effects
Cumulative Site Effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
RI017: Commonwood Farm, Sherston
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
RI024: Fosse Lodge, Grittleton		
Baseline Context: Property is generally enclosed by the tree cover to the west and designed gardens with trees and woodland cover to the south. Domestic hedgerows, fencing and low walls mark the properties northern boundaries. The outlook to the east is contained by a large agricultural building. To the north the outlook from upper story windows is above the existing hedgerow and out over the surrounding arable fields to the north – Site C. the landform drops away to the north towards the railway line. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced by the mixture of field sizes and combination of arable and pasture. Large blocks of woodland and coverts are also a feature of this location. Access is via a long private drive leading from the public highway to the west which leads to the settlement of Grittleton. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 42m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Grittleton Description of Receptor: Detached dwelling comprising the Grade II Listed Fosse Lodge (List Entry:1198366) to the Grittleton Estate. The lodge also includes a gamekeeper's house with kennels behind and a tower. The main lodge affords a southwest to northeast aspect with the principle elevation facing over the formal gardens to the southwest. The property is within the Cotswold National Landscape		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) High	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down C. With a distance of approximately 42m, there are views when looking north towards Lime Down C. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI024: Fosse Lodge, Grittleton				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Upper storey north facing windows would have long distance open views north across the crossroads and C10. No infrastructure is proposed within the majority of Field C10. Long distance views to C32 and C33 which includes the 132kw substation to the south of C33. Construction of proposed infrastructure would be discernible in filtered views beyond intervening vegetation along the railway line.	Reinforced roadside screening along southern edge of C10, along with green corridor planting along southern edge of the array within C10 and along southern edge of fields C9 and C11 would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of proposed infrastructure.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by proposed mitigation. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect
Cumulative Site Effects				
Cumulative Site Effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.				

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RI024: Fosse Lodge, Grittleton

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

RI037: Lord's Wood Farm, Lordswood

Baseline Context:

Property is enclosed by the tree and hedgerow cover to the south and by agricultural buildings to the north. The wider outlook in all directions is semi-open and extends across the medium to large scale agricultural landscape. The relationship with surrounding landscape is influenced by the agricultural land use. Large blocks of woodland located to the south and southwest comprise Lord's Wood, New Plantation and woodlands associated with Farleaze Farm.

Access is via a private drive leading onto the he Fosse Way to the east of the property.

Type: Residential (Single Dwelling)

Distance to Nearest Site: 148m (Lime Down C)

Closest Settlement: Norton

Description of Receptor: Large detached farmstead.

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)

Low

Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)

High

Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)

Medium

Initial Assessment:

Assessed in the context of Lime Down C. With a distance of approximately 148m, there are potential views and/or limited screening when looking east and southwest towards Lime Down C. There are also potential views when looking west towards Lime Down A.

Carry forward into further assessment. YES

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI037: Lord's Wood Farm, Lordswood				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed within fields closest: C27 and C24 which would be utilised for ecological mitigation, yet to be determined. Filtered views of construction of proposed infrastructure within the eastern extent of Lime Down C22 to the south. Views of Lime Down C would be filtered by intervening vegetation.	Proposed hedgerow enhancement to the northern boundary of C22 would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in C22 would mostly screen views of proposed infrastructure and integrate with the existing hedgerow vegetation.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by proposed mitigation and only glimpsed views of decommissioning activity would be visible.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect*	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Assessment				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed within field A8 which would be utilised for ecological mitigation, yet to be determined. Filtered views of construction of proposed infrastructure within the eastern extent of Lime Down A9 to the west. Wider views of Lime Down A would be filtered by intervening vegetation. Infrastructure within Site A and Site C would not be seen In Combination. There would be opportunity for filtered combined views between Site's A and C In Succession.	Proposed green corridor to the eastern boundary of A9 would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in A9 would mostly screen views of proposed infrastructure and integrate with the existing hedgerow vegetation.	Panel removal would be heavily screened by proposed mitigation and only glimpsed views of decommissioning activity would be visible.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RI037: Lord's Wood Farm, Lordswood

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
RI061: North Lodge, Norton		
Baseline Context: There are potential open views towards the northeast and east across a series of small to medium scale fields towards Lime Down B10. The wider outlook is open and expansive where the presence of vegetation is attributed to remnant mature trees, small tributaries associated with the River Avon and with small woodland blocks. The relationship with the surrounding landscape is influenced by the small to medium scale agricultural land use, the presence of the River Avon tributaries and the associated tree cover. Access is via a short private drive leading from the lodge onto Honey Lane to the north, which connects with the settlement of Norton to the southwest. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 82m (Lime Down B) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Detached dwelling set within a small garden/curtilage comprising lawned areas, trees, shrubberies and hardstanding. The property affords a north south aspect, but also affords an east west facing aspect with views across lawned areas towards the outlying landscape.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Low	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down B. With a distance of approximately 82m, there are uninterrupted views with limited screening when looking north towards Lime Down B. There are no potential views and/or some screening when looking south towards Lime Down D. There is intervisibility between North Lodge and Lime Down B. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI061: North Lodge, Norton				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in B9 would be visible in open middle-distance views beyond a low roadside hedgerow from one ground floor window. Construction activities in B10 would be less discernible beyond intervening hedgerow vegetation to its southwestern boundary and on Honey Lane.	A proposed new hedgerow to the southeastern boundary of B9 and hedgerow enhancement to the southwestern boundary of B10 would have a limited effect initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in B9 and B10 would screen views and continue the wooded skyline.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RI061: North Lodge, Norton

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
RI063: Honey Lane Cottage, Norton		
Baseline Context: Single storey bungalow to the north of the Vine Tree Public House. Outlook is semi-enclosed by vegetation to the northwest and southeast at close range. There are potential open views north towards Lime Down B9 and B10. The wider outlook is semi-enclosed to the south by settlement and intervening tree cover associated with the Avon tributaries, but open and expansive to the north where the fields are large scale with few hedgerow trees. The relationship with the surrounding landscape is influenced by the large-scale agricultural land use to the north and the presence of the settlement of Norton to the southwest. Access is via a private drive leading from the cottage onto Honey Lane, which connects with Norton to the southwest. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 180m (Lime Down B) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Detached cottage set within a garden/curtilage of the Public House.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Low	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down B. With a distance of approximately 180m, there are uninterrupted views when looking north towards Lime Down B. There are no views looking south towards Lime Down D. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI063: Honey Lane Cottage, Norton				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Open and filtered views of construction of proposed solar array within southern fields of Lime Down B. Oblique views of the construction of proposed infrastructure within field B9 would be open in part and viewed at a distance of over 210m. Views of B10 and B11 would be filtered through intervening existing hedgerow vegetation and woodland.	A proposed new hedgerow along the southeastern boundary of B9 and hedgerow enhancement to the southwestern boundary of B10 and B11 would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of proposed infrastructure and integrate with the existing vegetated field margins. Glimpses of the tops of panels would be afforded but greatly filtered through existing and proposed vegetation.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RI063: Honey Lane Cottage, Norton

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Development. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
RI068: Bradfield Manor, Hullavington		
Baseline Context: Property is generally well enclosed by vegetation at close range to the south and east of the property. There are a number of large agricultural sheds to the east of the property and outbuildings to the south. Formal gardens surround the dwelling to the south and west. Boundary vegetation is used to provide enclosure, which to the north and northwest, restricts ground floor and garden views of the surrounding countryside. The railway line runs directly to the south of the property, with trackside vegetation, and vegetation associated with the Gauze Brook screening views in this direction back towards Hullavington. To the north and west of the property (to the west of Norton Road) the landform gently rises to a high point just south of Norton. To the east of Norton Road, the landform drops gently to the Gauze Brook and then rises to Bradfield Wood on the eastern horizon. The relationship with the surrounding landscape is influenced by the large-scale agricultural land use and the presence of the mainline railway to the south. Access is via a formal private (tree-lined) drive leading from the manor onto Sherston Road to the east, which connects to Hullavington in the south. Type: Residential (Single Dwelling) Distance to Nearest Site: 197m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Receptor: Detached manor house, comprising the Grade I Listed Bradfield Manor (List Entry:1198806) with other associated listed buildings including Grade II Listed Barn in Courtyard to the southeast of Bradfield Manor Farmhouse (List Entry:1023202), Barn to east of Bradfield Manor Farmhouse (List Entry:1356036) and Barn to southwest of Bradfield Manor Farmhouse (List Entry: 1198869). The manor is set within an extensive garden/curtilage comprising formal gardens, parkland and mature tree cover. The property affords a northwest to southeast aspect.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) High	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High
Initial Assessment: Assessed in the context of Lime Down D. With a distance of approximately 197m, there are interrupted views screened by vegetation when looking north and northwest towards Lime Down D from upper stories of Bradfield Manor.		

Carry forward into further assessment. YES

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
RI068: Bradfield Manor, Hullavington				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	From upper floors of this property, there would be filtered views of construction of proposed solar array within southern fields of Lime Down D, (D5, D3, D2 and D1). Views would be filtered through existing hedgerow vegetation located between the Scheme and the dwelling. There would be glimpsed filtered views of construction of the BESS within D1. Views of the 400kv substation would be screened by the existing woodland to the west of D1 and south of D22. Vegetation within the curtilage of the property would screen ground floor and immediate garden views.	The proposals include for a green corridor along the southern boundary of D3 and hedgerow reinforcement along the boundaries of D1, D2, D3, D5 and the wider Site. These would be limited initially.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of proposed infrastructure in southern fields of Lime Down D. Proposed vegetation would integrate with the existing vegetated field margins.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Low	Low	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Solar PV sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

RI068: Bradfield Manor, Hullavington

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Developments. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

6 Appendix 8-3-2-2-3: Visual Assessment Sheets for Public Receptors (Significant)

6.1 Public Receptors - BOAT

Visual Baseline		
TP089. WT SHER 35		
Baseline Context: Byway leads south from Commonwood Lane becoming Byway WT LUCK 57 alongside Cream Gorse. Heading south from Commonwood Lane the topography dips towards the junction with Footpath WT SHER 18 and then rises again to the south. Although Lime Down Site C is adjacent to the byway, hedgerows and mature trees on both sides provide enclosure and effectively screen views into the adjacent sections of the Site. There are occasional open views through gaps in hedgerows at field entrances especially at the junction with Footpath WT SHER 18. Towards the southern, end dense woodland (Cream Gorse) prevents views to the east. Byway is accessed from the north via Commonwood Lane and connects to BOAT WT LUCK 57 to the south near Cream Gorse ancient woodland. Type: Transport (BOAT) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: 5m Description of Receptor: Predominantly enclosed Byway which is part of Sherston Walk 2.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Byway assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. Lime Down Sites C19, C21 and C31 are in close proximity although they are predominantly screened by hedgerows. There are more open views of Site C through gaps and field entrances at the junction with SHER 8. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP089. WT SHER 35				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities immediately adjacent to the route in fields 20 and C21 and to a lesser extent in field C31 would be visible beyond existing low hedgerows. Construction access to Site C crosses the Byway near VP 27 and would cause temporary disruption during construction. This would affect views of the landscape from parts of the route leading to an overall Medium level of change on visual amenity.	Proposed new hedgerow planting and a green corridor to the byway is proposed. Enhancement of existing hedgerows and the new woodland belt to C19 would have a limited effect initially and there would be no change in views The level of change on views and the overall character and experience of the Byway would remain Medium at Year 1 Refer to photomontages for VP 27.	By Year 15 the proposed mitigation measures would screen views of the Scheme. Existing hedgerows would be gapped up and managed to increase their height to 4.5m by Year 15 and the character of the Byway would become more enclosed by new vegetation adjacent to fields 20 and C21. The level of change in views as a result of the Scheme would reduce to Very Low. Refer to photomontages for VP 27.	Mitigation planting established would screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity would be screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP089. WT|SHER|35

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP092. WT LUCK 57		
Baseline Context: Byway passing Cream Gorse ancient woodland on rising land before flattening out. The route is predominantly enclosed by hedgerows which screen views to the wider landscape of arable fields. There are occasional views out where hedgerows are thin or at field entrances. Cream Gorze is situated to the east and north of the byway providing further enclosure. A continuation of SHER 35 and Commonwood Lane to the north, the Byway heads south past Cream Gorse ancient woodland to join with the Fosse Way near the railway line. Type: Transport (BOAT) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 3m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Alderton Description of Receptor: Predominantly enclosed Byway with occasional filtered views towards Lime Down Site C through intervening vegetation.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Byway assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. Fields C12, C31, C34 and C36 are in close proximity. At various points these parcels are visible in filtered views through intervening hedgerow vegetation or gaps. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP092. WT LUCK 57				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Filtered views through existing vegetation where thin or gappy and occasional fleeting views at field entrances towards construction activities in Fields C12, C31, C34 and C36, adjacent to the byway. Construction access to Site C crosses the Byway near VP 27 and would cause temporary disruption during construction. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. This would affect views of the landscape from most of the route leading to an overall Medium level of change on visual amenity.	Enhancement of existing hedgerows and the new linear tree planting to C36 would have a limited effect initially and there would be no change in views The level of change on views and the overall character and experience of the Byway would remain Medium at Year 1 Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. Refer to Photography for VP 24.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of the Scheme. By Year 15 the proposed mitigation measures would screen views of the Scheme. Existing hedgerows would be gapped up and managed to increase their height to 4.5m by Year 15 and the character of the Byway would become more enclosed by new vegetation adjacent to fields 20 and C21. The level of change in views as a result of the Scheme would reduce to Very Low. Refer to Photography for VP 24.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate/ Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP092. WT|LUCK|57

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

6.2 Public Receptors -Bridleway

Visual Baseline		
TP097. WT SHER 16		
Baseline Context: The fields alongside Bridleway are relatively open in character with views over open arable fields to wooded skylines. Mature trees punctuate the landscape and hedgerows define field boundaries. The Bridleway predominantly follows field boundaries but crosses open arable fields in places. Boundaries are predominantly marked by hedgerows but there is a section stone wall at the northern end of the Bridleway. The woodlands near Lordswood House are a feature of views southwards. Bridleway passes through Lime Down A. Connects from track from Bustlers Hill in Sherston to the north, heading southeast to the Fosse Way, near Lordswood Farm. Type: Transport (Bridleway) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down A) Closest Settlement: Sherston Description of Receptor: Relatively open Bridleway between Sherston and the Fosse Way.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Bridleway assessed within the context of Lime Down Site A. The Bridleway passes through the center of Site A and there is direct visibility to A2, A3, A7, A8, A9 and A10. There are also longer distance views towards Lime Down Site C from the southern end of the Bridleway near Lordswood Farm beyond intervening vegetation. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP097. WT SHER 16				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities in Fields A2, A3, A7, A9 and A10 would be in close proximity and be visible. Screening from existing hedgerows would restrict all areas being seen at the same time. No panels are proposed in A8. A 132kw substation is proposed at the southeastern corner of A3 which would be beyond the solar array. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be a High level of change to views	Proposed new hedgerow planting, hedgerow reinforcement and new green infrastructure would have a limited effect initially. The drystone wall to the western boundary of A3 would be restored and a new hedgerow is proposed behind this, extending south along the boundary of A7 Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows There would be views to the arrays on both sides of the Footpath and the level of change at Year 1 would remain High. Refer to photography for VP7 & 8.	By Year 15, mitigation planting would screen some views of the array limiting the visibility of the arrays to one side of the Bridleway. Buffers to the array are proposed and there would be diverse meadow areas to the route with larger areas of open space provided in A8. The level of change will reduce to Medium Refer to photography for VP7 and 8.	Mitigation planting established screening some views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity mostly screened. Removal of panels would cause a Medium level of change to views during decommissioning.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
C22 is also visible from the southern end of the Bridleway near Lordswood Farm beyond intervening vegetation.	Additional construction activities in C22 would be visible in longer distance views beyond intervening vegetation from the eastern end of the Bridleway. This would not increase the effects above those described above.	As above	As above	As above
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
TP097. WT SHER 16
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP159. WT HULL 7		
Baseline Context: This section of Bridleway runs roughly parallel to the Gauze Brook to the northwest. It is open to the surrounding arable field to the north (D15). On either side there are open arable fields divided by hedgerows and mature trees with occasional cross valley views northwards to higher ground beyond the Gauze Brook. To the south the landform rises steeply, screening views to the wider landscape in this direction. To the north, the landform is predominantly flat along the Gauze Brook, but gently rises on the northern side of the watercourse. The Bridleway connects to Bridleway WT MALW 5 to the east towards Corston and Down Road to the southwest towards Hullavington. Type: Transport (Bridleway) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Corston Description of Receptor: Open section of Bridleway between Bridleway WT MALW 5 and Hullavington.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Bridleway assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. Open views from into D13, D14 and D15. D18 is in close proximity to the southwest but it well screened by boundary hedgerows. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP159. WT HULL 7				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be in close proximity in D15 and clearly visible as there is no existing intervening vegetation to screen views. A 132kw substation is proposed in D18 which is heavily screened by existing tall hedgerows. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be a high level of visual change to views from this Bridleway.	Mitigation measures include a new hedgerow with trees to the southern boundary of D12 to connect with existing mature vegetation. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The effect proposed mitigation would be limited initially and there would be open views to the array. The level of change would remain High at Year 1	By Year 15 mitigation planting would predominantly screen views of infrastructure. Although views towards Gauze Brook and the higher land to the north would be lost, the level of change in views would reduce to Very Low.	Mitigation planting established predominantly screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity mostly screened. Removal of panels would cause minimal change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP159. WT|HULL|7

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP168. WT MALW 59		
Baseline Context: A Bridleway which provides access to Hanger Farm. It follows the Rodbourne Brook to the south of Bincombe Wood. The woodland sits on higher ground. It is generally enclosed to the wider landscape by vegetation to the brook and hedgerows to agricultural fields with mature trees scattered throughout the landscape. However, at times, gaps / breaks in vegetation allow open views into the Site. Bridleway extends eastwards from the A429 near Hullavington Airfield Barracks to intersect with Bridleway WT MALW 61 near the railway crossing in the direction of Rodbourne. Type: Transport (Bridleway) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Airfield Barracks Description of Receptor: Semi open Bridleway starting near Hullavington Airfield Conservation Area to the railway crossing near Rodbourne.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: The Bridleway is in close proximity to E13, E14, E15, and E17, separated by intervening hedgerows, except for E12 and E18 where there are open views. E19 is well screened by vegetation along the Brook. The Bridleway appears to have limited use especially to the west where access from the A429 is overgrown. Carry forward into further assessment. Yes		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP168. WT MALW 59				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be clearly visible in views from the Bridleway when adjacent to E12 and E18. Fields E13, E14, E15, and E17 would be predominantly screened by intervening hedgerow vegetation but would be more visible to horse riders. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed new hedgerow planting to all fields in close proximity to the Bridleway and further reinforcement of existing hedgerows would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views would remain Low at Year 1 Refer to Photography for VP 50.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views. Views across open fields towards the edge of Bincombe Wood would be lost. Layers of proposed planting mitigation within the wider landscape would provide screening of the wider Site limiting views of wider proposed infrastructure. The level of change in views from the Bridleway would reduce to Very Low by Year 15. Refer to Photography for VP 50.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	None
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP168. WT|MALW|59

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP169. WT MALW 54		
Baseline Context: The Bridleway passes through several arable fields bordered by a mature hedgerow to its northeast and linearly scattered trees. The Bridleway is influenced by the busy A429 to the north and the Railway to the south. A short section of the southernmost section of the Bridleway passes directly through the Site. There are glimpsed views towards an existing solar farm to the north east of Corston in the distance. Connects from the A429 in the north, heads southeast on rising land to join a track to Rodbourne. It intersects with Footpath WT MALW 53 and WT MALW 55. Type: Transport (Bridleway) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Corston Description of Receptor: Open Bridleway with little evidence of use leading south from the busy A429.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Bridleway assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. The Bridleway is in close proximity to Site E and runs directly between E1 and E2. There are filtered views to E2, E3 and E4 through intervening gappy hedgerow vegetation to the Bridleway and near distance open views to E1 and E2. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP169. WT MALW 54				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	From the northern most sections of the Bridleway, there would be filtered views towards construction activities in E1, E2, E3 and E4. For the southernmost section within the Site, there would be direct views of construction activities within the adjacent E1. Construction access to Site E follows the route of the Bridleway and would cause temporary disruption during construction. There would also be short term temporary works associated with cable route corridor. The existing solar farm is not seen in combination with Site E. There would be High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed new green infrastructure is proposed along E2, E3 and E4 and new woodland to the railway line in E1 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views would remain Medium at Year 1. Refer to Photography for VP 24.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views E2, E3 and E4 but there would still be views to panels in E1 for a short section of the route. Refer to Photography for VP 24.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site for majority of route. There would still be views to decommissioning in E1 for a short section of the route.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse

Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate/ Minor
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Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP169. WT|MALW|54

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

6.3 Public Receptors Footpath

Visual Baseline		
TP037. WT NORT 1		
Baseline Context: Footpath running south from Foxley alongside watercourse with areas of dense woodland and woodland belts to the north which provide enclosure and screen views to the wider landscape. To the south the path crosses arable fields divided by hedgerows and mature trees with open views to the surrounding landscape and properties on the edge of Norton and Lime Down Site B6. The topography away from the stream is relatively flat. The Footpath passes directly through Lime Down B. Foxley Road to the north, heading south to join Honey Lane on the edge of Norton in the south. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 10m (Lime Down B) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Enclosed Footpath following a small stream, crossing arable fields to the south with open views		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down B. The Footpath crosses through B11 and B9, where there would be direct views to the development. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP037. WT NORT 1				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in B12. Construction activities in B11 and B9 would be clearly visible in open views. Filtered views of construction within B10. There would be High level of change in views during construction.	The scheme allows for offsets and setbacks where the Footpath passes through the Site. New hedgerow planting along the edge of the array within B9 and B11 and reinforcement of the existing field boundaries along B10 would have a limited effect initially. The level of change on views and the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High at Year 1. Views from the northern end of the Footpath near Foxley would be similar to those in photomontages for VP18	By Year 15 mitigation planting would be established screening views and creating an attractive landscape corridor for users of the Footpath to pass through. The proposal includes areas of ecological mitigation alongside the Footpath to create an attractive walking environment. Once established the arrays would be screened and the level of change in views would reduce to Very Low. Views from the northern end of the Footpath would be similar to those in photomontages for VP18	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Major/Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP037. WT|NORT|1

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP091. WT SHER 18		
Baseline Context: Footpath running east west within a shallow valley to the west and to higher ground through Cream Gorse woodland to the east. The landscape is characterised by medium to large arable fields bordered with mature hedgerows. To the east, the landscape is more wooded and enclosed. Footpath passes directly through Lime Down Site C. Connects from WT LUCK 35 to the west, crossing Byway WT SHER 35 from Commonwood Lane, heading east through woodland to join the Fosse Way. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Luckington Description of Receptor: Footpath through a shallow valley and woodland to the east of Luckington and to the south of Sherston.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. There are filtered views through intervening vegetation towards C19 at the western end of the Footpath and near distance open views to, C21, C12 and C23 at the eastern end of the Footpath. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		
TP091. WT SHER 18		

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities within C19 would be visible from the western end of the footpath beyond intervening tall hedgerows. To the east construction activities would be visible in C21 and C23 in close proximity. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. The overall level of change in views from the footpath would be High	A woodland belt is proposed along the northern boundary of C19. Proposed new hedgerow planting, green infrastructure and hedgerow enhancement would have a limited effect initially Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain High by Year 1. Refer to photomontages for VP 27.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views to panels but there would be a change in the character of the landscape and views. Where Footpath passes directly alongside array (C23 and C21) there would be direct views of infrastructure. The buffer to the footpath planted with wildflower meadow species would provide an attractive setting to the footpath. The overall level of change in views from the footpath would reduce to Medium by Year 15. Refer to photomontages for VP 27.	Established mitigation planting would partially screen views of decommissioning activity. Removal of panels would be visible but would have the benefit of the mitigation planting.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP091. WT|SHER|18

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP093. WT GRIT 32 and TP100. WT HULL 20		
Baseline Context: Two connecting Footpaths near East Dunley Farm and Cottages and Surrendell Farm. The landscape is characterised by large arable fields divided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Surrendell Wood and Dunley Wood provide wooded horizons and enclosure, restricting views to the wider landscape in places. The topography is slightly undulating with a general fall to the north towards the railway line with rising land beyond. Large farm buildings punctuate the landscape. Connecting from WT GRIT 22 near East Dunley Farm, heading north past East Dunley Cottages, then turning east past Surrendell Farm to join Byway WT HULL 19 to the east. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 435m and 225m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Receptor: A long Footpath through a rural agricultural landscape.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. C14 and C10 are the nearest however the topography and boundary vegetation limits views. There are views to C9, C10, C11 to the west and there are open longer distance cross valley views to C12, C23 and C26 on rising land to the north of the railway line. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP093. WT GRIT 32 and TP100. WT HULL 20				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in C26 and C10 Construction activities would be visible in cross valley views in C12 and C23 on rising land to the north of the railway line in the distance. Construction activities within C11, and C14 would be more noticeable given the proximity and a temporary construction compound in C13 would be visible. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. Views are from the western end of the footpath only and the overall level of change in views would be Medium.	Proposed new green infrastructure to the Fosse Way and along the margins of C12, C23 and C14 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Medium by Year 1. Refer to photomontages for VP 34.	By Year 15 mitigation planting along the Fosse Way and across the Scheme would screen views. However, panels would be clearly visible in C13. The overall level of change in views from the footpath would reduce to Low by Year 15 Refer to photomontages for VP 34.	Mitigation planting established screening views into wider Site. Views of decommissioning activity within the wider Site screened. However, given proximity to array there would be direct views of decommissioning activities in fields C13.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Moderate /Minor

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP093. WT|GRIT|32 and TP100. WT|HULL|20

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP095. WT SHER 17		
Baseline Context: Footpath through an open agricultural landscape associated with Lordswood Farm to the east with large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. To the west Lords Wood and New Plantation enclose Lordswood House and views of the wider landscape. The topography is relatively flat with minor watercourses to the north and south. From slightly higher ground near Lordswood Farm there are cross valley views to the south. Connects from Commonwood Lane to the west, heading east to the Fosse Way. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 64m (Lime Down A) Closest Settlement: N/A Description of Receptor: Footpath, relatively enclosed by woodland and topography.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site A to the north, and Lime Down C to the south. From the eastern end of the Footpath there are open progressive views to A10 on higher ground to the north. There are also filtered cross valley views south through intervening vegetation along the watercourse to C22. There are no views to C20 due to intervening vegetation associated with Lordswood House. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP095. WT SHER 17				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in A10 would be clearly visible in progressive open views from the Footpath as there is little intervening vegetation. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. Views are from the western end of the footpath only and the overall level of change in views during construction would be Medium.	Proposed green infrastructure to the southern and eastern boundary of A10 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain Medium at Year 1. Refer to Photography for VP 8	By Year 15, the proposed green infrastructure would screen views of the development The overall level of change in views from the footpath would reduce to Very Low by Year 15 and be of a Neutral nature. Refer to Photography for VP 8	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in C22 would also be discernible beyond intervening vegetation. The additional effects of construction activity in Site C would be less than the effects of Site A and the effects remain unchanged	Hedgerow enhancement to the northern boundary of C22 would have a limited effect initially. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High at Year 1. Effects remain unchanged. Refer to Photography for VP 8	By Year 15 hedgerow enhancement would screen views of the development. The overall level of change in views from the footpath would reduce to Very Low by Year 15 and be of a Neutral nature Effects remain unchanged. Refer to Photography for VP 8	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views. Effects remain unchanged.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect
Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)				
TP095. WT SHER 17				
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)				
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.				

Visual Baseline		
TP099. WT HULL 25		
Baseline Context: Footpath within an agricultural landscape associated with Farleaze Farm. Heading east from the Fosse Way, the Footpath crosses an open arable field before joining the boundary of Farleaze Farm where hedgerows and small woodlands restrict views towards the Farm. Views of the landscape especially to the north are open with land rising up towards the Fosse Way. From the western end of the Footpath there are long distance views from higher ground near the Fosse Way to the wider landscape to the south where Surrendell Wood is visible on the skyline. Connects from the Fosse Way to the west, following field boundaries around Farleaze Farm to join Pig Lane to the east. The Footpath links to Footpaths WT HULL 26#2 and WT HULL 26#1 which head north from the eastern end of the Footpath. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Rural Footpath between the Fosse Way and Pig Lane with open views.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. There are near distance open views to C25 and C26 to the north. From the western extents of the Footpath where the Footpath is on higher ground near the Fosse Way, there are longer distance cross valley views to the south towards C13 and C14. C12 and C23 are also visible to the west. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP099. WT HULL 25				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in C25 and C26, as such there would be no near views of construction activities. Glimpsed views of construction activities in C13 and C14 would be visible in longer distance cross valley views from the western end of the Footpath. From the junction with the Fosse Way, there would be views of construction within C12 and C23. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. Views are from the western end of the footpath and the overall level of change in views during construction would be High	Hedgerow reinforcement to the boundaries of C13 and C14 and roadside screening along the Fosse Way would have limited effect. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the footpath would remain Medium at Year 1. Refer to Photography for VP 21.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in C12, C23 C13 and C14 would have established, screening views into of the array. The overall level of change in views from the footpath would reduce to Very Low by Year 15 and be of a Neutral nature. Refer to Photography for VP 21.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views. Effects remain unchanged.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP099. WT|HULL|25

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP101. WT HULL 26#1		
Baseline Context: North-south Footpath within an agricultural landscape associated with Farleaze Farm. The Footpath crosses an open arable field between Farleaze Farm and the Fosse Way. The area is characterised by large scale arable fields with hedgerows and small woodlands to Farleaze Farm which restrict views to the south. Views of the landscape especially to the north are open with land rising up towards the Fosse Way to the east. An isolated row of cottages on Pig Lane are visible to the east. Connects from the Fosse Way to the west, heads southeast to join Footpath WT HULL 26#2 and WT HULL 25 to Pig Lane. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Open Footpath with views northwards.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. The Footpath is in close proximity to C25 and C26 and directly crosses C24. There are also open views west towards C22 and C23 and east to C27 and C28 beyond intervening roadside vegetation. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		
TP101. WT HULL 26#1		

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	No panels are proposed in C24, C25 and C26, as such there would be no near views of construction activities. No panels are proposed within C27 or C28. There would be views of construction underway within C22 and C23. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. The overall level of change in views during construction would be Medium	Roadside screening along the Fosse Way would have limited effect initially in screening views into C22 and C23. Potential Community Orchard in C24 and C25. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views would remain Medium at Year 1 Refer to Photography for VP 21 and 22.	Roadside screening along the Fosse Way would have established, screening views into C22 and C23. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath Would reduce to Very Low. Refer to Photography for VP 21 and 22.	Mitigation planting established screening views of decommissioning activities within C22 and C23. Removal of panels would cause no change to views in these fields.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect
Cumulative Site Effects				
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.				

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)	
TP101. WT HULL 26#1	
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)	
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.	

Visual Baseline		
TP108. WT HULL 23		
Baseline Context: Footpath within an agricultural landscape to the south of the railway line with large scale arable fields with hedgerow boundaries over generally flat land which falls gently towards the Gauze Brook to the south. A small copse of woodland, Hayward's Patch, provides some enclosure to the northeast and there is an existing solar farm to the southeast. Footpath passes directly through Lime Down Site C. Connects from Pig Lane, near the railway line in the north, heads southeast to join Footpath WT HULL 24 and Footpath WT HULL 13. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down C) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Receptor: Relatively open Footpath to the south of the railway line.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site C. There are near distance open views where the Footpath diagonally crosses C18. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		
TP108. WT HULL 23		

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be clearly visible in C18 where the panels would be seen in close proximity. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction.	A buffer to the footpath is provided. However, there would still be open views to the solar array in close proximity. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High Refer to Photography for VP 19.	Limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath as it diagonally crosses the field where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the Site. Refer to Photography for VP 19.	There would be open views of short-term decommissioning activity.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	High
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)
Cumulative Site Effects				
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.				

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
TP108. WT HULL 23
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP116. WT NORT 10		
Baseline Context: Footpath to the south of Norton within an arable landscape of medium to large scale fields divided by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. The topography rises to the south from Norton, which sits in a valley, to a flatter plateau landscape which falls to the southwest towards the railway line. Once out of the valley near Norton, the topography and the location of the Footpath to the west of a hedgerow allows open views to the southwest. Footpath passes directly through Lime Down Site D. Connects from the south of Norton in the north, heading south to link with Footpath WT HULL 1. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m to (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Relatively open Footpath once out of the valley with open views to the southwest.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. There are open views across D20-D24 from the Footpath. D19 is predominantly screened by topography in views from the north and by hedgerow vegetation to its western boundary adjacent to the Footpath. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		
TP116. WT NORT 10		

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be visible to varying degrees in D20-D24 due to the nature of open views from the Footpath. D19 is screened by an existing hedgerow to the footpath Construction of the 400kv Sub Station within the western section of D22 would also be visible, as would construction of BESS within D1. This would affect views of the landscape from most of the route leading to an overall High level of change on visual amenity.	Landscape mitigation includes for new sections of hedgerow and hedgerow reinforcement along the field boundaries. These measures would have a limited effect initially. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High at Year 1 Refer to Photography for VP 45.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would predominantly screen views of the 400kv Sub Station (there may be some glimpses of the taller elements still possible) and the BESS. However, foreground infrastructure would predominantly block these views. Limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the Site. Refer to Photography for VP 45.	Mitigation planting established providing screening of wider decommissioning activities across the Site. However, views of decommissioning of adjacent sections of array would be possible. The 400kv Sub Station would remain in place but would be screened.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP116. WT|NORT|10

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP121. WT HULL 1		
Baseline Context: A long section of Footpath within an agricultural landscape to the northeast of Hullavington. The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. The topography is undulating with a general fall to the Gauze Brook which passes under the railway line near a sewage works. The railway line on a vegetated embankment forms a linear feature in the landscape and built form on the edge of Hullavington is visible to the south. The church in Hullavington is visible in views south from the Footpath to the south of the railway line. Footpath passes directly through Lime Down Site D. Connects from the northwestern edge of Hullavington in the south, head northwards under the railway line to join Footpath WT NORT 10 to Norton. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Receptor: Relatively open Footpath outside of the Gauze Brook between Hullavington towards Corston. The Grade 1 Listed Bradfield Manor Farmhouse and three Grade II barns associated with the Manor are in close proximity.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. There near distance open views of D1-D5 which are in close proximity. From the northern most extents, there are views of D19 to D24. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP121. WT HULL 1				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be visible in the adjacent fields of D1-D4. Construction activities within D19-D24 would be more screened due to the layering of intervening field boundary hedgerows which provide screening. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be some glimpsed views to construction of the 400kv Sub Station within the western section of D22, and the Bess in D1. The level of change in views would be High	Landscape mitigation includes for new sections of hedgerow and hedgerow reinforcement along the filed boundaries. These measures would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the footpath would remain High. Refer to Photography for VP 37.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would predominantly screen views of the 400kv Sub Station (there may be some glimpses of the taller elements still possible) and the BESS. However, foreground infrastructure in D3 would predominantly block these views. Limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the Site.	Mitigation planting established providing screening of wider decommissioning activities across the Site. However, views of decommissioning of adjacent sections of array would be possible. The 400kv Sub Station would remain in place and would be screened.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP121. WT|HULL|1

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline

TP128. WT|HULL|2

Baseline Context:

Footpath on the northeastern edge of Bradfield Wood which crosses a tributary of the Gauze Brook to connect with Norton Road to the southwest. There are views northwest across arable land around Maidford Farm. The Footpath follows the southern edge of the hedgerow within D6 allowing views south across the Site. The landscape falls to the south and there are open views across the shallow valley of the Gauze Brook where large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows within Lime Down Site D are visible.

To the north receptor connects to Footpath WT|MALW|46. To the south receptor connects to Norton Road north west to Honey Lane.

Type: Transport (Footpath)

Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D)

Closest Settlement: Norton		
Description of Receptor: Footpath on the northwestern edge of Bradfield Wood to the southeast of Norton.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. Footpath follows the internal northern boundary of D6. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP128. WT HULL 2				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in D6 would be clearly visible in close proximity. These activities would block views to further parcels in Lime Down Site D. There would be High level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes through the Site.	A buffer to the array is proposed. However, there are limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High.	By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the Site. Refer to Photography for VP 35.	There would be open views of short-term decommissioning activity.

		Refer to Photography for VP 35		
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

TP128. WT|HULL|2

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP130. WT HULL 4		
Baseline Context: A Footpath through an agricultural landscape of large-scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The topography rises from the Gauze Brook in the south to Bradfield Wood in the north. The wood is a feature of the landscape providing a wooded skyline in open views north. To the north the Footpath goes through the woodland. There are views south across the landscape from higher ground near Bradfield Wood. In the north the Footpath connects to Footpath WT HULL 2. To the south it connects to Norton Road, near the Flying Monk Café. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Footpath from Flying Monk Café on Norton Road to Bradfield Wood to the north.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. The Footpath passes between D8 and D11 and between D9 and D10. There are also middle distance views from the southern end of the Footpath over the Site D6 – D8. No panels are proposed within D9 or D10. From the western extents of the Footpath roadside hedgerows screen views into D4, D5 and beyond to the west. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP130. WT HULL 4				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	No panels are proposed in D9 and D10. Construction activities in D8 and D11 would be clearly visible and in close proximity. These activities would block views to further parcels in Lime Down Site D. Viewpoint 38 demonstrates that there is visibility with the 400kw Substation in D22. This shows the worst-case scenario in terms of its height massing and footprint. There would be High level of change in views during construction particularly where the Footpath adjoins infrastructure.	A buffer to the footpath is provided. However, there would still be open views to the solar array in close proximity. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High. Refer to photomontages for VP 38 and 39.	Limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath as it diagonally crosses the field where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the Site. Refer to photomontages for VP 38 and 39.	There would be open views of short-term decommissioning activity.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP130. WT|HULL|4

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP131. WT HULL 5		
Baseline Context: A Footpath through an agricultural landscape of large-scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The topography rises from the Gauze Brook in the south to Bradfield Wood in the north. The wood is a feature of the landscape providing a wooded skyline in open views. To the north Footpath follows the eastern edge of the woodland. From Higher ground near the wood there are open views south over Lime Down Site D. In the north the Footpath connects to Byway WT MALW 46. To the south it connects to Norton Road, near Gauze Brook. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Receptor: Footpath from Norton Road near Gauze Brook and the railway line to Bradfield Wood to the north.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. The Footpath passes directly through D11 and to the edge of D9 and D10. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)
TP131. WT HULL 5

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in D9 and D10. Construction activities in D11 would be clearly visible to the east and west and in close proximity. These activities would block views to further parcels in Lime Down Site D. There would be High level of change in views during construction particularly where the Footpath adjoins infrastructure.	A buffer to the footpath is provided in D11. However, there would still be open views to the solar array in close proximity. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High. Refer to photomontages for VP 38.	Limited opportunities for mitigation along the footpath as it diagonally crosses D11 field where new hedgerows would be inappropriate to the legacy landscape. By Year 15 mitigation in the wider landscape would be established. However, the array would still be visible in close proximity and the level of change in views would remain High where it passes through the D11. Refer to photomontages for VP 38.	There would be open views of short-term decommissioning activity.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	High	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
TP131. WT HULL 5
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline

TP155. WT|HULL|6

Baseline Context:

Footpath broadly following the valley of the Gauze Brook where the land gently rises to both the south and north. The landscape is contained by vegetation to the Brook and hedgerows which divide arable fields. This contains views although the wider higher landscape is visible in some views north. Rising land to the south provides enclosure and screens views in this direction.

To the south the Footpath connects to a track under the railway line. To the northeast the Footpath connects to Footpath WT|MALW|49.

Type: Transport (Footpath)

Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down D)

Closest Settlement: Hullavington

Description of Receptor: Relatively enclosed Footpath following the Gauze Brook.

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)

Medium

Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)

High

Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)

High to Medium

Initial Assessment:

Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. The Footpath passes through the northern part of D16 and D17 and diagonally passes through D13

Carry forward into further assessment. YES

Visual Assessment (Scheme)

TP155. WT HULL 6				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be clearly visible in D16, D17 and D13 which are in close proximity. Areas of open space are retained along the Gauze Brook. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes through Site D.	Proposed enhancement planting along the Gauze Brook and new hedgerow planting to panels in D16, D17 and D13 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High. Refer to Photography for VP 43.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of panels in D13, 16 and D17 creating an attractive green corridor along the northern banks of the Gauze Brook. Although the character of views would change, panels would be screened, and level of change would reduce to Low and would be neutral in nature Refer to Photography for VP 43.	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	No effect
Cumulative Site Effects				

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP155. WT|HULL|6

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP158. WT HULL 8		
Baseline Context: A long section of Footpath from near Hullavington, passing under the railway line, towards Corston. The Footpath rises to a ridgeline with views to the northeast over the Gauze Brook and Lime Down Site D. To the southeast, Lime Down Site E is visible across the valley in the distance. The landscape is characterised by long valleys and ridgeline with medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows. The railway embankment forms strong linear feature in the landscape at the southern end of the Footpath. From near Hullavington, passing under the railway line northwards where the Footpath splits, one leg connects to Footpath WT MALW 52 in the east, the other to Bridleway WT HULL 7 in the north. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 3m (Lime Down D) Closest Settlement: Corston Description of Receptor: Part of an open Footpath along a ridgeline between Hullavington and Corston.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. There are views to Site D to the northwest in middle distance views, the Site adjoins D18 and Lime Down Site E is visible in cross valley views to the southeast. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP158. WT HULL 8				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be visible in middle distance views in Site D, particularly from the more elevated sections of the route to the north. Construction of the BESS Site in D18 would be in close proximity beyond intervening hedgerow vegetation. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes through the Site.	Proposed mitigation measure throughout Lime Down Site D would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High. Views would be similar to those shown in photomontages for VP 41.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would break up and screen views across the array, however the infrastructure would still be visible in fields D13 – D15. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Medium as vegetation matures. Views would be similar to those shown in photomontages for VP 41.	Mitigation planting established providing some screening of views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity within D13 – 15 possible.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E1 – E4 would be glimpsed in views southeast from the more elevated sections of the route. Panels within Lime Down Site E would be seen in succession to panels in Site D. The additional effects of activity in Site E would be less than the effects of Site D and the effects remain unchanged.	Green corridors along the western extent of E1 to E4 combined with reinforced hedgerows would have a limited effect initially. Effects remain unchanged. Views would be similar to those shown in photomontages for VP 41.	By Year 15 the green corridors and hedgerow reinforcement would screen views of the development in Site E. Effects remain unchanged. Views would be similar to those shown in photomontages for 026 1.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site E. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views. Effects remain unchanged.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Major/ Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)	
TP158. WT HULL 8	
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)	
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.	

Visual Baseline

TP165. WT|MALW|52

Baseline Context:

A section of Footpath extending eastwards from Footpath WT|HULL|8 towards Corston. The Footpath follows the ridgeline with open views to the northeast over the Gauze Brook and northwest towards Site D. To the southeast, Lime Down Site E is partially visible in long distance cross valley views. The landscape is characterised by long valleys and ridgelines, with medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows.

Receptor connects to Main Road in the east. In the West receptor connects to Footpath WT|HULL|8.

Type: Transport (Footpath)

Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 129m (Lime Down D)

Closest Settlement: Hullavington

Description of Receptor: Part of an open Footpath along a ridgeline between Hullavington and Corston.

Assessment of Sensitivity

Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)

Medium

Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)

High

Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)

High to Medium

Initial Assessment:

Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site D. There are views to D13 and 14 to the northwest in middle distance continuous views from the ridgeline, and Site E is visible in long distance cross valley views to the southeast.

Carry forward into further assessment. YES

Visual Assessment (Scheme)

TP165. WT MALW 52				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in Site D14 would be visible in continuous open middle-distance views from the elevated ridgeline. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be Medium level of change in views during construction.	Proposed hedgerow enhancement to the southern and western boundaries of D14 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain Medium Refer to Photography for VP 57.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views, although some glimpsed views of the array within D14 would remain. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Very Low. Refer to Photography for VP 57.	Mitigation planting established mostly screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity mostly screened. Removal of panels would cause minimal change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Effects

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E1 – E4 would be glimpsed in views south east from the more elevated sections of the route. Panels within Site E would be seen in succession to panels in Site D. The additional effects of activity in Site E would be less than the effects of Site D and the effects remain unchanged.	Green corridors along the western extent of E1 to E4 combined with reinforced hedgerows would have a limited effect initially. Effects remain unchanged. Refer to Photography for VP 57.	By Year 15 the green corridors and hedgerow reinforcement would screen views of the development in Site E. Refer to Photography for VP 57.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site E. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)	
TP165. WT MALW 52	
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)	
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.	

Visual Baseline		
TP167. WT MALW 60		
Baseline Context: A Footpath which follows the railway line from the A429 near Kingsway Barn to Rodbourne. The topography rises from the west to east to join a strong ridgeline which follows the track to Rodbourne. The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees. To the west Footpath connects to A429 near Kingsway Barn. To the east the Footpath connects to Rodbourne. At the midpoint Footpath WT MALW 53 connects to it. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Rodbourne Description of Receptor: Footpath along the railway line between the A429 to Rodbourne.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are views to E1 where the Footpath diagonally crosses the field and towards E2 and E3 in the near to mid distance through intervening vegetation. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		
Visual Assessment (Scheme)		
TP167. WT MALW 60		

Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E1 would be clearly visible in close proximity while construction activities in E2 and E3 would be less visible through intervening vegetation. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes through the E1	Hedgerow reinforcement planting would have a limited effect initially. A proposed new woodland is proposed to the south of the Footpath in E1. This would have a limited effect initially solar arrays to the north of the path would be in close proximity. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High	By Year 15 hedgerow reinforcement would screen views of panels in E2 and E3. Where the Footpath passes through E1, there would be direct views of the adjacent solar array. Woodland to the south would be established. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Medium.	Mitigation planting established screening views into the wider Site. Views of decommissioning activity in E1 visible.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Medium	Medium
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP167. WT|MALW|60

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP170. WT SSTQ 5		
Baseline Context: A short section of Footpath to the northeast of Lower Stanton St Quintin which follows a small stream which forms a valley landscape of small to medium sized arable fields divided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Rowden Wood on a low knoll is a feature of the landscape which combines with topography to restrict views to the northwest. To the north the Footpath connects to Footpath WT MALW 62. To the south the Footpath connects to Avil's Lane near Lower Stanton St Quintin. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Lower Stanton Saint Quintin.TP060 Description of Receptor: A short section of open Footpath to the northeast of Lower Stanton St Quintin.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are views to E26 and E27 at its northern end. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP170. WT SSTQ 5				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E26 and E27 would be visible from the northern end of the Footpath beyond intervening hedgerows to the southern boundaries of these fields. There would be Medium level of change in views during construction at the northern end of the Footpath.	Proposed new green infrastructure to the southwestern boundaries of E26 and E27 and further hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would have a limited effect initially. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain Medium	By Year 15 mitigation planting in E26 and E27 would screen views. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Very Low and would be Neutral in nature.	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP170. WT|SSTQ|5

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP172. WT MALW 62		
Baseline Context: Footpath which follows a small stream which forms a valley landscape of small to medium sized arable fields divided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees through Lime Down Site E. To the east the Footpath connects to Bridleway WT MALW 61. To the west it connects to Footpath WT SSTQ 5. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 0m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Lower Stanton Saint Quintin Description of Receptor: A short section of Footpath between Lower Stanton St Quintin and Rodbourne.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are open views to the south to E25 and E27 which are in close proximity. E26 is situated to the north of the watercourse and visible through occasional gaps in vegetation. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP172. WT MALW 62				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E25 and E27 would be clearly visible and be in close proximity. Glimpsed views of construction within E26. There would be High level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes through the Site.	Proposed new riparian planting along watercourse and new hedgerow along the solar arrays in E25 and E27 would have a limited effect initially. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain High Refer to Photography for Vp51.	By Year 15 mitigation planting along the watercourse and the new hedgerow solar arrays in E25 and E27 would screen views into E26. Although the footpath would become more enclosed to the southwest, the level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Very Low neutral in nature. Refer to Photography for Vp51.	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Moderate/Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP172. WT|MALW|62

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP174. WT MALW 55		
Baseline Context: Footpath to the southeast of Corston which broadly follows the lower topography between Bridleway WT MALW 54, Rodbourne Road and Grange Lane. The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees. Near Lime Down Site E, the Footpath follows the southeastern side of a strong hedgerow and there are views to rising land in Site E. The landform rises to the south towards Rodbourne. To the south Footpath connects to Bridleway WT MALW 54. To the midpoint it crosses over Rodbourne Road. To the north the Footpath connects to Grange Lane Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 52m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Corston Description of Receptor: Long Footpath to the south and southeast of Corston to both sides of Rodbourne Road.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are near distance views to E2-E4 beyond intervening vegetation to the field's northwestern boundaries on the northeast facing slope. E1 is not visible beyond the ridgeline. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP174. WT MALW 55				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in E2–E4 would be visible in views southeast from the Footpath beyond intervening vegetation along the norther boundaries of the E2-E4. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. Photomontages demonstrate that the worst-case scenario footprint of the 132kw substation in E6 would be just visible beyond the intervening ridgeline. There would be Medium level of change in views during construction where the Footpath passes near the Site	Green corridors along the western extent of E2 to E4 combined with reinforced hedgerows to the northern boundary of E6 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the western part of the Footpath would remain Medium. Refer to photomontages for VP 47	By Year 15 the green corridors and hedgerow reinforcement would screen views of the development in Site E. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Very Low and be neutral in nature Refer to photomontages for VP 47	Mitigation planting established screening views into Lime Down Site E. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP174. WT|MALW|55

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP178. WT MALW 64		
Baseline Context: The Footpath rises up the valley side from Bridleway WT MALW 6 across an arable field to the ridgeline. Here it passes to the northern side of the boundary hedgerow of E33. Hedgerows screens views into E33. There are mid to long distance open cross valley views north towards the railway line (in cutting to west of crossing and on embankment to the east) and Bincombe Wood. The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with blocks of woodland. To the west the Footpath connects to Bridleway WT MALW 61. In the east the Footpath connects to Rodbourne Bottom Drive Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 4m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Rodbourne Bottom Description of Receptor: Relatively open Footpath on high ground with cross valley views to the north.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are cross valley views to E9, E10 and E11, and E6 and E7 beyond the railway line, all on higher ground. There are cross valley views to the southwest towards E13 and E14 below Bincombe Wood from higher ground on the western end of the footpath and E28 is just discernible beyond intervening vegetation along the contour. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP178. WT MALW 64				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in E7, E9 and E10. Construction activities in E6 (132kw substation), and E11 would be visible in middle to long distance cross valley views from higher ground to the east of the Footpath. From the western end of the footpath, solar arrays in E13 and E14 would be visible in cross valley views and the taller elements of the 132kw substation in E28 may be visible above intervening vegetation. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed hedgerow planting enhancement to E6, E11, E13 and E14, new woodland in E7 and E9 and existing young woodland planting in E10 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain Medium. Refer to photomontage VP 53.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would predominantly screen views of infrastructure The 132kw substation in E6 would be terraced to sit within the topography of the field and new planting to the south would provide screening by Year 15. Layers of proposed planting mitigation within the wider landscape would provide screening of the wider Site limiting views of wider proposed infrastructure. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would reduce to Very Low.	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity predominantly screened. Removal of panels would cause a Very Low level of change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	Neutral
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP178. WT|MALW|64

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TP181. WT MALW 63		
Baseline Context: The Footpath rises up the valley side from Bridleway WT MALW 61 diagonally across arable fields divided by hedgerows to field boundaries following the contour to Rodbourne Bottom Drive. There are mid to long distance cross valley views north over the railway line from the western end of the Footpath to the north. The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows with blocks of woodland. Bincombe Wood is a feature of the landscape to the west forming a wooded skyline. In the west, the Footpath connects to Bridleway WT MALW 61. In the east the Footpath connects to Rodbourne Bottom Drive. Type: Transport (Footpath) Distance to Nearest Solar PV Site: 101m (Lime Down E) Closest Settlement: Rodbourne Bottom Description of Receptor: Footpath with open views north from higher ground to the south of the railway line near Rodbourne Bottom.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) High	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Footpath assessed within the context of Lime Down Site E. There are cross valley views northwards to E6-E11 near the railway line, all on higher ground. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TP181. WT MALW 63				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in E7 E9 and E10 No panels are proposed in E7 E6 and E9 Construction activities in E6 (132kw substation and E11 would be visible in middle to long distance cross valley views beyond some vegetation beyond the railway embankment. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be Medium level of change in views during construction from the Footpath which is relatively enclosed by the railway embankment and rising land to the south.	Hedgerow enhancement and new green infrastructure to the boundaries of E6 and E11 and woodland planting in E7 and E9 would have a limited effect initially. Photomontages for VP55 demonstrate that the worst-case scenario footprint of the 132kw substation in E11 would be visible beyond some intervening vegetation. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views on the overall character and experience of the Footpath would remain Medium.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in E6 and E9 and proposed new woodlands, would screen views. There would be a very low level of change to views which would be neutral in nature Refer to photomontages for VP 55.	Mitigation planting established to screening views into the Site. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Effects

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)

TP181. WT|MALW|63

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

7 Appendix 8-3-2-2-4 Visual Assessment Sheets of Transport Receptors (Significant)

7.1 Transport Receptors – A-Road

Visual Baseline		
TR007 A429 Kingway Bridge North to Chippenham Road, Corston		
Baseline Context: Enclosed section of the A429, travelling in a diagonal manner connecting Corston to the northeast and bridge crossing railway line to the southwest. The road is enclosed on both sides by unkempt grass and wildflower verge and approximately 2m high maintained hedgerows. Due to the slightly sloping nature of the surrounding landscape there are views to the north and south of the road. To the northeast, roofs of houses at Corston are visible. At a section of the road closest to the railway crossing, Rodbourne Water Tower is visible on the horizon to the northeast. Type: Transport (A Road) Distance to Nearest Site: 522m to Lime Down Site E Closest Settlement: Corston Description of Receptor: Enclosed Road travelling in a northeast to southwest manner connecting Corston to Kingway Bridge crossing railway.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
Low	Medium	Medium to Low
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down E. Views from the southern part of the road are limited by distance, topography and intervening vegetation. However, to the middle section of the road there would likely be glimpses to the northern most parcels of Site E. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR007 A429 Kingway Bridge North to Chippenham Road, Corston				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
	Construction activities would be discernible within E2, E3 and E4 on rising land to the southeast of the road, beyond intervening layers of vegetation. Construction access to Site E follows the route of the Bridleway WT[MALW]54 off the road and would cause temporary disruption during construction. There would also be short term temporary works associated with cable route corridor. There would be Medium level of change in views during construction.	Proposed new green infrastructure is proposed along E2, E3 and E4 and new woodland to the railway line in E1 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change on views would reduce to Low following completion of temporary works.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of E2, E3 and E4. There would still be views to the access for a short section of the road. The overall level of change to views along the road would reduce to Very Low.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site for majority of route. There would still be views to decommissioning to the access route for a short section of the road. The overall level of change to views along the road would be Very Low.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Effects
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites.

Visual Assessment (Cumulative) (as set out in Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.3)
TR007 A429 Kingway Bridge North to Chippenham Road, Corston
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with the identified Cumulative Development Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

7.2 Transport Receptors - Unclassified Unnumbered

Visual Baseline		
TR060. Honey Lane Northwest Towards Easton Grey Plain, Norton		
Baseline Context: Semi enclosed road between the Fosse Way and south to Norton. To the north, just off Fosse Way the road features roadside hedgerows set back from grass verges which where taller predominantly screen views to the wider landscape and surrounding Site. Topography is flat in places with a dip in the road over a small stream between B8 and B9. Field boundary hedgerows and woodland blocks form wooded horizons in the middle distance. To the south, the road drops into the centre of Norton joining Honey Lane. Topography, built form and vegetation restrict views here. Road passes through Site B, passing alongside B5 – B9. To the north, the Road connects to the Fosse Way. To the south, the Road connects to Honey Lane. Type: Transport (Unclassified Unnumbered) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m to Lime Down Site B Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Road: Semi enclosed road between the Fosse Way and Norton to the south with some views across the landscape where topography allows.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) Medium	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down B. Views are predominantly screened and heavily filtered by roadside hedgerows, however, where thinner or lower, there are views adjacent B5 to B9. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)

TR060. Honey Lane Northwest Towards Easton Grey Plain, Norton				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in B5 to the southwest of the road. Construction activities in B6 to B9 would be partially visible above roadside hedgerows set back from the hedgerow and in glimpsed views at field entrances. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be a High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed reinforced roadside screening would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain High. Refer to photomontages for VP 13.	By Year 15 mitigation planting alongside the road would screen views of the array. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and be Neutral in nature. Refer to photomontages for VP 13.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into Site B. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)
TR060. Honey Lane Northwest Towards Easton Grey Plain, Norton
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TR061. Norton Road North West to Honey Lane, Norton		
Baseline Context: Northern section of Road from the centre of Norton leading south towards Hullavington. On leaving Norton the topography rises towards Maidford Clump, a small woodland to the northeast of the road which along with roadside hedgerows provide enclosure. Beyond the woodland the landscape opens up with some intermittent views south across the valley of the Gauze Brook beyond roadside hedgerows and trees to a predominantly arable landscape of medium to large fields surrounded by hedgerows. To the northeast Bradfield wood on high ground is a feature of the landscape. The road passes directly through Site D, with D19, D4, D5 and D7 being immediately adjacent to the road. D6 is offset by c140m. Woodland forms a distinctive feature of the horizons. For users, TR061 is a continuation of TR062. To the north, the Road connects to Honey Lane in Norton. To the south the road continues towards Hullavington (separate receptor) Type: Transport (Unclassified Unnumbered) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m to Lime Down Site D Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Road: Semi enclosed road from Norton towards Hullavington.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
Medium	Medium	Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down D. The road is adjacent to D4, D5, D6, D7 and D19. Views to these fields are restricted by roadside hedgerows and strong hedgerow vegetation to the field boundaries of the surrounding fields. However, there are some intermittent longer distance views across Site D from higher ground. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR061. Norton Road North West to Honey Lane, Norton				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be visible in the adjacent Sites D4, D5, D6, D7 and D19 beyond intervening roadside vegetation. Construction would also be visible in intermittent longer distant views across Site D from higher ground across the Gauze Brook. There would be a High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed green corridor along northern boundary of D6, proposed reinforced roadside screening alongside D4, D5, D6, D7 and D19 and further mitigation measures within Site D would have a limited effect initially. The level of change in views would remain High. Refer to photography for VP 35 and similar views from VP 36 -refer to photomontages.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of the array. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and be Neutral in nature. Refer to photography for VP 35 and similar views from VP 36 -refer to photomontages	Mitigation planting established screening of views into Site D. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)

TR061. Norton Road North West to Honey Lane, Norton

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TR062. Norton Road, Hullavington		
Baseline Context: Southern section of Road leading south towards Hullavington from Norton. The road is a semi enclosed by roadside hedgerows with glimpsed views to the wider landscape in places and at field entrance. Beyond roadside hedgerows and trees the landscape is characterised by an arable landscape of medium to large fields surrounded by hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees. To the northeast Bradfield wood on high ground is a feature of the landscape. There is a gently fall in the topography towards the Gauze Book. Here the road becomes more enclosed where it passes under the railway line with a number of residential properties either side of the road. Woodland forms a distinctive feature of the horizons. The road passes directly through Site D, with D5 and D7 being immediately adjacent to the road. For users, TR062 is a continuation of TR061. To the south, the Road connects to The Street towards Hullavington and the road towards the A429. To the north the road continues towards Norton (separate Receptor). Type: Transport (Unclassified Unnumbered) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m to Lime Down Site D Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Road: Part of road between Hullavington and Norton predominantly enclosed by roadside hedgerows.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
Medium	Medium	Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down D. At the northern end of the road, D5 and D7 are adjacent to the road beyond roadside hedgerows. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR062. Norton Road, Hullavington				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities would be visible in the adjacent Sites D5 and D7 beyond intervening roadside vegetation. Construction would also be visible in intermittent longer distant views across Site D to the north – D4 and D6. There would be a High level of change in views during construction.	Proposed reinforced roadside screening alongside D5 and D7 and further mitigation measures within Site D would have a limited effect initially. The level of change in views would remain Low.	By Year 15 mitigation planting would screen views of the array. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and be Neutral in nature.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into Site D. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)
TR062. Norton Road, Hullavington
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

7.3 Transport Receptors - Unclassified

Visual Baseline		
TR154. Road Junction at Southfields South East to Y Junction, Sherston		
Baseline Context: A short section of road through a flat arable landscape to the southeast of Sherston. The road is flanked by hedgerows either side and scattered mature trees which restrict views of the arable landscape beyond in places. To the south, roadside verges widen and there are more open views over arable fields divided by hedgerows which form wooded skylines on the horizon in the middle distance. To the north, the Road connects to an unnamed road the Bustlers Hill to the west. Type: Transport (Unclassified) Distance to Nearest Site: 6m Lime Down Site A Closest Settlement: Sherston Description of Road: Short section road to the southeast of Sherston with hedgerows and hedgerow tress		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) Medium	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down A. A4 and A5 are near the road to the south. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR154. Road Junction at Southfields South East to Y Junction, Sherston				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in A4 and A5 would be discernible beyond it's boundary hedgerows especially in winter. Views of construction of substation within A3 visible beyond A5. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be a Medium level of change in views during construction.	Proposed reinforced roadside screening to the eastern boundaries of A4 and A5 and hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Medium.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in A4 and A5 would screen views. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and be Neutral in nature.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into Site A. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Neutral	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)

TR154. Road Junction at Southfields South East to Y Junction, Sherston

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TR198. Down Road, Hullavington		
Baseline Context: Access road to Court Farm, northeast of Hullavington, traversing under the railway where it turns into a gravel track. It passes an unsecured compound with sheds on the left. Further north the track passes agricultural outhouses into an open arable fields. Views north and south are predominantly screened by hedgerow and mature trees along the track, with some views over the arable landscape within the valley of the Gauze Brook. Bradfield Wood is a feature of the landscape forming a wooded skyline to the north. To the southwest, the Road connects to The Street in Hullavington. To the northeast, the track connects to Bridleway (TP159) WT HULL 7. Type: Transport (Unclassified) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m Lime Down Site D Closest Settlement: Hullavington Description of Road: Road and track providing access to Court Farm, northeast of Hullavington, passing under the railway line before moving northeast to open countryside.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
Medium	Medium	Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down D. D15-D18 are near to the track. Beyond intervening vegetation. There are occasional views over the wide landscape to the northeast through gaps in hedgerows and field entrances. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR198. Down Road, Hullavington				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	Construction activities in D15-D17 and BESS in D18 would be discernible beyond well-established roadside hedgerows with occasional more open views through gaps in hedgerows and field entrances. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor and the access road to Site D. There would be a Medium level of change in views during construction.	Hedgerow enhancement to the boundaries of D15-D18 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor and access road would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Low.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in D15-D18 would predominantly screen views, including views of the BESS within D18. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and be Neutral in nature.	Mitigation planting established screening of views into Site D. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)
TR198. Down Road, Hullavington
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TR202. Honey Lane		
Baseline Context: Rural Lane from Norton towards Foxley Green running through an arable landscape. Leaving Norton there are residential buildings on both sides of the road, tight to the roadside, with high stone retaining walls where the landform rises, restricting views beyond. Further north, out of the valley, views open out to large arable fields divided by hedgerows. Hedgerows on the side of the road provide some screening and hedgerows to field boundaries form a wooded backdrop. This screening is intermittent, and there are occasional views across arable fields within Site B to the north and cross valley views to the south beyond roadside hedgerow vegetation. Road passes immediately south of Site B. Rural lane from the village of Norton to the southwest traversing northeast to an unnamed road to Foxley Green. Type: Transport (Unclassified) Distance to Nearest Site: 5m Lime Down Site B Closest Settlement: Norton Description of Road: Rural lane from Norton towards Foxley Green running through an arable landscape.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9) Medium	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10) Medium	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11) Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down B. B9 - B12 are at varying distances to the lane with intermittent visibility beyond roadside hedgerow vegetation. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)

TR202. Honey Lane				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in B12. Construction activities in B9 and B10 and to a lesser extent B11 would be visible in intermittent, near and mid distance views, beyond roadside hedgerow vegetation. Construction activities within B10 would be visible immediately north of the middle section of road. There would be a High level of change in views during construction.	Reinforced roadside screening to the southern boundary of B10, hedgerow reinforcement along the eastern boundaries of B10 and B11 along with the new hedgerow to the southeastern boundary of B9 would have a limited effect initially. The level of change in views would remain High.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in B9 – B12 would predominantly screen views The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low.	Mitigation planting established, mostly screening views into Site B. Views of decommissioning activity predominantly screened. Removal of panels would cause minor change to views.
Magnitude of Change	High	High	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Major / Moderate (Significant)	Minor	Minor

Cumulative Site Assessment

Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)

TR202. Honey Lane

Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

Visual Baseline		
TR245. Rodbourne Track North Crossing Over Railway towards Village from Lower Stanton S, Rodbourne		
Baseline Context: Track crossing over the railway line towards Lower Stanton Road. To the north the track is enclosed by tall hedgerows to both sides which provides a wooded character with occasional glimpsed views to arable fields beyond. On crossing the railway line there are open cross valley views to the south from its elevated location. Views are of medium to large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows which form wooded skylines. Bincombe Wood to the southwest is a feature of the landscape. The track falls towards a small stream which is enclosed by woodland and hedgerows which encloses the track and restricts views. Track passes directly alongside E6, E7, E8 and E9. To the north, the Road connects to Rodbourne Road. Type: Transport (Unclassified) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m Lime Down Site E Closest Settlement: Rodbourne Bottom Description of Road: Track crossing over the railway line towards Lower Stanton Road from higher ground near Rodbourne.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
Medium	Medium	Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down E. E6, E7 and E8 are in close proximity beyond intervening boundary hedgerows. There are views southwest from the railway bridge to E9, E11 and E12 on rising land. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR245. Rodbourne Track North Crossing Over Railway towards Village from Lower Stanton S, Rodbourne				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in E7, E9 and E10. Construction activities in E6 (132kw substation) would be visible beyond intermittent intervening boundary vegetation. Construction activities in E12 on rising land would be visible above boundary vegetation. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor and the access track to Site E There would be a Medium level of change in views during construction.	Reinforced roadside screening to the boundaries of E6, combined with hedgerow enhancement in E12 and new woodland in E7, E9 and E10 would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Medium. Refer to photography for VP 48 and 49.	By Year 15 mitigation planting in E6 and E12 and new woodland in E7, E9 and E10 would predominantly screen views. View to the upper sections of E11 may still be possible. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low. Refer to photography for VP 48 and 49.	Mitigation planting established mostly screening views into Site E. Views of decommissioning activity predominantly screened. Removal of panels would cause limited change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment
Cumulative Site effects are as outlined above as no visibility with other Lime Down Sites

Visual Assessment (Cumulative)
TR245. Rodbourne Track North Crossing Over Railway towards Village from Lower Stanton S, Rodbourne
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)
No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.

7.4 Transport Receptors - Unknown

Visual Baseline		
TR145. Fosse Way		
Baseline Context: Section of road on southern part of part of the Fosse Way, a Roman road built during the first and second centuries AD between Exeter and Lincoln. It is very straight and within the Study Area is made up of sections of unsurfaced BOAT and surfaced roads. The Fosse Way turns into a track (Byway WT SHER 37) to the north, extending as a road for a short distance, and Byway WT GRIT 6 to the south. At the intersection of Lordswood Farm the Fosse Way is a tarmac road with hedges on both sides and mature trees, allowing views in both directions over grassland fields. To the south, Fosse Way continues with hedgerows on both roadsides and mature trees. Woodland can be seen on the horizon. The topography along the Fosse Way rises and falls as it crosses a number of small streams but is generally on higher flatter land. Views are predominantly enclosed by hedgerows but there are some longer views over the arable landscape from higher ground fields, bounded in the background by dense woodland, limiting views beyond. To the north, the Road connects to BOAT WT SHER 37 and Sherston Road. To the south, the Road connects to BOAT WT GRIT 6 and Alderton Road. Type: Transport (Unknown) Distance to Nearest Site: 0m Lime Down Site C and Lime Down B Closest Settlement: Grittleton to the south, Foxley to the north. Description of Road: Partially enclosed Byway forming part of the historic Fosse Way connecting to a wider network of Footpaths.		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor Value (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.9)	Receptor Susceptibility (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.10)	Receptor Sensitivity (Refer to Volume 3, Appendix 8.1 LVIA Methodology, Table 8.1.1.11)
High	Medium	High to Medium
Initial Assessment: Road assessed within the context of Lime Down C. The undulating topography along the route allows views over the landscape to adjacent fields C24-C27 to the east, C11, C12 and C23 to the west and C13 and 14 to the south. To the very north a short section of road is adjacent to B6. Carry forward into further assessment. YES		

Visual Assessment (Scheme)				
TR145. Fosse Way				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	No panels are proposed in C24, C25, C26 and C27 to the east and C10 and C13 to the south, as such there would be no near views of construction activities in these parcels. There would be various views of construction underway within C22, C23, C11 and C12, to the west and C14 to the south. There would also be short term temporary works associated with the cable route corridor. There would be a Medium level of change in views during construction.	Hedgerow reinforcement planting along the Fosse Way and further hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with cable route corridor would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Medium. Refer to photography for VP 15, 22-25 and photomontages for VP 14.	By Year 15 mitigation planting alongside Fosse Way would predominantly screen views of array. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low. Refer to photography for VP 15, 22-25 and photomontages for VP 14.	Mitigation planting established screening views into Site C. Views of decommissioning activity screened. Removal of panels would cause no change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	None
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	None
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Minor	No effect

Cumulative Site Assessment				
TR145. Fosse Way				
Point of Assessment	Construction	Operation – Year 1	Operation – Year 15	Decommissioning
Description	There would be views of construction underway in B6 adjacent to the northern end of the Fosse Way, beyond intervening hedgerow vegetation. Construction activities associated with the access road in Site B which runs parallel to the Fosse Way would be discernible beyond intervening vegetation. It is set back 95 m from the Fosse Way. Distant views towards the 400kw substation in D22 are predominantly screened by intervening hedgerows. There would be a Very Low level of change in views during construction, and the level of change would be as assessed for Site C above.	Hedgerow reinforcement planting along the boundary of B6 and further hedgerow enhancement to internal boundaries would have a limited effect initially. Any necessary hedgerow removal associated with access track would be replaced and include gapping up of adjacent hedgerows as defined in the OLEMP. The level of change in views would remain Very Low and the level of change would be as assessed for Site C above. Refer to photomontages for VP 14 and similar views from CNL F	By Year 15 mitigation in B6 planting alongside Fosse Way would screen views of array. The level of change in views would reduce to Very Low and would be Neutral in nature and would no higher than assessed for Site C above. Refer to photomontages for VP 14 and similar views from CNL F.	Mitigation planting established screening views in B6. Views of decommissioning activity screened. On decommissioning the access road is likely to be removed and the land returned to its baseline condition. Decommissioning would have a Very Low level of change to views.
Magnitude of Change	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Very Low
Type of Effect	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate (Significant)	Moderate / Minor	Moderate / Minor
Visual Assessment (Cumulative)				
TR145. Fosse Way				
Cumulative Effects (Cumulative Developments)				

No intervisibility with Cumulative Sites. No potential Effects identified at any point of Assessment – Construction Phase, Operation Phase (Year 1 & Year 15) and Decommissioning Phase.