WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.7 Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual

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7.2	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology
7.3	Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment
7.4	Representative Viewpoint Assessment

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Cable Corridors	Corridors within which the high voltage cable would be constructed.
Digital Surface Model	Referring to a digital topographical model of the landform including buildings and vegetation that may screen views.
Digital Terrain Model	Referring to a digital topographic model of the landform that excludes buildings and vegetation.
Draft Environmental Statement (ES)	Draft Environmental Statement which presented the preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The Draft ES was prepared to present information for statutory consultation in accordance with current EIA regulation.
Environment Statement (ES)	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information for formal consultation in accordance with current EIA regulation.
Long Lane 400kV Substation	The new 400 kilovolt substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 5LW.
Photomontage	Where the Proposed Development model is superimposed onto existing baseline photography in accordance with TGN 06/19.

Term	Meaning
Order Limits	Maximum extent of the Proposed Development comprising the Site and Cable Corridors.
Summer View	Views during the summer month when vegetation is in full leaf and views would have maximum levels of screening by vegetation.
The Applicant	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd
The Application	The Application submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
The Proposed Development	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.
The Site	The land planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS substation, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
Winter View	Views during the winter months when vegetation is devoid of leaves and views would have minimum levels of screening by vegetation.
W1	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
W2	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
W3	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	Digitally produced viewshed mapping which illustrates the theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development within the Study Area.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AGL	Above Ground Level
AHLV	Area of High Landscape Value
AIA	Arboriculture Impact Assessment
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
ASLV	Area of Special Landscape Value
BDC	Bolsover District Council
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BGL	Below Ground Level
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
CA	Conservation Area
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CDC	City of Doncaster Council
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England

Acronym	Meaning
CR	Cable Route
CRT	Canal and River Trust
DCC	Derbyshire County Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
DSM	Digital Surface Model
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELC	European Landscape Convention
ES	Environmental Statement
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicles
ILP	Institute of Lighting Professionals
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LIDAR	Light Detecting and Ranging
LITGN	Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note
LDWA	Long Distance Walking Association
LDWP	Long Distance Walking Path
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NEDDC	North East Derbyshire District Council
NCA	National Character Area
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
oCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
oDEMP	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
oLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
oPRoWMP	Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan
PCS	Power Conversion Station
PIR	Passive Infra-Red

Acronym	Meaning
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TGN	Technical Guidance Note
TPP	Tree Protection Plan
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
W1	Whitestone 1
W2	Whitestone 2
W3	Whitestone 3
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Units	Meaning
ha	Hectares
km	Kilometre
kV	Kilovolt
m	Metre
MW	Megawatt

7 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) evaluates the likely significant effects of the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of Whitestone Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) on the landscape as a resource and the views and visual amenity of people. The Proposed Development is described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**.

Order Limits

7.1.2 The extent of the Order Limits is described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]** and shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.1: Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The Proposed Development is described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]** and shown spatially on the **Works Plans [EN0110020/APP/2.3]**.

The Proposed Development

7.1.3 The Proposed Development involves the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of more than 100 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) array, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onsite substations and supporting infrastructure, and grid connection infrastructure. The grid connection infrastructure would connect the Proposed Development to the National Grid at the new 400 kilovolt (kV) National Grid substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth, S60 4JJ (Long Lane 400kV Substation). National Grid has applied to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) for the development of this new substation which is intended by National Grid to be operational in time for the Proposed Development to connect in 2029. This substation is therefore not included in the Proposed Development.

7.1.4 As the Proposed Development would have a generating capacity in excess of 100MW, it is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008.

7.1.5 The Proposed Development would be located within the Order Limits. The Order Limits encompass the total area of the Proposed Development comprising the Site and Cable Corridors. The Site is specifically the land that is planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS, substation, landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into Whitestone 1 (W1), Whitestone 2 (W2), and Whitestone 3 (W3).

7.1.6 Highway Works are sections of the highway network that will contain localised improvements, such as improvements to road edge where it is deteriorated, or temporary highway and traffic works required to safely accommodate the Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) deliveries. These areas will support the movement of construction vehicles on narrower sections of the local highway network within parts of the construction vehicle routes to the Site (as described in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]**)

7.1.7 This Chapter includes the following sections:

- Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
- Consultation
- Assessment Methodology
- Baseline
- Embedded Mitigation
- Assessment of Effects
- Additional Mitigation and Residual Effects; and
- Cumulative Effects.

7.1.8 This Chapter is supported by the following figures in **ES Volume 3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**:

- **Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits**
- **Figure 7.2: Cable Corridor Study Area**
- **Figure 7.3: Landscape Designations**
- **Figure 7.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Overview**
- **Figure 7.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Whitestone 1**
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- **Figure 7.4.4: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors with ZTV – W1**
- **Figure 7.4.5: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors with ZTV – W2**
- **Figure 7.4.6: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors with ZTV – W3;** and
- **Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints.**

7.1.9 This Chapter is supported by the following appendices provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**:

- **Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Technical Guidance**
- **Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**
- **Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment;** and

- **Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment.**

7.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

7.2.1 The legislation, policy, and guidance related to landscape and visual, as detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**, and relevant to the Proposed Development, are outlined below.

Legislation

7.2.2 Legislation that has been considered in the undertaking of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) includes:

- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017[1]
- European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Council of Europe, 2004 as Amended by the 2016 Protocol)[2]
- The Planning Act, 2008[3]
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012[4]
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997[5]
- Environment Act 2021[6]
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000[7]; and
- National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949[8].

National Planning Policy

7.2.3 National planning policy that has been considered in the undertaking of the LVIA includes:

- Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1) (2025)[9]
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)[10]
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025),[11]; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024[12].

7.2.4 It should be noted that impacts on the Greenbelt are not considered in this assessment but are reported on in **Appendix 2: Greenbelt Assessment** of the **Planning Statement [EN0110020/APP/5.4]**.

Local Planning Policy

7.2.5 Local planning policy that has been considered in the undertaking of the LVIA includes:

- The City of Doncaster Local Plan[13] ('Doncaster Local Plan 2015 - 2035') (adopted 2021)
- North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) North East Derbyshire Local Plan 2014 [14]– 2034 (adopted 2021)

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Core Strategy 2013 - 2028[15] (2014)
- Rotherham Local Plan (2018) Sites and Policies[16]
- Rotherham Local Plan Core Strategy 2013 - 2028[17] (2028 Five Year review);
- Maltby Neighbourhood Plan 2017 - 2028[18]; and
- Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2028[19].

7.2.6 Derbyshire County Council do not have their own plan but defer to the relevant district council plans.

Planning Practice Guidance

7.2.7 Supporting planning practice guidance that has been considered in the undertaking of the LVIA includes:

- Natural Environment (Landscape)[20], (Updated June 2025); and
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy[21] (Updated August 2023).

Technical Guidance

7.2.8 Technical guidance that has been considered in the undertaking of the LVIA includes:

- National Infrastructure Commission Design Group, (2020) Design Principles for National Infrastructure[22]
- Natural England (October 2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment[23]
- Natural England (June 2019) An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management[24]
- The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (April 2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition
- The Landscape Institute. (September 2019) Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06 / 19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals[25]
- The Landscape Institute (September 2020) TGN 04/2020 Infrastructure[26]
- The Landscape Institute (May 2021) TGN 02 – 21 Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations[27]
- The Landscape Institute (August 2024) LITGN – 2024 – 01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)[28]; and
- The Landscape Institute (March 2019) TGN 02/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)[29].

7.2.9 Further detailed information regarding the above legislation, policy and guidance can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.3 Consultation

7.3.1 This section provides a summary of the consultation undertaken to date in relation to Landscape and Visual matters to the Proposed Development.

EIA Scoping: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

7.3.2 A Scoping Opinion was sought from the Planning Inspectorate to determine the content of the assessment, as well as the approach and methods to be used. The outcomes of this exercise were documented in the Scoping Report (**ES Volume 3 Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**), which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 April 2025. The Scoping Report captures the findings of the scoping exercise and outlines the technical guidance, standards, best practices, and criteria to be applied in the assessment to identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Landscape and Visual Impact.

7.3.3 A Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 3 June 2025 (**ES Volume 3 Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**).

7.3.4 **Table 7-1** summarises how this Chapter of the ES addresses key points from the EIA Scoping Opinion comments related to Landscape and Visual Impact.

Table 7-1 Scoping Opinion Comments and how they are Addressed in this ES

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.1: Landscape Subject to Statutory Landscape Designation – All Phases** *"The Scoping Report proposes to scope out statutory landscape designation as no National Parks or National Landscapes are located within or near to the Site. The Inspectorate agrees that, in the absence of any nationally designated landscapes such as National Parks or National Landscapes within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, this matter can be scoped out."*	The comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate are acknowledged by the Applicant and both National Parks and National Landscapes are scoped out of assessment.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.2: Landscape Subject to Non-Statutory / Local Landscape Designation – All Phases:** *"The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that there are no local landscape designations within the Site. Paragraph 8.3.29 states that there are number of local designations within the Study Area. No evidence has been provided to suggest that the Proposed Development will not have significant effects on non-statutory/ local landscape designations located within the Study Area. As such, the Inspectorate is currently not in a position to scope this matter out. The ES should assess any significant effects to non-statutory/ local landscape designations*	RMBC have confirmed in their Scoping Opinion response **(ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20])** and during further consultation that the Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV) designation is no longer a valid non-statutory local landscape designation. Additionally, the City of Doncaster Council (CDC) confirmed in their Scoping Opinion response (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20])** the Area of Special Landscape Value (ASLV) is no longer a valid non-statutory local landscape designation. However, CDC has stated that local landscape	Local non-statutory landscape designations have been considered within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20].**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	or provide evidence to demonstrate the absence of LSE including agreement with relevant consultation bodies."	considerations should be scoped in. The LVIA within the ES has considered the ASLV designation in relation to determining landscape value within the assessment. In relation to other non-statutory designations, these have been considered while determining the value of Landscape and Visual Receptors within the LVIA for this ES. Assessment of impacts on historic designations have been included within **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8].**	
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.3: Local Landscape Character Areas Outside of the Study Area:** *"As the Study Area is determined to be the array areas only (Scoping Report Figure 8.1 and paragraphs 8.3.15 to 8.3.18; Please see IDs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of this Scoping Opinion), this does not take into consideration potential effects from the Cable Corridors Options and the associated Study Area. In the absence of the above information and any evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters from the assessment. Accordingly, the ES should include an assessment of*	Landscape Character Areas (LCA) within the Study Area have been assessed. Cable Corridors have a 0.5km Study Area as set out within the Study Area and within (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Report [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**), and as agreed within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and an assessment of construction impacts upon LCAs has been undertaken in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.	The Cable Corridor Study Areas are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.2: Cable Corridor Study Area [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.8: ZTV Cable Corridor [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** shows the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Cable Corridor. The LCAs are set out on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	these matters, or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of a LSE."	The LVIA has identified that impacts resulting from the Cable Corridor upon LCAs and visual receptors would be temporary and of a short duration during the construction phase and unlikely to result in a Significant effect.	**Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The assessment of the impacts on LCA's is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and the assessment of visual impacts is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.4: Visual Receptors using Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the Site Boundary During Construction and Decommissioning:** *"The Inspectorate agrees to scope this matter out on the basis that PRoWs which cross the Site would be temporarily closed during the construction and decommissioning phases. However, impacts from the closure of these PRoWs*	The comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate are acknowledged by the Applicant. Subsequent to scoping, impacts on PRoWs which would be temporarily diverted during construction and decommissioning have been assessed within this Chapter in addition to **ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]** and **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation**	**ES Volume 2, Chapter 13: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.13]** and **ES Volume 2, Chapter 15: Socioeconomics and Land Use [EN0110020/APP/6.15].**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	should be assessed in the relevant chapters of the ES."	**and Land Use [EN0110020/APP/6.15]** which address access and recreation aspects. An **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.14]** has been submitted with the Application sets out any proposed mitigation required to mitigate the impacts of the potential interactions between construction traffic and users of the PRoWs.	
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.5: Visual Receptors: Users of PRoWs or Other Outdoor Locations within the Study Area where the ZTV Demonstrates no Visibility During Construction, Operation and Decommissioning:** *"The Inspectorate agrees that where the ZTV demonstrates no visibility with visual receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning that these receptors can be scoped out. However, the ZTV presented in the ES to support scoping out receptors with no visibility of the Proposed Development should be based on the development as a whole (including the Cable Corridor Options) and any evidence of agreement on the ZTV with consultees should be provided."*	The comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate are acknowledged by the Applicant. The effects associated with the construction impacts upon Landscape and Visual Receptors for the Cable Corridors have been assessed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** of this ES. Agreement on the proposed viewpoints was sought with RMBC and CDC as set out in **Table 7-4**.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. Consultation on viewpoints is set out within **Table 7-4** of this Chapter.

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.6: Visual Receptors at Public Locations Outside of the Study Area:** *"The Inspectorate agrees that where visual receptors at public locations outside of the Study Area have no visibility of the Proposed Development (including long distance views), these matters may be scoped out of further assessment; the Study Area should be based on an appropriate ZTV of the development as a whole (Please see ID 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of this Scoping Opinion in relation to appropriate Study Areas)."*	The comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate are acknowledged by the Applicant. The effects associated with the construction impacts upon Landscape and Visual Receptors for the Cable Corridors have been assessed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.7: Visual Receptors: Workers in Nearby Buildings and Outdoor Locations within the Study Area** *"The Scoping Report proposes to scope out these receptors in the LVIA on the basis that workers are unlikely to be focused upon views and any adverse effects upon their view would not be significant. The Inspectorate agrees that impacts on these receptors are not likely to result in significant effects and can be scoped out of further assessment."*	The comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate are acknowledged by the Applicant and this topic is not considered in this assessment.	N/A
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.8: Cumulative Effects of Similar Developments without Intervisibility or Outside of the Study Area:**	The LVIA has included an assessment of similar energy generation / infrastructure development types and identified where Significant effects are likely to arise.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline Assessment**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	"The Applicant proposes to scope out an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects for development that is located beyond the Study Area or without intervisibility. The Inspectorate considers that there is potential for effects on receptors where the ZTVs of the Proposed Development and a cumulative scheme overlap rather than where two cumulative schemes have intervisibility or is located within the Study Area presented in Figure 8.1 (which also excludes the Cable Corridors Options). On this basis, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The ES should present an appropriate methodology for identifying and assessing cumulative LVIA effects and provide an assessment of effects where they are likely to be significant or provide evidence to demonstrate the absence of LSE including agreement with relevant consultation bodies."		**[EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.9: Night-Time and / or Lighting Effects:** *"The Scoping Report states that lighting effects during construction would be temporary and minimal. Furthermore, operational lighting would be motion-activated and directed into the compounds. No information on potentially affected receptors has been provided in the Scoping*	Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. However, it would be installed in the primary and satellite substation compounds and the BESS and would be used only as needed for maintenance and security purposes. All lighting would be manually operated on the rare occasion of a night-time visit or PIR motion activated and directed into the	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5].**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	Report. The Scoping Report also identifies that there would be short periods of 24-hour construction lighting i.e. during trenchless crossings. It is not explained why this would not lead to LSEs. The ES should explain the construction and operational lighting strategy and how the lighting design has been developed to minimise light spill and the effect of intermittent lighting on receptors. The ES should provide an assessment of lighting effects during construction, operation and decommissioning, including a night-time assessment, or the information required to demonstrate the absence of a LSE."	compounds, avoiding hedgerows, tree lines, woodland blocks, watercourses, ponds, and other areas to minimise impact on nocturnal or crepuscular fauna and potential sensitive residential receptors The specification of this lighting will comply with best practice and in line with the Institute of Lighting Professionals (ILP) guidance[30] Consequently, light spill effects are not expected, and night-time effects have not been considered as part of the assessment. Further details of the proposed lighting during operation of the Proposed Development can be found in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**. A review of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), Character of the Night Sky Online mapping has been undertaken along with the visual night-time baseline and has been included in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.	
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.10: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) for Properties**	As part of the design process through to the final LVIA and ES, residential	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	within 250m of the Proposed Development – Construction and Decommissioning Phases and RVAA for Properties Beyond 250m from the Proposed Development: *"The Scoping Report proposes to scope this matter out on the basis that construction and decommissioning impacts would be for a short duration and the Proposed Development would be comprised of structures of relatively low height that are not located in close proximity to residential receptors. The Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out. The Inspectorate understands that in the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note TGN 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment' the requirement for an RVAA is generally dependent on the outcome of a LVIA. The need for an RVAA should be justified based on the conclusions of the LVIA presented in the ES and agreed with the relevant consultation bodies. In the absence of an LVIA for the construction and decommissioning phases, the Inspectorate does not have sufficient evidence to agree to scope this matter out of further assessment."*	properties in proximity to the Proposed Development have been identified within **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 to 7.4.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. As part of the embedded mitigation for the Proposed Development a minimum 250m offset to the BESS and substations has been included from the outer edge of the property boundary. The solar arrays have also been set back from residential properties as part of the iterative design process. The setback distance to properties varies and is based on an evaluation of the likely changes to views and the need for a suitable separation so as not to result in an overbearing effect on the views and visual amenity experienced from a property during both the construction and decommissioning phases, noting that at decommissioning visual effects would be further reduced by the maturation of the mitigation planting. Details of the mitigation planting are provided in the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** submitted with the Application and secured by requirement 7 of the **Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)**	**Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4].**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
		[EN0110020/APP/3.1], which guides the management of existing vegetation and establishment of the proposed new planting to provide mitigation. The design principles for the Proposed Development are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4].**	
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.11: Study Area of Cable Corridor Options:** *"The Scoping Report proposes a 0.5km Study Area from the outer boundary of the Cable Corridor Options on the basis that the cabling construction would be localised, temporary and short in duration. The ES should demonstrate any agreement with the relevant consultation bodies on this Study Area and explain if/where this accords with guidance or if not, explain the reason for this."*	The purpose of the Study Area is to identify a geographic area around the Proposed Development (including the Cable Corridor) which is likely to experience Significant landscape and visual effects, and which is proportionate to the Proposed Development. The proposed Cable Corridors will be situated underground, with no above ground elements, thereby limiting impacts primarily to the construction and decommissioning phases. As a result, these effects are anticipated to be short-term and temporary. Consequently, the likely area of impact during the construction phase will be contained within a radius of 0.5km, which aligns with the Cable Corridor Study Area deemed appropriate for this assessment as set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Report**	**ES Volume 3, Figures 7.2: Cable Corridor Study Area [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.8: ZTV Cable Corridors [EN0110020/APP/6.19].**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
		[EN0110020/APP/6.20], and as agreed within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.	
The Planning Inspectorate	**ID 3.2.12: Viewpoints:** *"The Scoping Report states that the proposed viewpoints would be subject to further refinement and agreement with the relevant stakeholders. The Inspectorate advises that the ES should include confirmation of the consultation undertaken, together with evidence of agreement about the final viewpoint selection. Where any disagreement remains, an explanation as to how the final selection was made should be provided. Viewpoint locations should be identified on a figure within the ES. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments from Bolsover District Council (BDC), Canal and River Trust, Ravenfield Parish Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) (Appendix 2 of this Opinion) requesting for additional viewpoints."*	Consultation has been carried out with CDC and RMBC to determine the suitability of the selected Representative Viewpoints as set out in **Table 7-4**. Where alternative / additional Representative Viewpoints were requested in the Scoping Opinion, these have been incorporated into the assessment provided in the LVIA of this ES, these include viewpoints requested by Bolsover District Council (BDC), Canal and River Trust, Ravenfield Parish Council.	**ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W1 to W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19].**
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	The Sites and Policies Document or SPD14; Trees have not been acknowledged. ZTV – eye height to be in accordance with GLVIA3 guidance.	The Sites and Policies Document and Supplementary Planning Document have been considered in Section 7.2 of this Chapter. The additional viewpoints recommended by RMBC were considered and agreed	Policy is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	Additional viewpoints requested. Errors and inconsistencies identified in relation to LCA Additional greenspace layers and PRoW to be added AHLV – no longer a local landscape designation.	during further consultation. These are set out in **Table 7-4** in this Chapter and have been considered in the LVIA of this ES. The ZTV has been run at 1.6m eye height in accordance with GLVIA3 guidance to establish the potential worst-case scenario for theoretical visibility. The LCA assessed in the LVIA has been updated to reflect the sub areas as identified by RMBC. PRoW have been included in the **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 to 7.4.6 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** PRoWs have been added to figures and considered in this assessment. It is noted that the AHLV designation is no longer a valid non-statutory local landscape designation.	Additional viewpoints are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W1 to W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The revised ZTV is presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4 to 7.10 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. Updated LCA are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**
Ravenfield Parish Council	Request additional viewpoints within W1	Consultation has been carried out with RMBC to determine the suitability of the selected Representative Viewpoints. The Representative viewpoints cover the range of receptors likely to experience Significant visual effects and have been assessed in the LVIA. Viewpoint 65 has been included as requested by Ravenfield Parish Council.	Viewpoints are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W1 to W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
Natural England	*"The LVIA should refer to National Character Areas (NCA) and Local Landscape Character Assessments"*	The LVIA has considered the published LCA assessments. Following review of the National Character Areas and consideration of the extents of the Proposed Development within these, assessment of NCAs has been scoped out of this assessment. The rationale is explained in **Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.	NCA are set out in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. Local Landscape character areas are set out in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The potential effects on NCA and LCAs are set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
City of Doncaster Council (CDC)	Night-time effects during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning are proposed to be scoped out. The justification given for this being that any lighting during the Construction and Decommissioning phases would be *"minimal and temporary"* and that during the operational phase, there would be no continuous lighting. CDC would question this. Whilst the Construction phase	The LVIA has considered local landscape considerations in relation to determining the landscape value and associated sensitivity to change within the assessment. This includes consideration of previous Areas of High Landscape Value and Areas of Special Landscape Value where these had been identified in development plans.	Value considerations for landscape receptors are set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. Further details of the proposed lighting can be found in **ES Volume 1,**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	will be temporary, this will still be ongoing for many months and lighting would undoubtedly be utilised for the duration of this period for reasons of health and safety and site security. Consideration should therefore be given to scoping this into the EIA. The Site is contained within an area identified in the Doncaster Landscape Character and Capacity Assessment Study as an 'Area of Special Landscape Value', which seeks to preserve the most highly valued landscapes of the Borough. These are indicators of landscape value, not character and were used to inform previous Unitary Development Plan 'UDP' policies at the time. Whilst the UDP has since been superseded by Doncaster's Local Plan (2021), Policy 33 of the Local Plan is a strategic landscape policy that references Doncaster's Landscape Character and Capacity Studies as being relevant (paragraph 10.54), which requires consideration to be given to development and landscape impacts. CDC would therefore advise that consideration should be given to scoping in local	Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. However, it would be installed in the primary and satellite substation compounds and the BESS location and would be used only as needed for maintenance and security purposes. All lighting would be manually operated and directed into the compounds, avoiding hedgerows, tree lines, woodland blocks, watercourses, ponds, and other areas to minimise impact on nocturnal or crepuscular fauna and potential sensitive residential receptors. Night-time effects are scoped out as operational lighting would be rarely used, directional, manually operated, oriented internally away from surrounding environment, and fitted with measures to minimise light spillage. In this regard lighting is unlikely to give rise to a Significant Adverse effect on either landscape or visual receptors. During construction, work be primarily during daylight hours with no overnight lighting except during exceptional occasions when 24hr working is required, such as trenchless installations.	**Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]** and will also be reported in the **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** that will be included as part of the ES

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	landscape considerations as part of the EIA.		
Canal & River Trust (CRT)	*"We suggest an additional viewpoint should be provided to capture open views towards the proposals from the northern area of the reservoir's water space and the north surrounding pathways."* *"Assessment of the impact on viewpoints during the winter months."* Viewpoint 49 would benefit from a visualisation.	Viewpoint 49 has been included as requested and is located at the northern end of the reservoir to capture the open view towards the Proposed Development. Views from Viewpoint 49 have been captured in winter. The LVIA of this ES considers both winter and summer changing of visibility. Viewpoint 49 is included in the LVIA as a photowire only.	Viewpoint 49 is illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The winter view to Viewpoint 49 is illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.46: Representative Viewpoint 49 Woodall Lane, Harthill (West) & Harthill Footpath No.3 PRoW at Harthil Reservoir [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. The assessment presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** considers both winter and summer conditions.
Bolsover District Council	Viewpoints to be included from Barlborough Hall and also within the Registered Park and Garden and Conservation Area (CA). *"We consider that a further viewpoint should be included from the rear garden area of*	A viewpoint has not been included from within the Pebley Inn or its grounds as is it is not publicly owned and is private land. However, Viewpoint 52 has been included and is situated 500m to the	The viewpoints are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV –**

Consultee	Issue Raised	How is This Addressed	Where This is Addressed in the ES
	the nearby Pebley Inn as shown on the attached plan, given the Site would be readily visible from this site by visiting members of the public."	north west provides representative views from those visiting Pebley Inn. Viewpoint 66 situated 500m south provides representative views from Barlborough Hall Registered Park and Garden and Conservation Area. The assessment of the potential effects on heritage assets is set out in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8].**	**W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and representative views on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.49: Representative Viewpoint 52 Pebleygrove Farm & Barlborough Footpath N0.22 PRoW [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.60: Representative Viewpoint 66 Barlborough Hall & Barlborough Footpath No.21 PRoW [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Issues Scoped Out of the Assessment

7.3.5 Following the scoping exercise, some elements were scoped out of assessment in this LVIA. **Table 7-2** presents the elements scoped out of the LVIA.

Table 7-2 Issues Scoped Out of Assessment

Potential Effect / Topic	Development Phase	Rationale
National Character Areas	Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning.	The geographical scale of these landscapes is too large in extent in comparison to the Proposed Development to be considered relevant i.e. they are of such broad scale that their defining features and characteristics are unlikely to be compromised by the Proposed Development, and they provide limited detail pertaining to the local changes in landscape character.
Effects upon Statutory and Local Landscape Designations	Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning.	There are no statutory or relevant local landscape designations within the Study Area likely to experience LSE.
Landscape Character effects resulting from Cable Corridors	Operation (including maintenance).	The Proposed Development Cable Corridors would be underground and where vegetation may be removed for construction these would not result in LSE at operation (following re-instatement). Construction and decommissioning effects upon LCAs have been included in the LVIA of this ES.
Visual effects resulting from Cable Corridors	Operation (including maintenance).	The Proposed Development Cable Corridors would be underground and would not be visible at operation. Where vegetation may be removed for construction, this removal would not result in LSE at operation (following re-instatement). Construction and decommissioning effects upon visual receptors have been included in the LVIA of this ES.
Visual effects on train users	Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning.	The ZTV demonstrates no visibility from railway lines during construction, operation and decommissioning. Furthermore, due to the transitory, short duration nature of any potential views and

Potential Effect / Topic	Development Phase	Rationale
		only of a small part of the Proposed Development being visible, if at all, no LSEs are predicted on train passengers.
Night-time/hours of darkness effects on landscape and visual receptors	Construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning.	The solar arrays would be unlit. Night-time effects are scoped out as operational lighting would be directional, manually operated, oriented internally away from surrounding environment, and fitted with measures to minimise light spillage. In this regard the lighting is unlikely to give to Significant Adverse effects on the character of the landscape and the views and visual amenity of people during the hours of darkness.

Statutory Consultation

7.3.6 A Statutory Consultation period was held between 16 September and 28 October 2025 in line with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. Feedback was sought from the local community and a range of consultee bodies based on the preliminary information and assessments presented in the Draft ES.

7.3.7 **Table 7-3** presents feedback from statutory consultees given at Statutory Consultation, and how this is addressed in this ES.

Table 7-3 Statutory Consultation Feedback from the Statutory Consultation Period

Consultee	Consultee Feedback	How This is Addressed in This ES	Where This is Addressed in This ES
City of Doncaster Council (CDC)	On Landscape and Visual matters CDC provided the following. In respect of Area A1, the Doncaster Landscape Character Area and Capacity Assessment Study identifies that this is a simple, intact historic landscape designated as an Area of Special Landscape Value. It is a strongly rural and in places tranquil landscape due in part to the lack of roads. Overall, the landscape value and quality are considered to be high. Similarly, the landscape of Area C1 is described within the Council's assessment as being distinctive, intact and of a high quality, and also an Area of Special Landscape Value. In both cases, the landscape strategy of the Council is to **conserve**. When having regard to the national policy requirements set out above, CDC submits that the special landscape character of Whitestone 1 is a fundamental and overriding consideration that should ultimately preclude the inclusion of it within the Order Limits in totality. This special character has not been attributed sufficiently high status in the assessments that have taken place to	CDC's comments and views are noted. Subsequent to CDC's comments a design review of the Proposed Development has been undertaken and reductions to W1 have been made in addition to revisions to the mitigation proposals including the removal of the area to the immediate south of the Clifton Reservoir and beyond towards the M18, further set back from Clifton on the west and where possible avoidance of 'encircling' of residential areas by solar panels. The design and associated mitigation proposals to W2 and W3 have also been updated in order to reduce potential effects on sensitive landscape and visual receptors. Details of buffers of infrastructure from receptors are provided in **Outline Design Parameters [EN0110020/APP/7.3].** Details on access points for construction and operational traffic are included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.10].**	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. The design changes to the Proposed Development including those made to W1 are described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]** Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints** **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Traffic and Transport [EN0110020/APP/6.10]**.

	date, and this results in an inherent failing in the subsequent conclusions drawn. Moreover, it appears that the viewpoints relied upon to undertake the assessment have been selected specifically in an attempt to downplay this special landscape character. CDC considers that the Applicant has significantly downplayed the importance of the landscape character of Whitestone 1, seeking to rely on the fact that it does not fall within any statutory landscape designation and that the Area of Special Landscape Value is not subject to a current local plan policy that would hold any planning weight. This is an altogether disingenuous approach. The Doncaster Landscape Character Area and Capacity Assessment is an important evidence base that was used in the formulation of relevant Local Plan policies. It is specifically referred to under key policies of the Local Plan i.e. Policy 41 Character and Local Distinctiveness (Strategic Policy) (see explanatory paragraph 12.6 to Policy 41). The fact remains that the area is inherently prized for its landscape characteristics precisely because of its	Fencing requirements for the Proposed Development are considered in this assessment and illustrated where relevant in the visualisations provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. We note CDC's reference to tranquillity of the landscape. Where tranquillity is an important baseline characteristic or quality of a LCA, effects are considered as part of the assessment of the LCA. However, there is no published guidance relating to the assessment of effects on tranquillity and except in relation to Open Green Spaces it is not protected by national planning policy.	

	very special quality and value in this area. Whether or not the designation is subject to a specific local plan policy at this time does not negate this importance or render the quality of the landscape any less valued or important in real terms and it is this value that warrants protection from development. Fundamentally, the Proposed Development would completely destroy the special character of this highly valued landscape and is perhaps one of the main areas of concern raised with the Council by local residents/community groups, Ward Councillors and MP's. Quite plainly, it would result in an intrusive, urban development right across the landscape, with no visual relief whatsoever. In seeking to mitigate these far reaching landscape impacts, the consultation documents set out a suite of proposed measures. The operational mitigation put forward (see Appendix 5.1: Indicative Operation Masterplan and Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Indicative Mitigation Masterplan) is – in CDC's view - wholly generic in nature and detail and does nothing to acknowledge the special landscape characteristics of Whitestone 1. Moreover, CDC considers that the		

	Draft ES wrongly downplays the significance of the longer term effects of the development for those years taking into account the mitigation becoming embedded. Ultimately, this conclusion has incorrectly been founded in the Applicant's view that the proposed mitigation will not have a Significant effect on the intrinsic landscape character of the area in its own right, but rather will assist in screening the development and creating visual buffers. However, CDC submits that the proposed mitigations are all interventions which would themselves fundamentally and irrevocably change the important and special landscape character of large swathes of Whitestone 1. It is the view of CDC that this demonstrates that Whitestone 1 is fundamentally incapable of accommodating the Proposed Development in an acceptable manner and should therefore be discounted from the project. Notwithstanding CDC's position above, and on a without prejudice basis, the further detailed comments in respect of landscape and visual matters are provided as follows:		

	i. The area to the immediate south of the Clifton Reservoir and beyond towards the M18 should be removed from the Order Limits. ii. The buffers in totality as proposed are arbitrary and wholly inadequate and should be completely reconsidered with greater consideration given to utilising the landscape features already in situ. iii. The lack of available highway access points to Whitestone 1 will result in a highly damaging network of construction routes across the Site. iv. There is only very minimal separation proposed between development parcels and residential properties, which is some cases could be entirely encircled by panels. Far more visual relief should be afforded to these receptors, by reducing the extent of the Order Limits. Every effort should be taken to minimise the scale of any such fencing and to incorporate any screening features that may be reasonably incorporated. The Draft ES indicates that perimeter fencing around the solar PV array is anticipated at a maximum height of 2.2m. incorporating fencing of this height and scale would be a		

	further visual intrusion into the landscape and should be avoided		
CDC – Tree Officer	Key Arboricultural Concerns: Vegetation Removal Without Supporting Arboricultural Documentation - no Tree Survey, Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), or Tree Protection Plan (TPP) has been provided. These are essential to assess the impact on tree assets and ensure compliance with BS5837:2012. Impact on Mature and Ancient Tree Features - The LVIA identifies tree belts and ancient woodland adjacent to the Site (e.g. Hooton Cliff and Spring Wood), yet there is no clear strategy for their protection. The absence of detailed root protection measures and offset distances raises concerns about potential indirect impacts during construction and cable trenching. Conflict with Policy 32 – Green Infrastructure Protection - Policy 32 requires developments to protect and enhance green infrastructure, including trees and hedgerows. The scale of proposed vegetation clearance, particularly without a clear mitigation hierarchy (avoid, reduce, compensate), is contrary to this policy	The design of the Proposed Development has incorporated a number of standard buffers for the location of infrastructure from easily identifiable features, with the aim of reducing any potential impacts to sensitive receptors where practicable. These buffers, as set out in the **Outline Design Parameters [EN0110020/APP/7.3]**, are: • 5m from hedgerows • 25m from woodland; and • 15m from individual trees With reference to the demonstration of 'tree-led design', the Proposed Development has sought to minimise vegetation loss across the extent of the Order Limits. As well as the buffers detailed above, the extent of works has been designed to fit within the existing structure of vegetation (trees and hedgerows). The location of access points on the edge of, and within, the Order Limits has been designed to maximise use of existing access points or gaps in vegetation as far as practicable. Where limited removal has been identified this is detailed on the **Vegetation Removal Plan [EN0110020/APP/2.9]** has been submitted with the Application. Where	**ES Volume 3 Appendix 6.4: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**

	BNG Risk from Tree Loss - While the Applicant commits to a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, the removal of mature tree features—without quantifying their ecological value—risks undermining this target. Replacement planting (e.g. 0.3–0.6m transplants) will take years to establish and cannot immediately offset the loss of mature canopy cover or habitat connectivity. Lack of Tree-Led Design Integration - There is no evidence that tree constraints have informed the layout of infrastructure or Cable Corridors Recommended the Applicant be required to submit: - A full Tree Survey, AIA, and TPP - A revised layout that demonstrates tree-led design principles - A clear mitigation strategy for any unavoidable losses	this is required, replacement planting is proposed. Details of how vegetation loss and the proposed mitigation planting have been included in the detailed BNG assessment are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.4: BNG Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20].** Arboricultural surveys were undertaken at access point locations during March and April 2026. The results of which are presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 6.14 Arboricultural Survey and Tree Constraints Plan [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. Further arboricultural surveys will be undertaken prior to construction and the CEMP will include mitigation measures to ensure trees and woodland are protected throughout the lifecycle of the Proposed Development.	
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	Detailed comments were provided by RMBC for Statutory Consultation regarding landscape and visual. These are detailed in full within the **Consultation Report [EN0110020/APP/5.1]** included in the Application. The relevant comments to	Detail has been added to the magnitude of change criteria with regards to duration and reversibility of effects. The criteria are summarised as follows: • High Magnitude of Change – substantial change in landscape characteristics and/or over an	The magnitude of change criteria are provided in the updated methodology to the LVIA in **ES Volume 3, Technical Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

	the EIA have been summarised and responded to in this table. Assessment / criteria for Magnitude of change The Applicant's criteria for Landscape magnitude of change is given below. Concerns are raised over the limited description provided for each criteria. Only, the High criteria includes any descriptor for duration and reversibility, when duration of effects and reversibility should be considered for all magnitudes of change. The Council ask that additional detail be added to the criteria table, so that it is clearer what each level of magnitude of change may comprise. For example, a High magnitude of change could include either / both a substantial change in landscape characteristics such as large scale loss of existing landscape features/ characteristics, or introduction of new large scale features (fencing and solar arrays) which detract from the existing landscape character area. GLVIA section 5.49 page 90 describes this as the effect of both loss of existing features and the introduction of additional features.	extensive geographical area and/or which may result in an irreversible impact; typically of long-term duration • •Medium Magnitude of Change – moderate change in landscape characteristics and/or which may occur over a large geographical area; typically of medium to long term duration • Low Magnitude of Change – small change in landscape characteristics and/or over a relatively localised geographical area; typically of short duration; and • Negligible Magnitude of Change – barely perceptible change in landscape characteristics and/or focussed on a small geographical area; typically of short or very short duration.	
RMBC	Landscape effects The most Significant landscape effects appear to be experienced within LCA 8	Further details regarding the potential impact of the Proposed Development on landscape character are provided in the ES since the Draft ES. The solar	The assessment of landscape and visual effects from the Proposed Development, including consideration of Local Character Areas, is provided

	which hosts most of W2, and W3 along with a significant proportion of the proposed cable runs. LCA 5b also includes part of W2 and some cable runs. LCA 7 includes a small part of W3, and LCA 9a includes some cable runs. In reviewing the draft landscape effects, at this stage there appears to be a lack of detail in respect of the description of effects as a result of the introduction of the solar panels and fencing will have on the landscape character areas. This may be due to the fact that the exact location of the solar arrays and fenced parcels is not yet fixed at this draft stage. The Council would expect more detailed description of the urbanising effects of the introduction of such industrial features within the landscape to be provided and for this to be considered closely in the final assessment of magnitude of landscape effects.	panels and fencing within the Proposed Development have been taken into account for the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character. The Proposed Development will use perimeter fencing around the solar PV array comprising wooden post and wire livestock fencing in order to minimise effects.	in **Section 7.7** in this Chapter and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
RMBC	Viewpoint Photographs The following issues or notable omissions were identified within the viewpoint photography. It may be that viewpoints 61-67 are recently added viewpoints following the scoping stage and so there has been no opportunity as yet to record winter photographs. This should be addressed before the	The Applicant can confirm that winter photography has now been collected for viewpoints 61 – 67.	**ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**

	ES is finalised for submission in the spring.		
RMBC	Photomontages The Council would appreciate the opportunity to be consulted on and agree the locations for photomontage visualisations for this development. Photomontages should be provided for each of the Site parcels W1, W2 and W3 from a range of representative viewpoints demonstrating a range of effects not just those which are Significant. This would also help the local communities understanding of the nature of the effects. These should also clearly show the effects of proposed mitigation where this has a key role in reducing effects. Photomontage locations should include viewpoints where sub-stations and BESS will feature in the view also. Consideration of colour options of fencing and BESS units should also be set out and the least intrusive, most recessive colours selected. Fencing within the countryside itself has a visual impact and wherever possible natural vegetation screening should be used.	The Applicant confirms that the proposed photomontage locations were discussed and agreed with RMBC as detailed in **Table 7-4**. Due to the design of the Proposed Development and proposed mitigation planting, views of the substations and BESS are limited from the photomontages and viewpoint locations. Consideration of fencing types and the colour of infrastructure is set out in the **Outline Design Principles [EN0110020/APP/7.3]** which are included in the Application and will be secured through the DCO.	**Table 7-4** within this Chapter. The full suite of representative viewpoints are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
Canal and Rivers Trust	Our previous comments requested that the LVIA should include the Chesterfield Canal and Harthill Reservoir as recreational receptors.	Since Draft ES, design changes have seen solar panel areas move further away from Harthill Reservoir.	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices.

	Table 7.1 on pages 16-17 indicate that the viewpoint (viewpoint 49) on the reservoir has been amended to address our previous comments and will offer summer and winter views from the viewpoint towards the proposed solar farm. We request that consideration should be given for including the towpath in drawing so that impacts from any temporary works associated with HDD activities are included in the assessment. VP 49 as a baseline is a reasonable representative view for reservoir recreational users. Looking at the view from the baseline, there will be a Significant visual impact as the proposed parcel for the solar farm will be located on the ascending open arable land directly in front of the pathway; this will also impact any recreational watercraft that may experience views here. There is significant tall existing vegetation on the left side of the photograph, to the south of the view map; however, this does not provide sufficient shielding within VP49, as the line of vegetation ends, and there are clear views towards the Site where the land accents above the tree line. Open, arable and undulating rural landscapes do contribute to the	Impacts from construction activities, including horizontal directional drilling (HDD), in this area are assessed in Section 7.7. The reservoir is included as a viewpoint within the assessment in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and considers the effect on recreational users at this location. VP 49 is assessed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**, where change in views are expected to be limited to a small portion of the view along the PRoW, where only a partial loss of openness would be anticipated. Details of green infrastructure and landscaping in proximity to the reservoir is provided in the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1 Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.	Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints**

	amenity value of the reservoir. The adaptation of arable field into a significant land mass of solar panels has the potential to have a Significant negative impact on this view's amenity within the setting. As a result, we do have issue with the conclusions in section 7.8 that the proposals will result in a minor to moderate impact that is Not Significant (page 63). We request that consideration is given towards the use of careful mitigation, either through layout or planting buffering strategies, or a combination of both, to help mitigate the visual impact of the scheme from the reservoir.		
Sheffield Wildlife Trust	The sheer scale of W2 risks industrialising a rural landscape. Permanent fencing, substations (up to 13.5m tall), and BESS compounds would significantly alter the area's open character and visual amenity.	The Sheffield Wildlife Trust's comments and views are noted. We also note that only a very small element of the substation would attain a height of 13.5m.	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/AP/6.19]**.
	Where a PROW functions as both an access route and a wildlife corridor near to Priority or irreplaceable Habitats it may be necessary to give a wider buffer eg 25m either side to avoid edge effect or trampling Loss of True Nature Experience Once developed, the landscape around	The Sheffield Wildlife Trust's comments and views are noted. Perimeter fencing around the solar PV array would comprise wooden post and wire livestock fencing or wooden post and galvanised welded wire. In many cases, fencing will be located	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62:**

	these footpaths would no longer feel “natural” — it would become a fenced industrial site with limited visual and ecological quality. Even if access is technically retained, the character of the experience changes entirely — from open countryside to an engineered corridor surrounded by panels and security systems. For communities already deprived of access to natural green spaces, this represents a net loss in nature equity, not an improvement. Consider using fencing that is natural and in keeping with the landscape such as timber post and rail with a hedgerow.	behind existing or newly planted hedgerows to maintain a vegetated aesthetic. The Power Conversion Station (PCS) enclosures would be surrounded by colour-sensitive palisade fencing and the BESS and substation would be surrounded by a double fence of galvanised welded wire with an additional 1m of electrified fencing, It would be muted in colour, and sensitive to the surrounding environment. See **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5].**	**Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Other Consultation

7.3.8 Details of consultation to date undertaken outside of the scoping exercise and Statutory Consultation are presented in **Table 7-4**.

Table 7-4 Summary of Other Consultation

Consultee	Date	Summary of Discussion	Where This is Addressed in the ES
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)	2 July 2025 - Email	ZTV Parameters - Agreement on ZTV receptor height parameters as 1.6m in accordance with GLVIA3.	The LVIA ZTV has been ran using 1.6m as the receptor height and presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Overview [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
		Additional Viewpoints - Agreement on the placement of additional viewpoints requested.	The additional viewpoints have been captured in the summer photography and the locations are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W1 to W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
		Clarification on omitted Viewpoints- Clarification on viewpoint 38 and viewpoint 54 being omitted	Viewpoint 38 was wrongly omitted and reincluded in the assessment. Clarified viewpoint 54 removed due to screening by vegetation. Locations illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W1 to W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
		Errors and inconsistences identified in relation to the LCA Description. Applicant to use list of LCAs provided by RMBC.	The LCAs assessed in the ES have been updated and are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Area [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

Consultee	Date	Summary of Discussion	Where This is Addressed in the ES
		Omission of reference to the RMBC Sites and Policies Document and the policies contained within the document and Supplementary Planning Document 14:Trees[31].	The full list of policies is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.
		AHLV removal. References to AHLV have been removed from the LVIA of this ES.	AHLV has been removed from the assessment.
		Revised Study Area: Agreement to reduce the Study Area to 3km	The Study Area for the LVIA is set at 3km and shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.
		Cumulative Developments: Awaiting agreement with relevant stakeholders on list of cumulative developments to be included in the assessment and Study Area of 10km and to include all relevant scales of development.	An assessment of similar developments has been undertaken in the preparation of the LVIA. The findings of the assessment are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices.
City of Doncaster Council (CDC)	July 2025 Email –	Discussion summary: • Night-Time Effects • Cumulative • Area of Special Landscape Value • Revised Study Area; and • Viewpoints.	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**
North East Derbyshire District Council	February 2026	Discussion on: • Changes to the design since submission of the Draft ES • Approach and methodology to the LVIA; and • Mitigation.	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**
Rotherham Metropolitan	March 2026	Discussion on:	An assessment of effects on the character of the landscape and views and visual amenity

Consultee	Date	Summary of Discussion	Where This is Addressed in the ES
Borough Council (RMBC)		• Changes to the design since submission of the Draft ES • Approach and methodology to the LVIA • Photomontage locations • Mitigation; and • Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.	are provided in this Chapter and associated appendices. Visualisations are provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 – 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**
Stantec (on behalf of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, and City of Doncaster Council)	May 2026	Discussion on: • The design of the Proposed Development/design response to effects and RVAA • Approach to the LVIA since submission of Draft ES • LVIA assessment • ZTV preparation, viewpoints and photomontages; and • Approach to Mitigation	All discussion points are addressed in this Chapter and associated appendices and figures.

Targeted Consultation

7.3.9 A Targeted Consultation period was held between 4 March and 3 April 2026 on proposed changes to the Order Limits. This included notifying relevant prescribed consultees. Feedback from this Targeted Consultation and the Applicant's response is included the **Consultation Report [EN0110020/APP/5.1]**.

7.3.10 A second Targeted Consultation was held for any individuals that had been identified as land interests after the Statutory Consultation.

7.3.11 No comments were provided by statutory consultees through the Targeted Consultation period in relation to Landscape and Visual.

7.4 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

7.4.1 This section sets out the scope, approach and a summary of the methodology for assessing the impacts of the Proposed Development on the landscape as a resource and the views and visual amenity of people resulting from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases. Full details of the methodology to the LVIA are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.4.2 The LVIA has been prepared in accordance with the principles established in best practice guidance, namely the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment[32] (3rd Edition) (GLVIA3) and associated technical guidance published by the Landscape Institute.

7.4.3 Landscape and visual effects while linked, are considered separately. Landscape effects derive from changes in the landscape fabric, which may result in changes to landscape character, whereas visual effects are the effects of changes on views and visual amenity as experienced by people (visual receptors).

7.4.4 In considering effects on landscape fabric, the LVIA considers the removal or addition of elements such as vegetation (hedgerows, trees etc) in relation to landscape change as a result of the Proposed Development. Consideration of their ecological value is provided in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6].**

7.4.5 Similarly, this Chapter considers cultural heritage assets and Conservation Areas in relation to their contribution to landscape character and perceived cultural value. The assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets is detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8].**

The Study Area

General

7.4.6 The LVIA provides an assessment of the Proposed Development on the landscape and views and visual amenity of people within a prescribed Study Area. GLVIA3 provides guidance for defining the Study Area concerning landscape and visual effects taking account of the area from which the Proposed Development

would be visible. It also emphasises that the approach to the assessment should be reasonable and proportionate to the scale and nature of the Proposed Development.

7.4.7 Drawing directly from GLVIA 3 paragraph 5.2:

"the study area should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner."

7.4.8 Since the initial scoping phase and in response to feedback provided by statutory consultees, additional fieldwork and design review has been conducted, resulting in design enhancements as set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]** and the establishment of a revised ZTV. This updated ZTV illustrates a reduction in visibility, primarily focused within a 3km radius. Any visibility beyond this 3km threshold is unlikely to result in a Significant effect on Landscape and Visual Receptors. Further explanation of how the 3km Study Area was determined is provided below in **Section 7.4.14.**

7.4.9 The LVIA Study Area comprises a 3km radius from the Site as presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19].** Its extents are considered proportionate to cover the LSE on Landscape and Visual Receptors.

7.4.10 A corridor width of 0.5km has been designated as the Study Area for the Cable Corridors due to the cables being underground and construction works would be low in height and for a short duration as set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**, LSE would be unlikely beyond 500m. While the actual extent of the cabling will be confined to a 40m working width, this assessment has defined the Cable Corridor Study Area to account for the possibility that the cabling could be installed anywhere within the designated Cable Corridors. The Cable Corridor Study Area is presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and ZTV on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Overview [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Establishment of the Landscape and Visual Baseline

7.4.11 The baseline conditions to the LVIA Study Area and Cable Corridor Study Area have been established through desk study, fieldwork and consideration of the ZTV.

7.4.12 Fieldwork has been undertaken during both winter (when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf and a greater extent of visibility) and summer months (when all vegetation is in leaf). It has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations to review published sources of information, capture representative viewpoints and confirm the presence of landscape features and the character of the landscape.

7.4.13 The future baseline has been determined via reviewing the published landscape character assessments and their suggested forces for change, i.e. management or development pressures which could alter the current baseline where identified. The future baseline also takes into account the committed developments currently under construction in the wider area.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

7.4.14 During the scoping stage, the ZTV extended to 5km from the Site utilising Digital Terrain Modelling (DTM), without any screening, to establish the likely worst-case visibility scenario.

7.4.15 For this LVIA, a revised ZTV was conducted over a distance of 5km using 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). This model accounts for significant screening effects from buildings and vegetation within the landscape, thereby providing an estimation of the likely visibility of the Proposed Development. The revised ZTV, in conjunction with fieldwork, presents a reasonable worst-case scenario of visibility and that LSE would potentially occur within the 3km Study Area. It is important to highlight that while the inclusion of buildings and vegetation in the 2m DSM does contribute to screening, the ZTV also identifies areas of visibility that would not be experienced by people. Specifically, visibility that would occur from the tops of buildings and large woodlands which would theoretically appear visible above the canopy but which would be very unlikely to be experienced by people.

7.4.16 The ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4 – 7.10 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and are based on the design parameters in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**, and the potential visibility resulting from the BESS and primary and satellite substations, shown on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.9 and 7.10 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**, respectively.

Identifying Receptors and Receptor Sensitivity

7.4.17 Landscape receptors have been identified following review of published landscape character assessments which define landscape character areas (LCA) and/or landscape character types (LCT). LCAs and LCTs are geographic areas of varying sizes which have a specific landscape character such that they are different to one another.

7.4.18 Visual receptors (i.e. people) with potential views of the Proposed Development have been identified through ZTV analysis, reviews of on-line mapping, fieldwork, consultation and discussions with local community during formal consultation events.

7.4.19 In accordance with GLVIA3, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors is determined via consideration of their respective value and susceptibility to change.

7.4.20 The value of a landscape is influenced by various factors, including scenic quality, ecological significance, and cultural importance. GLVIA3 provides guidance for professionals to assess landscapes using established criteria and professional judgment. Detailed information regarding the assessment methodology can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.4.21 The assessment also considers the landscape's sensitivity to change, as well as the perceptions of individuals who experience alterations in visual amenity. The extent of change is represented by the magnitude of change, which can result from various elements such as the scale of development—its size and type, whether it is permanent or temporary, and its integration or contrast with the surrounding landscape. Additionally, the visibility of the change within the landscape is a critical factor.

7.4.22 As previously discussed, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment for this ES has been developed through a comprehensive approach that combines desk studies and fieldwork. This methodology aims to identify the landscape character and its intrinsic value within the Order Limits, as well as to assess the key visual receptors that may experience any visual impacts. Consultations with relevant stakeholders (as set out in **Table 7-4**) have also contributed to this process.

7.4.23 As a starting point, a ZTV viewshed (**ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4 to 7.10 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**), has been generated which helps determine the potential visibility of the Proposed Development. From analysis of the viewshed, representative viewpoints have been selected to inform the assessment of landscape and visual effects regarding sensitivity to change. A summary of the employed methodology summarised from the GLVIA3 is provided below.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.4.24 As discussed above, sensitivity is a combination of the value of the landscape (informed by any designations and quality of character) and the susceptibility of the landscape to change. These are combined using professional judgement and in accordance with the methodology set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix: 7.2 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.4.25 A summary of landscape sensitivity and typical criteria is set out in **Table 7-5**; it should be noted that intermediate assessments of sensitivity (e.g. High to Medium) may be used.

Table 7-5 Landscape Sensitivity, Typical Criteria

Typical Criteria	Classification
Landscapes of high value, with high susceptibility or nationally designated landscapes with limited ability to accommodate development	High
Landscapes of medium value, with moderate levels of susceptibility, typically locally designated landscape with some ability to accommodate development	Medium
Landscapes of low value, with lower levels of susceptibility, typically not designated landscapes with opportunities to accommodate development	Low

Visual Sensitivity

7.4.26 **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** sets out the selection and justification for the viewpoints selected for assessment. Visual sensitivity is a combination of value attached to views and the susceptibility of the visual receptor to change. These elements are combined and considered using professional judgements in accordance with the methodology set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20].**

7.4.27 A summary of visual sensitivity and typical criteria is set out in **Table 7-6;** it should be noted that intermediate assessments of sensitivity (e.g. high to medium) may also be used.

Table 7-6 Visual Sensitivity Typical Criteria

Typical Criteria	Classification
Typically, individuals with an interest in appreciation of the views, e.g. experience views across highly valued landscapes, or promoted routes or lookouts, or associated with cultural aspects, or views from resident properties sited to relate to views of the surrounding area.	High
Typically, individuals with general interest in appreciation of views, e.g. those looking over medium valued landscapes or those walking along public rights of way	Medium
Typically, individuals whose interest or appreciation of views is secondary to their activity such as outdoor workers, those engaged in sport or those looking over landscapes with low value.	Low

Landscape and Visual Magnitude of Impact

7.4.28 The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development uses a four-point scale. The magnitude of change is determined through considering the size or scale, geographic extent, duration, reversibility to determine the overall magnitude of change.

7.4.29 For definitions of magnitude of change please refer to **Table 7.2.4 – Landscape Magnitude of Change** and **Table 7.2.7 – Visual Magnitude of Change** in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20].**

Landscape and Visual Significance of Effects

7.4.30 To assess the overall impact on landscape or visual receptors, professional judgment is employed to evaluate the combination of receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of change, ultimately leading to the determination of the significance of the effect.

7.4.31 **Table 7.6** below shows how the combined factors of sensitivity and magnitude are considered together to determine the significance of landscape and visual effects, where required intermediary judgements e.g. Moderate/Minor may be used.

Table 7-7 Level of Landscape and Visual Effect, Typical Correlations

	Landscape Sensitivity or Visual Sensitivity		
Magnitude of Change	**Low**	**Medium**	**High**
High	Moderate	**Major/Moderate**	**Major**
Medium	Moderate/Minor	Moderate	**Major/Moderate**
Low	Minor	Moderate/Minor	Moderate
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Minor

7.4.32 Where the level of effect is classed as Major, and Major/Moderate, this is considered to be 'Significant' and are shaded in dark grey above. Where 'Moderate' effects are predicted (shaded in light grey above), these have been

concluded as 'Significant' in the assessment presented in this Chapter, however, professional judgement can be used to determine whether the Moderate effects are Significant or Not Significant.

Night-Time/Hours of Darkness Assessment

7.4.33 The LVIA, in its consideration of baseline conditions, has considered the CPRE Online Character of the Night Sky mapping[33]. The mapping indicates that currently the central and northern portions of the Study Area, including the areas within which W1 and W2 would be sited, are generally unlit with few sources of artificial light, however sources of light pollution increase to the east and west. In the south of the Study Area and around W3 there is more light pollution and a generally brighter night sky, with increasing levels to the east and south.

7.4.34 In general, the Study Area through the central areas are generally unlit with few sources of light, with increasing levels from urban settlements to the east and north. The CPRE mapping is considered to be a fair representation of the character of the night-time conditions.

7.4.35 Following this review a night-time/hours of darkness assessment has not been included in this LVIA. It is unlikely that night-time effects have the potential to be Significant as the Proposed Development is typically unlit, i.e. lighting is not required within the solar arrays. While lighting would be installed in the primary and satellite substation compounds and the BESS location it is anticipated that it would be used only as needed for maintenance and security purposes. It would comprise downward and directional lighting set to contain light spillage within a localised area and triggered by motion or via manual switches during rare visits during the hours of darkness.

Glint and Glare

7.4.36 The potential effects of glint and glare arising from the Proposed Development are addressed separately in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]**.

7.4.37 Glint and glare effects may be experienced by people in the public domain as they move around the landscape. This is not explicitly considered in the LVIA and no detailed studies are provided or referred to as it would be a transitory experience – similar to seeing glare off water or glass while moving through the landscape along roads or rights of way. If it occurred, it would be one of the adverse aspects of the visual experience of seeing the solar farm from some locations during the early morning or late evening in sunny weather when looking towards the sun low in the sky and is taken account of implicitly in considering the visual effects.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)

7.4.38 In terms of visual impact, the LVIA primarily addresses public views and overall amenity. Conversely, RVAA concentrates on private residential views and individual residential visual amenity, serving as a valuable resource for decision-makers when evaluating potential effects on residential amenity within the planning balance.

7.4.39 Typically, a RVAA is guided by the LVIA in instances where Significant effects are anticipated. Following consultation and review of the design against the potential for Significant effects on residential visual receptors changes to the arrangement of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure have been made in order to

reduce the likelihood of Significant Adverse effects on the visual amenity of residential receptors and the potential for the residential visual amenity threshold to be reached.

7.4.40 Consideration was also given to the potential for changes in views as a result of the proposed landscape and ecological mitigation planting with particular focus on the potential for overshadowing or reduction in views across the landscape from residential locations. In the absence of likely significant effects being of such magnitude to give rise to the residential visual amenity threshold being reached (typically where a Major, Adverse Significant on views is experienced), and the Proposed Development giving rise to effects that would be overbearing or overwhelming on a property such that living conditions are affected, an RVAA has not been undertaken.

Basis of Assessment

7.4.41 This LVIA has been undertaken within the worst-case parameters for the Proposed Development as set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5].** Also, where the Proposed Development has retained optionality regarding the siting of key associated infrastructure, it has been assumed that all these elements would be operational across the locations identified in order to consider the potential worst-case scenario for each receptor. This accords with the precautionary approach.

7.4.42 As part of the design parameters, offsets from existing trees and woodlands have been incorporated to ensure minimal effects on them and to retain the existing structure of the landscape and its ecological functionality.

7.4.43 Similarly, offsets have been used to place solar panels and infrastructure away from residential properties and PRoWs to reduce visual impacts. Further information on these offsets is reported in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**.

7.4.44 The key aspects of the Proposed Development of relevance to the LVIA of this ES are:

- Potential landscape mitigation and enhancement areas as illustrated and described in **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**. As detailed in the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** the Proposed Development includes management of existing planting, new native planting, hedgerow enhancement, and planting of suitable seed mixes amongst the solar PV arrays. Indigenous planting would also be used to provide natural screening of the Proposed Development
- Solar PV panels up to 3.8m above ground level (AGL) within field parcels
- One primary substation up to 13.5m AGL for a limited proportion of the build within W2
- Two satellite substations up to 13.5m AGL for a limited proportion of the build (one each in W1 and W2); and
- One BESS up to 8m AGL for a limited proportion of the build within W2.

7.4.45 Regarding the Cable Corridors, a worst-case scenario for construction is assumed with open cut cable trenches excavated along the route and in a few areas trenchless crossing where required.

7.4.46 The key aspects of relevance of the Proposed Development for the Cable Corridors for the LVIA are:

- Open trench installation up to 500m in length sections
- 40m wide working Cable Corridor
- Assumed clearance of sections of hedgerow and vegetation along the Cable Corridor; and
- Reinstatement of land cover and replacement planting at end of construction period.

7.4.47 The assessment considers the effects arising from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development based on the following assumptions.

Construction

7.4.48 The construction phase of the Proposed Development has the potential to introduce direct effects on the landscape and consequently changes to existing views for those who live close by, walk the local PRoWs and travel along the road network in the local vicinity. These changes would arise from construction activities across W1, W2 and W3 comprising both the installation of the solar panels and associated equipment, and the Cable Corridors, and the implementation of the ecological enhancement and landscaping areas. The construction activity would result in changes to land cover and landform that would require machinery and a duration greater than general farming activity. Construction effects would be short term, temporary and reversible.

7.4.49 During the construction phase, the removal of vegetation will be confined to those areas that directly conflict with construction activities and where avoidance measures are not feasible. This limitation will primarily apply to locations where Cable Corridors intersect and cross field boundaries. In these instances, restoration would be conducted accordingly.

7.4.50 It is assumed that some PRoWs within the Proposed Development may be temporarily diverted during the construction phase. Prows will be managed during the construction phase via an **outline PRoW Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.14]**.

Operation (and Maintenance)

7.4.51 During the lifetime of the Proposed Development activities would be focussed on essential maintenance to the solar array and the built and landscape infrastructure.

7.4.52 At the Operational Phase, Significant landscape and visual effects are considered for the first year after the Proposed Development is constructed and operational and then again for Year 15 to capture both the initial impact and the longer-term establishment of the Proposed Development within its local landscape setting.

7.4.53 In the operational phase, the management of the Proposed Development will encompass the maintenance of existing indigenous plantings, the introduction of new native plantings, enhancement of hedgerows, and the implementation of appropriate seed mixes among the solar PV arrays. This will be guided by an **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** submitted with the Application, which includes a commitment to achieving a BNG of at least 10% above the existing baseline. For

further details, please refer to **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]**.

7.4.54 The **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** offers structured habitat/planting management throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development.

7.4.55 For the purposes of this LVIA the following assumptions have been made about the growth rate of newly planted hedgerows and trees, based upon industry standards and known growth rates:

- Newly planted hedgerows and woodland or shrub beds would be planted as transplants at a height of approximately 0.3 to 0.6m in height and contained within protection tubes for Years 1-3
- Hedgerows would be at the design height of approximately 3.5m in height. This takes into account that minimal growth occurs in the first planting season, then an average growth rate of approximately 0.4m per year
- New woodland and shrub planting would reach a height of approximately 4m as not clipped
- Where mature specimens are planted into hedgerow or woodland, these would be approximately 3.5 to 4.5m in height, reaching a height of approximately 6m by Year 10; and
- Except where managed, vegetation would continue to growth until reaching their ultimate full maturity height over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.

Year 1

7.4.56 The Year 1 assessment reflects the initial post-construction condition of the Proposed Development, during which new mitigation and enhancement planting is still in the early stages of growth. At this point, visual impacts and changes in landscape character are most prominent, as mitigation strategies, including tree and hedgerow planting, have not yet had sufficient time to take establish. This assessment is designed to illustrate the worst-case scenario, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of potential impacts.

Year 15

7.4.57 By Year 15, the mitigation and enhancement planting has had sufficient time to take full effect. An assessment is provided to demonstrate its effectiveness in reducing landscape and visual impacts based on the design provided in the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**.

Decommissioning

7.4.58 The decommissioning phase would broadly reflect the activities described in the construction phase including the use of machinery and alterations to the landform and vegetation cover resulting from the removal of panels and associated equipment but likely to be reduced as removal would require less disturbance than during the construction phase.

7.4.59 The decommissioning process would be more extensive than typical agricultural operations. Removal of BESS and substation foundations to 1.2m below ground level (BGL) would be completed subject to landowner agreement. Components of the Proposed Development such as mitigation planting, Site accesses, and ducts

for cabling buried beneath plough-depth would be left in place subject to landowner agreement.

7.4.60 By the time decommissioning commences, the existing vegetation and retained planting would have reached a greater height compared to the construction phase, thereby reducing the visibility and perceived impact of the decommissioning activities in relation to the construction phase. The effects of decommissioning are anticipated to be short-term and temporary and overall LVIA impacts are expected to be no greater than those predicted during the construction phase therefore a separate assessment for decommissioning phase has not been undertaken and would be as reported for construction.

Assumptions, Exclusions and Limitations

7.4.61 This assessment is based on baseline and the Proposed Development design information available in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]** at the time of writing this Chapter and reference to **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.4.62 LVIA methodology includes an element of subjectivity based on professional interpretation which can vary depending on the individual. The methodologies in the GLVIA3 (i.e., ZTVs, aerial photography, published data standard criteria and field work) aim to reduce this through the requirement for practitioners to be transparent in their judgements and to provide clear reasoning. GLVIA3 encourages the use of representative viewpoints but these are inherently static. They do not fully capture the dynamic experience of moving through a landscape e.g. walking, cycling or driving.

7.4.63 It is important to highlight that the GLVIA3 methodology stipulates that fieldwork must be conducted from publicly accessible locations. Impacts arising from private residential properties may differ, either positively or negatively, from the predictions made for the surrounding area.

7.4.64 Assumptions made in the undertaking of the LVIA in relation to the construction phase include:

- The construction phase would last for 24 to 36 months with the assessment based on peak construction activity, i.e. occurring across the extent of the Order Limits at the same time, rather than a phased or time-sliced assessment
- The construction phase assessment is based on winter conditions, such that deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, thereby representing a worst-case assessment scenario due to the maximum extent of visibility
- The perimeter fencing around the Site would be implemented early in the construction phase where practicable, so as to physically secure the construction areas. This fencing would be 2.2m in height and consists of a metal mesh stock fence with wooden posts. It would also exclude construction activity from retained vegetation and associated root protection areas
- Construction activity would require daily heavy goods vehicles (HGV) movements to the Order Limits, with solar modules offloaded at the main temporary construction compounds, and then distributed across the Order Limits; The construction activity uses at different times and to various degrees excavators, tracked post drivers, ground levellers, ground compressors, forklift trucks and cranes

- Ground preparation would comprise localised levelling, post driving and trenching, but generally shallow excavation
- Temporary access tracks would be implemented across the Order Limits to enable the movement of machinery and equipment
- PRoWs are assumed to remain open, so as to assess a worst-case visual scenario
- Construction phase lighting would be required for limited works outside of normal working hours (07.00-19:00), for example to complete some trenchless crossings; and
- All construction lighting would be in the form of mobile lighting towers and directional fittings focussed on the interior of the Order Limits to minimise outward light spill and glare.

7.4.65 Assumptions made in the undertaking of the LVIA in relation to the Year 1 assessment scenario include:

- The Proposed Development would be operational across the extent of the Site, during winter, when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, thereby representing the worst-case scenario
- The solar modules would be on a mounting structure and angled, such that the highest edge is up to 3.8m above ground level. Modules would be fixed and south facing
- The landscape design would be implemented in line with the **oLEMP [EN010159/APP/5.13**]). The ground across the Site would be seeded, but the grassland would not yet be established. The ground underneath the solar modules would reflect the appearance of an agricultural field in winter. New tree and scrub planting would also not yet be established
- Temporary screens, or other appropriate mitigation, will be in place to mitigate glint and glare impacts
- All routine maintenance activities would be scheduled for daylight hours, except potentially for solar PV panel cleaning via tractor-mounted lighting every two years, and emergency works requiring night-time working via temporary focussed task-specific lighting
- Inward-facing manually operated or Passive Infra-Red (PIR) controlled security lighting would be installed at each corner of the substation
- Internal, manually activated lighting would be used within the Power Conversion Stations and Substation control buildings but light spillage would be minimal and limited to when entry doors are opened; and
- Pole-mounted closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, up to 4m in height, will be installed around the perimeter of the solar arrays.

7.4.66 Assumptions made in the undertaking of the LVIA in relation to the Year 15 (Summer) assessment scenario include:

- The Proposed Development would be operational across the extent of the Site
- All new planting would be established such that there would be a native meadow/grassland sward across the Order Limits and, where possible, would consider current baseline habitats
- Tree planting will have grown such that they are between 6m and 7.5m tall

- Hedgerows across the Site would be maintained at a minimum height of 3.5m
- All routine maintenance activities would be scheduled for daylight hours, except potentially for solar PV panel cleaning every two years, and emergency works requiring night-time working via temporary focussed task-specific lighting
- Inward-facing manually operated or PIR controlled security lighting would be installed at each corner of the substations
- Internal, manually activated lighting would be used within the power conversion stations and substation control buildings but light spillage would be minimal and limited to when entry doors are opened; and
- Pole-mounted CCTV systems, up to 4m in height, will be installed around the perimeter of the solar arrays.

7.4.67 Assumptions made in the undertaking of the LVIA in relation to decommissioning include:

- Decommissioning would largely reflect that of the construction phase with all above ground infrastructure to be removed from within the Order Limits
- It is assumed that buried cables and all underground infrastructure would be left in situ (subject to landowner agreement) and therefore excavation works would not be required
- The trees and hedgerows planted as part of the Proposed Development would be retained, whilst the vegetation cover beneath the solar modules would be returned to arable land use subject to wishes of the landowner; and
- Decommissioning works would be limited to daylight hours with directional lighting only provided where this is not practicable to complete specific tasks.

General Visibility

7.4.68 In order to aid in identifying potential landscape and visual receptors ZTV's were generated in relation to the proposed solar modules (up to 3.8m in height) and the primary substation (up to 13.5m in height) which would be co-located with the BESS.

7.4.69 The viewshed to the Proposed Development as a whole is provided in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Overview [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. Visibility to W1, W2 and W3 is illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.5 to 7.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. An overview of visibility for W1, W2 and W3 is provided below.

W1

7.4.70 Visibility would be largely confined to Conisbrough Parks and the immediate surroundings of the Proposed Development due to the enclosing topography, which comprises a broad, bowl-shaped valley. There would be fragmented visibility from the northern edges of Conisbrough to Melton Wood Country Park. Visibility to the east would extend towards Clifton and Micklebring, with visibility beyond limited by elevated landforms. To the south, visibility would extend as far as the northern edges of Bramley and Maltby, with visibility beyond limited by intervening landforms. To the west, visibility would extend towards Ravenfield and Hooton Roberts within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development. Further west, beyond 3km, visibility is predicted on the higher ground at Swinton,

Rawmarsh, and Mexborough; however, as these areas are predominantly urban, actual visibility is likely to be limited.

W2

7.4.71 Visibility would extend to the north, broadly contained along the A631 by the urban settlements of Rotherham, Bramley, and Maltby. To the east, visibility would reach as far as Dinnington, North Anston, and South Anston. To the south, visibility would broadly follow the A57 and B6067, with the settlements of Aston and Todwick containing the view. To the west, visibility would extend to the eastern fringes of Sheffield, limiting views beyond.

W3

7.4.72 Visibility would extend south along the M1 to the northern extents of Barlborough. To the east, views would be largely screened by elevated landforms, with outward visibility beyond Harthill restricted. Visibility extends north to the settlement areas of Wales and Kiveton Park. Visibility to the immediate west is limited, with patches expected at Killamarsh. Greater visibility is predicted further west on the higher ground along the south eastern fringe of Sheffield.

Additional Visibility for Substation and BESS

7.4.73 As illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.9 and 7.10 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** the additional visibility resulting from the substations and BESS has been mapped, respectively.

7.4.74 The W1 satellite substation shows very localised areas of additional visibility to the north at Conisbrough. There would also be small patches of visibility north of Bramley and Thrybergh, as well as on the fringes of the Study Area at Rawmarsh. The additional visibility is minimal, and the magnitude of change resulting from the substation is discussed in the relevant representative viewpoints.

7.4.75 The W2 primary substation and BESS shows some additional visibility north of the M18 at Whiston, with patches of visibility to the west around Brinsworth and on the fringes of the Study Area at Rawmarsh to the north. These changes would be minimal and are discussed in the relevant viewpoints.

7.5 Baseline Landscape and Visual Conditions

Existing Baseline Data Sources

7.5.1 The baseline Landscape and Visual conditions have been established through fieldwork and desk-based review of relevant data sources. These data sources include:

- Natural England – National Landscape Character Area Profiles[34]
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2007) Landscape Character & Capacity Assessment of Doncaster Borough[35]
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2020) Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development[36]
- Rotherham Borough Council (2010) Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study[37]

- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (2015) Landscape Character Capacity Assessment for Rotherham MBC Local Plan Site Selection[38]
- Sheffield City Council (2012) Sheffield Green Belt and Countryside Areas Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment[39]
- Derbyshire County Council (DCC) (2014) The Landscape Character of Derbyshire[40]
- ZTV analysis
- Ordnance Survey Mapping 1:25K and 1:50K scales
- Ordnance Address Base Dataset
- Aerial satellite mapping
- Google Streetview
- Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs Light Detecting and Ranging (LIDAR) Composite Data
- CPRE Character of the Night Sky Online Mapping[41]
- Local Council datasets from RMBC and CDC
- MAGIC Datasets; and
- PRoW Mapping from RMBC and CDC.

7.5.2 Relevant landscape designations within the Study Area are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3: Landscape Designations [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. National Landscape Character Areas are presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and Local Landscape Character Areas presented on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.3 Field work has been undertaken to verify the desk-based information and to capture the representative viewpoints. The winter site visit was undertaken in March 2025 and February 2026 when deciduous trees were without leaf and the summer visit in July 2025 when deciduous vegetation was in full leaf. During the field work the surveyors walked PRoW's and travelled throughout the Study Areas.

7.5.4 The viewpoint locations are presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19].** Viewpoint photography (winter and summer) is presented on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.62: Representative Viewpoints [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Future Baseline Data Sources

7.5.5 The following data sources were considered to determine the future baseline scenario:

- Review of cumulative developments as set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 17.2: Cumulative Long List [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**
- Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change of the Landscape Character of Derbyshire
- The forces for change within the Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment; and

- General climatic changes and trends with regards to wetter winters and hotter summers would impact upon local vegetation and land management practices. Future climate change projections in relation to the Proposed Development are detailed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 11: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]**.

Existing Baseline Landscape and Visual Conditions

7.5.6 The following section summarises the current and future landscape and visual baseline conditions, along with landscape and visual receptors and their sensitivity. This section should be read in combination with **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** for landscape receptors and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** for visual receptors in addition to a review of **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3: Landscape Designations** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.1 to 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

The Site and the Study Areas

7.5.7 The Order Limits of the Proposed Development are located east of Sheffield and Rotherham, South Yorkshire, predominantly within the administrative areas of CDC and RMBC. The southern extent of the Order Limits slightly cross into the area of NEDDC within DCC. The Order Limits comprise a total area of approximately 1,488 hectares (ha) and, at their maximum extent, extend approximately 18.5km in a north-south direction, and approximately 8km in an east-west direction. Due to the scale of the Proposed Development, and the distance between areas of the Site, the Site has been split into three distinct areas: Whitestone 1 (W1), Whitestone 2 (W2), and Whitestone 3 (W3). Whitestone 1 (W1) is located south of Conisbrough (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 503962), Whitestone 2 (W2) is located between Aston in the west and Dinnington in the east (centred on NGR SK 477874), and Whitestone 3 (W3) is located south of Wales and Kiveton Park (centred on NGR SK 481807).W1, W2 and W3 are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.8 The Order Limits and Study Area are located to the east of Sheffield, South Yorkshire. The Study Area as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**, is loosely defined by Mexborough and the central area of New Edlington to the north; to the east by land approximately 4km east of the M18 and M1 motorways; and to the south, broadly by the A619. To the west, the extent of the Study Area is defined by the eastern urban edge of Sheffield, with settlements such as Rotherham, Waverley and Westfield. The M1 and M18 motorway form a strong central spine through the Study Area.

7.5.9 The landscape features within the eastern half of the Study Area include a limestone ridge running north to south. This ridge creates a narrow belt of elevated land, forming a prominent feature that enables expansive views to the west. The landscape includes open, rolling arable farmland enclosed by hedgerows, along with plantation woodlands, historic estate properties, and parkland. The Chesterfield Canal crosses through the south eastern part of the Study Area, and small brooks cross through the Study Area including Anston Brook, Maltby Dike. The River Don passes through the north west of the Study

Area. The topography to the Order Limits and surrounding landscape is illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.11: Topography Plan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.10 To the west is a low-lying area characterised by hills and escarpments above wide valleys and the industrial settlements of Sheffield and Rotherham. Scattered throughout the middle of the Study Area are numerous small settlements and villages interspersed within the countryside, connected via a network of A roads and minor roads. Rivers and waterways are common features throughout this landscape.

7.5.11 The main transport links include the M18, which runs through the centre of the Study Area to the north, and the M1, which runs due east before meeting the M18 in the centre of the Study Area and heading south. The Dearne Valley dismantled train line runs through the eastern part of the Study Area from north to south, with a disused spur through the centre of the Study Area, highlighting the former mineral workings throughout the area. Pockets of small ponds now occupy areas of former workings, reflecting the industrial past of the region.

7.5.12 The Study Area comprises a number of ancient woodlands, Conservation Areas, and a few Registered Parks and Gardens (refer to **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3: Landscape Designations [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**). These contribute to the value and sensitivity of the local area. W1 falls within an ASLV, attributed by CDC. Whilst such a designation is non-statutory and is not in current planning policy, it has been used as an indicator of value to the landscape areas.

7.5.13 Overhead lines cross the Study Area, with Penny Hill Wind Farm, located in the centre of the Study Area, being a prominent feature in this landscape.

7.5.14 The landscape is connected by a series of minor lanes and tracks, with numerous public footpaths and bridleways. The Rotherham Round Walk Long Distance Walking Path (LDWP) passes through the west of the Study Area, and Cuckoo Way LDWP to the south runs along a former railway. Views from these routes, in addition to other routes, vary in their nature and their extents depending on how much of, or where the route is walked and at what time of year.

7.5.15 The main settlements in proximity to the Site, from north to south, include Conisbrough, Wickersley, Thurcroft, Dinnington, Aston, Wales, Kiveton Park, and Anston. In addition, there are several smaller settlements: Hooton Roberts, Clifton, Ravenfield, Ulley, Brampton en-le-Morthen, and Harthill. There are also hamlets and isolated farmsteads dispersed within the Site but not included in the Order Limits.

Baseline Landscape and Visual Characteristics of W1

7.5.16 Whitestone 1 comprises an area of arable farmland between Sheffield Road (A630) in the north, to Firsby Brook in the south. The eastern boundary follows field boundaries west of Clifton, whilst the western boundary is marked by Firsby Lane. Park Lane runs through the centre of Whitestone 1 from north to south.

7.5.17 The landform features a central basin, rising to approximately 146m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at Beacon Hill to the south east and approximately 100m AOD along a ridgeline to the east. To the north west, a small hill rises to approximately 85m AOD and slopes down to A630 (Sheffield Road) to the north west.

7.5.18 The landscape comprises large, irregular arable fields, bound by a mix of mature hedgerows and tree belts. The main tree cover comprises a belt of trees along

The Brook and the dismantled Dearne Valley railway line. There is a thin belt of ancient woodland along Firsby Brook on the southern boundary.

7.5.19 There are no Conservation Areas within W1, but several exist within the Study Area, the closest being Clifton to the north east and Ravenfield to the south west.

7.5.20 W1 is crossed by a network of bridleways and footpaths, most running north to south, such as Firsby Lane and Park Lane Bridleways. These are described in further detail within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]**.

7.5.21 In terms of isolated properties there are several that sit close to or within W1 but are excluded from the Order Limits these include:

- Parks Farm Cottages, Park Lane; and
- Hilltop Farm, Firsby Lane.

7.5.22 The hamlet of Firsby abuts the edge of the Order Limits to the south west and Hilltop to the north west. The closest settlements to W1 comprise the southern edge of Conisbrough, Clifton to the east and Ravenfield to the south.

Baseline Landscape and Visual Characteristics of W2

7.5.23 W2 comprises an area of predominantly arable farmland divided by road infrastructure, a network of pylons, and Penny Hill Wind Farm. Whitestone 2 covers the area between the M1 in the north, South Yorkshire Joint Railway line to the east, Aughton, Hardwick and A57 to the south, and Treeton to the west.

7.5.24 Whitestone 2 features large irregular arable fields, bounded by a mix of hedgerows and lines of trees, which are sometimes sparse or absent.

7.5.25 To the south and west of the M1, the topography is defined by Ulley Brook valley, which traverses the centre of the area. Landform rises to the north and south to reach approximately 100m AOD along the M1 and 105m AOD at Penny Hill.

7.5.26 To the south east of the M1, the landform exhibits undulations, varying between approximately 120m and 100m AOD.

7.5.27 There are a number of Conservation Areas within the Study Area and several coincide with the primary settlements which border W2. These include the Ulley Conservation Area, located at the midpoint along the western edge of W2; Brampton-en-le-Morthen, positioned to the east of the M1/M18 interchange, adjacent to the northern boundary of W2; and the North and South Anston Conservation Areas, found south of W2, approximately 820m from the nearest point of the W2 Order Limits.

7.5.28 W2 is crossed by a network of bridleways and footpaths, including the Rotherham Round Walk, which runs to the north and west of W2 and through the centre of the western field cluster within W2. These are described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.5].**

7.5.29 In terms of isolated properties there are several that sit within W2 but are excluded from the Order Limits. These include:

- Spa House
- Ulley Beeches Farm
- Greenland and properties along Long Road
- Brampton Common Farm; and

- Slacks Farm.

7.5.30 A number of properties and farms abut the Order Limits which include:

- Moat Farm
- Properties at Ulley
- Penny Hill Farm
- Hardwick Hall Farm; and
- Burne Farm.

7.5.31 The closest settlements to the Order Limits are Ulley, Treeton, South Anston and Todwick.

Baseline Landscape and Visual Characteristics of W3

7.5.32 W3 is centred around Woodall Services on the M1. To the east of the M1, the northern cluster of the Order Limits extends between Hard Lane to the east, Kiveton Community Woodland to the north, and M1 to the west. The southern part of the Order Limits is contained by Woodall and Woodall Services to the west, Harthill Reservoir to the east and Rotherham Road to the south.

7.5.33 To the west of the M1, the Order Limits extend between High Moor to the west, Killamarsh Pond to the north, Woodall Bottoms to the east, and Rotherham Road (A618) to the south.

7.5.34 W3 features an arable landscape, characterised by rolling topography with features such as Stone Hill and a maximum elevation of approximately 144m AOD. The landscape comprises large, irregular arable fields, with a mix of hedgerows and lines of trees forming boundaries, although some are sparse or absent.

7.5.35 East of the M1 in W3 lies Harthill Conservation Area. Other historic features of note include Barlborough Hall Registered Park and Garden situated adjoining and to the south of Rotherham Road (A618). Part of this registered park and garden also coincides with Barlborough Conservation Area.

7.5.36 W3 is crossed by a network of bridleways and footpaths, with the Cuckoo Way long-distance trail running adjacent to the north of this area. These are described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3].**

7.5.37 In terms of isolated properties there are none that sit within W3 however Top Farm abuts W3 along with properties along Walseker Lane, Woodall Road and Dowcarr Lane. The closest settlements comprise Woodall and Harthill.

Cable Corridors

7.5.38 There are 18 no. Cable Corridors included within the Order Limits for the operation of the Proposed Development as described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5].** These have been refined where possible from the Cable Corridor Options shown in the Draft ES and at Statutory Consultation, as described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4, Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]**. The Cable Corridors are shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 3.3: Detailed Site Referencing [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.39 The Cable Corridors comprise:

- Cable Route A to connect the east and west of W1, either side of the disused railway
- Cable Route B to connect W1 to W2
- Cable Route C to connect W2A to W2C
- Cable Routes D1 and D2 to connect W2 to the point of connection at Long Lane 400kV Substation
- Cable Route E to encompass all cabling works in and around Long Lane 400kV Substation
- Cable Route F to connect W2B and W2C
- Cable Routes G1 and G2 to interconnect W2B
- Cable Route H to connect W2C to W2D
- Cable Routes I1 and I2 to connect W2D and W2E
- Cable Route J to connect W2F to Cable Routes K1 and K2
- Cable Routes K1 and K2 to connect Cable Route J to W2G
- Cable Route L to connect W2 and W3
- Cable Route M to connect W3A to W3C; and
- Cable Route N to connect W3B to W3C.

7.5.40 These Cable Corridors have been identified as areas within which interconnection cables would be constructed. It is important to note that the construction width of the cables would be considerably narrower than the corridors shown at this stage, and would be routed as part of detailed design. The Cable Corridors and iterative design process is further discussed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]** and **Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**.

7.5.41 A description of the environmental context for each Cable Corridor is provided in **ES Volume 1 Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]**. As the cables would run underground, the main impact to receptors would occur during the construction phase and would be temporary.

Landscape Character

National Landscape Character Areas

7.5.42 England is divided into 159 distinct NCAs, each of these being defined by a unique combination of its landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity. The boundaries to the NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape and are not specific to county or district boundaries.

7.5.43 The Order Limits and Study Area fall within two NCAs, these comprise:

- National Character Area 30: Southern Magnesium Limestone. This covers the eastern part of the Study Area; and
- National Character Area 38: Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. This covers the western part of the Study Area.

7.5.44 **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** graphically set out the landscape

character areas in conjunction with, **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** which sets out the landscape baseline and sensitivity.

7.5.45 The NCAs serve as a valuable reference for context; however, local published landscape character assessments offer a more granular understanding of the landscape characteristics within the Study Area. While NCAs inform the wider landscape context, their broad geographical scale is not appropriate for assessing site-specific landscape effects. For this reason, they have been considered but have been scoped out from the detailed effects assessment

Local Landscape Character Areas

7.5.46 The local published landscape character assessments that cover the Study Area and which have been reviewed as part of this assessment include:

- Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study (2007)
- Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study (2010)
- Sheffield Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment (2023, submitted for examination as part of the Draft Plan submission); and
- The Landscape Character of Derbyshire (Fourth Edition) (2014).

7.5.47 A detailed analysis of these LCAs and their assigned sensitivities is further set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19].** The Order Limits is located in the following LCAs:

- W1 is located within Doncaster LCA A1: Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands
- W2 is predominantly located within Rotherham LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield farmland, with the western extents within Rotherham LCA 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton and Rotherham LCA 6: Rother Valley Floor; and
- W3 is located within Rotherham LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland, with the southern extents within Derbyshire LCA A – Limestone Farmlands and western extents within Derbyshire LCA B – Wooded Farmlands and Rotherham LCA 7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland and a small part of the northern extent within Rotherham LCA 9a: East Rotherham Plateau.

7.5.48 The Cable Corridors are located within the following LCAs.

Doncaster LCA: A1 – Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands

- Cable Corridors CRA and CRB pass through this LCA.

Rotherham LCA 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton

- Cable Corridors CRC, CRD-1, CRD-2, CRF and CRG-2 pass through this LCA ultimately connecting with the Long Lane substation via Cable Corridor CRE.

Rotherham LCA 6: Rother Valley Floor

- Cable Corridors CRD-2, CRG-1, CRG-2 pass through the western extent of the LCA.

Rotherham LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coal Field Farmland

- Cable Corridors CRB and CRC would cross the northern extent of the LCA. Cable Corridors CRF, CRH, CRI-1 and CRI-2 would cross the central part of the LCA. Cable Corridors CRJ, CRK-1, CRK-2, CRLM and CRN would cross the southern part of the LCA.

Rotherham LCA 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plataeu

- Cable Corridor CRL passes through the southern extent of this LCA connecting to W3.

Derbyshire LCT A - Limestone Farmlands

- Cable Corridor CRN would cross a small part of the northern extent of the LCT.

Landscape Designations

7.5.49 The Proposed Development does not fall within any statutory landscape designation and as such, this aspect has been excluded from further consideration in the assessment. The Doncaster ASLV local policy designation previously encompassed W1 which included land stretching from Ravenfield northwards to Conisbrough and New Edlington and Micklebring and Braithwell to the east. Although it no longer forms part of the current City of Doncaster Local Plan and therefore does not carry any formal planning weight it serves to provide an indication of the quality and value of the landscape in this area. This area is shown in **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3: Landscape Designations [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and for the purposes of this assessment has been used to inform the W1 host character area.

Other Designations

7.5.50 There are no further landscape designations that would be directly impacted by the Proposed Development. However, it should be noted that the Proposed Development falls wholly within South and West Yorkshire Green Belt. Whilst not defined in terms of landscape character or scenic quality it serves as a spatial concept to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open (NPPF) Paragraph 142). Consideration of this aspect is provided in the **Planning Statement [EN0110020/APP/5.4]** and is not discussed further in this assessment.

7.5.51 There are several additional designations that contribute to the character, value and quality of the landscape. These designations include areas of ancient woodland, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), country parks, Conservation Areas, and listed buildings. SSSIs, LNRs, and ancient woodlands are discussed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]** and are illustrated in **Statutory and Non-Statutory Ecological Sites [EN0110020/APP/2.6]**. The Barlborough Hall Registered Park and Garden (Grade II), along with listed buildings and Conservation Areas, are assessed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural**

Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8], and are depicted in **Statutory and Non-Statutory Historic Assets [EN0110020/APP/2.7]** which outlines Heritage Designated Assets.

7.5.52 These designations serve as indicators of value and have been considered insofar as they contribute to the overall landscape character in the judgement of landscape value. Further details are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20],** which details the Landscape Character baseline and assessment referenced in this assessment.

Visual Baseline Conditions

7.5.53 Visual receptors, as outlined by GLVIA3, are characterised as "*the various groups of individuals who may perceive views of development.*" To ascertain those groups that may be significantly impacted by the Proposed Development, a preliminary ZTV was generated during the scoping phase to identify potential receptors. Subsequently, fieldwork was conducted to validate the ZTV and identify actual visual receptors. The visual receptors anticipated to be influenced by the Proposed Development include:

- Residents (within settlements and at isolated farmsteads/ dwellings)
- Users of PRoW and National Trails
- Users of local road network; and
- Visitors to recreational attractions/ heritage assets.

7.5.54 An assessment of the viewpoints as agreed with the relevant stakeholders is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. This assessment provides baseline descriptions and the outline sensitivity of the visual receptors within the Study Area. The locations of the viewpoints are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.1 – 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Settlements and Isolated Properties

7.5.55 In general, the topography and vegetation cover across much of W1, W2 and W3 areas affords middle to long distance views. Long distance views are available from local high points and edges of settlements. However, the entirety of the Order Limits is not visible from any one location due to topography and the screening effects from woodland and hedgerows lining the fields and the road network.

7.5.56 **Table 7-8** below, examines the potential visibility of the Proposed Development from settlements within the Study Area. **Table 7-9** provides consideration of the isolated properties that fall within or abut the Order Limits.

Table 7-8 Settlements within the Study Area

Settlement	Location	Comments
Conisbrough	Immediate adjacent to W1	There would be views from the south east edge of Conisbrough and is illustrated by Viewpoint 10.

Settlement	Location	Comments
Clifton	Approximately 0.5km east of W1	There would be filtered views through trees from properties on the western edge of Clifton and from Beacon Hill as illustrated by Viewpoint 4.
Firsby	Approximately 0.1km west of W1	There would be limited views due to screening by belts of trees to the north of Firsby as illustrated by Viewpoint 11.
Hooton Roberts	Approximately 0.75km north west of W1	There is limited visibility due to screening by belts of trees along the western boundary of W1. Therefore, is scoped out of the assessment.
Micklebring	Approximately 0.7km south east of W1	There would be glimpsed views between trees and from a few properties on the western edge of Micklebring as illustrated through Viewpoints 5 and 6.
Ravenfield	Approximately 1km south west of W1	There would be glimpsed views from properties on the eastern edge of Ravenfield due to screening by mature vegetation along the field boundaries and Garden and Arbour Lane. Where views are possible through vegetation these areas as illustrated in Viewpoints 9 and 65.
Ravenfield Grange	Approximately 1.5km to south of W1	There would be views through vegetation for properties along the northern edge of Ravenfield Grange and as illustrated by Viewpoint 9.
Maltby	Approximately 1.5km to the north east of W2	There are no views from Maltby due to screening by landform and by intervening trees. On this basis the settlement has not been considered further.
Wickersley	Immediate adjacent to W2	There would be views from properties along the southern edge of Wickersley along Sandy Lane and Wood Lane as illustrated by Viewpoint 17, with Wickersley Woods screening views from properties in the west

Settlement	Location	Comments
		of Wickersley. There would be views from properties along Cutlers Walk with open views to the east. The views would be partially filtered by existing vegetation.
Thurcroft	0.5km north of W2	There would be filtered views from properties on the western edge of Thurcroft along Brampton Road and also from the southern edge of Thurcroft as illustrated by Viewpoint 38.
Laughton Common	Approximately 1km east of W2	There would be limited visibility from properties on the western edge of Laughton Common due to screening by vegetation along the Railway, with glimpsed views through vegetation as illustrated by Viewpoint 62.
Todwick	Approximately 0.4km south west of W2	There would be glimpsed views from properties along the north east edge of Todwick due to screening by mature vegetation along the A57 as illustrated by Viewpoint 25.
Aughton	Approximately 0.5km south west of W2	There would be glimpsed views through mature vegetation along Aughton Road from properties on the eastern edge of Aughton, Views would also be partially screened by trees along Ulley Brook and landform as illustrated by Viewpoint 64.
Aston	Approximately 1km south of W2	There would be glimpsed views through mature vegetation along Ulley Brook and Aughton Road from properties on the northern edge of Aston as illustrated by Viewpoint 64.
Ulley	Immediate adjacent to W2	There would be views from properties on the north, east and southern edge of Ulley, however views would be likely to be filtered by vegetation. Representative view illustrated by Viewpoints 39 and 41.

Settlement	Location	Comments
Waverley	Approximately 1.5km to the west of W2	Properties on the eastern edge would have distant views through the valley but screened by mature woodland at Treeton Woods. On this basis the settlement has not been considered further.
Upperthorpe	Approximately 1km to the west of W3	Properties along the eastern edge would have glimpsed views heavily filtered by vegetation along Mansfield Road (A618). On this basis the settlement has not been considered further.
Harthill	Approximately 0.1km east of W3	Visibility is limited to properties on the western edge and some properties on elevated ground to the east of Harthill would have visibility as illustrated by Viewpoints 49, 50, 51 and 69.
South Anston	Approximately 0.1km south east of W2	Visibility is limited to properties on the western edge of South Anston as illustrated by Viewpoints 22 and 23.
North Anston	Approximately 0.2km south west of W2	Visibility is limited to properties on the western edge of North Anston along Penny Piece Lane as illustrated by Viewpoints 21 and 22.
Wales	Approximately 0.4km north of W3	Visibility is limited to the southern boundary of Wales, with screening by belts of trees as Viewpoint 46.
Wales Bar	Approximately 1km north west of W3	Visibility is limited to the southern boundary of Wales Bar, with screening by belts of trees as Viewpoint 56.
Treeton	Approximately 0.3km south west of W2	Visibility is limited to the eastern edge of Treeton, however mature vegetation would filter views as illustrated by Viewpoint 30.
Bramley	Approximately 1km north of W2.	There would be very limited visibility from Bramley. On this basis the settlement has not been considered further..

Settlement	Location	Comments
Orgreave	Located approximately 2km south west from W2	There would be very limited visibility from Orgreave. On this basis the settlement has not been considered further.

Table 7-9 Isolated Properties which Fall Within or abut the Order Limits

Property	Location	Comments
W1		
Parks Farm Cottages, Park Lane	Approximately 0.2km to the north of the W1	Visibility to the east and south of the cottages. Representative view provided by Viewpoint 15.
Hilltop Farm, Firsby Lane	To the immediate west of W1	Visibility to the south of the property, views to the east are screened by intervening buildings and vegetation. Representative view provided by Viewpoint 13.
W2		
Spa House	Abuts W2	Visibility to the north, east and south however extent of visibility likely to be limited by a combination of landform, vegetation and outbuildings/ sheds. Representative view provided by Viewpoint 59.
Ulley Beeches Farm	Abuts W2 (to the west of the M1)	Visibility is predicted from the rear of the property albeit likely to be screened by intervening farm buildings. Representative view provided by Viewpoint 58.
Greenland and properties along Long Road	Abuts W2 (Long Road)	There would be limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation and intervening buildings associated with the properties. On this basis the properties have not been considered further.
Brampton Common Farm	Abuts W2 (to south of Brampton Raceway)	There would be limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation and intervening buildings associated with the farm. On this basis the property has not been considered further.
Slacks Farm	Abuts W2 (to the west of the M18)	Visibility to the north, however extent of visibility likely to be limited by outbuildings/farm sheds. Representative view provided by Viewpoint 37.
Moat Farm	Abuts W2 (to the south east of Wickersley)	There would be limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation and intervening buildings associated with the farm.

		On this basis the property has not been considered further.
Properties at Ulley	Abut W2, Ulley	There would be views from properties, however views would be filtered by vegetation. Representative views provided by Viewpoints 39 and 41.
Penny Hill Farm	Abuts W2 (to the east of the M18)	There would be very limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation in combination with landform. On this basis the isolated property has not been considered further.
Hardwick Hall Farm	Approximately 0.3km to the south of W2 (to east of M1)	There would be very limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation in combination with landform. On this basis the isolated property has not been considered further.
Burne Farm	Approximately 0.7km to the north of W2	There would be limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation in combination with minor variations in landform. On this basis the isolated property has not been considered further.
W3		
Top Farm	Abuts W3 (to the east of the M1)	There would be limited visibility due to screening by neighbouring mature vegetation. On this basis the isolated property has not been considered further.

Main Road Routes

7.5.57 The main road routes within the Study Area include the M18 and M1 which pass adjacent to W1 and W2. The ZTV shows visibility along these routes however due to the speed of those travelling along the motorway there would be fleeting glimpses of the Proposed Development. On this basis the M18 and M1 have not been considered further.

7.5.58 A and B class roads within the Study Area include the A57, A618, A630, A631 and the B6094, B6376, B6060, B6059 and the B6463.

7.5.59 The A57 runs horizontal through the Proposed Development in the southern extents of W2. The ZTV shows it has visibility of the Proposed Development at multiple points, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the A road, there would be fleeting transient views of the Proposed Development. Views from the A57 are illustrated by Viewpoints 22 and 25.

7.5.60 The A618 runs linear through the western extent of W3. The ZTV shows visibility of the Proposed Development at multiple points, however, due to the speed of travellers along the A road and the urban environment, there would only be

fleeting transient views of the Proposed Development. On this basis the A618 has not been considered further.

7.5.61 The A630 runs south east from Doncaster to Rotherham, through the northern extents of W1. The ZTV shows visibility along these routes, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the A road and the proposed woodland screening planting, there would be fleeting transient views of the Proposed Development. On this basis the A630 has not been considered further.

7.5.62 The A631 runs horizontal through the northern extent of W2. The ZTV shows visibility along this route, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the A road and its situation within urban areas, views of the Proposed Development are unlikely. On this basis the A631 has not been considered further.

7.5.63 The B6094 runs south east from Conisbrough to Old Edlington, in the central area of W1. The ZTV shows visibility, however, due to its distance from the Proposed Development, travellers along the B road are unlikely to see the Proposed Development at any points along the road. On this basis the B6094 has not been considered further.

7.5.64 The B6376 runs south along the eastern extent of W1. The ZTV shows visibility, however, due to the speed of travellers along the B road and the distance from the Proposed Development, there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development. On this basis the B6376 has not been considered further.

7.5.65 The B6060 runs linear through North Anston, in the eastern extent of W2. The ZTV shows visibility of the Proposed Development at multiple points, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the A road and the urban environment it passes through, it is unlikely they will glimpse the Proposed Development. On this basis the B6060 has not been considered further.

7.5.66 The B6059 runs south and west through the northern extent of W3, from South Anston to Kiveton Park. The ZTV shows visibility of the Proposed Development, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the B road, there would only be fleeting views of the Proposed Development. On this basis the B6059 has not been considered further.

7.5.67 The B6463 runs south west from Dinnington to Todwick in the southern extent of W2. The ZTV shows visibility of the Proposed Development at multiple points, however, due to the speed of those travelling along the B road, there would be fleeting views of the Proposed Development. On this basis the B6463 has not been considered further.

Railway Lines

7.5.68 The Sheffield to Lincoln Railway Line runs through Cable Corridor CRL. The ZTV shows visibility of the Proposed Development. Views of the Proposed Development, in either direction, from passing trains would be transitory, with track side vegetation and topographical variation likely to obscure the majority of the Proposed Development from view.

7.5.69 Due to the nature of any potential views being transitory, of short duration and of only a small part of the Proposed Development, it is considered that rail passengers are unlikely to experience a Significant visual effect as a result of the Proposed Development. Consequently, these visual receptors have not been taken forward as part of the assessment.

Recreational Receptors

7.5.70 Recreational Receptors are illustrated on **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 to 7.4.6: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors and ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.71 The Rotherham Round Walk Long Distance Walking Association (LDWA) Path is located in the west of the Study Area, approximately 1km west of W1.

7.5.72 The Trans Pennine Way LDWP runs through the west of the Study Area, approximately 0.5km to the west of W2 at the closest point, it runs south approximately 2km west of W3.

7.5.73 The Cuckoo Way LDWA runs east/ west through the northern part of the Study Area adjacent to the northern boundary of the land parcel in W3 south of Wales and heads south west.

7.5.74 The Sheffield Country Walk LDWA Path runs through the west of the Study Area, approximately 2km to the west of W1.

7.5.75 National Cycle Network Route 6 runs through the west of the Study Area running south through the western part of W2. NCN Route 674 is located in the east of the Study Area approximately 1km east of W2 with potential visibility demonstrated by the ZTV and is illustrated by Viewpoints 64 and 42.

7.5.76 The PRoWs within the Study Area will be identified by name in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 – 7.4.6: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors with ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. All PRoW within the Study Area with visibility will be considered and assessed within the Representative Viewpoints. There is a network of PRoW located in and around the Study Area. For the LVIA the following PRoWs have been identified within the Order Limits or adjacent within the Study Area:

- Braithwell Footpath No.1 (Viewpoint 6)
- Braithwell Footpath No. 5 (Viewpoint 5)
- Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.3 (Viewpoint 11)
- Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.5 (Viewpoint 14)
- Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 (Viewpoint 3, 4)
- Wickersley Footpath No.8B (Viewpoint 35)
- Wickersley Footpath No. 7 (Viewpoint 17)
- Treeton Footpath No. 4 (Viewpoint 59)
- Treeton Footpath No.15 (Viewpoint 30)
- Ulley Footpath No.2 (Viewpoint 42)
- Ulley Footpath No.3 (Viewpoint 41)
- Ulley Footpath No.4 (Viewpoint 40)
- Ulley Footpath No.5 (Viewpoint 39)
- Whiston Footpath No. 14 (Viewpoint 31)
- Thurcroft Footpath No.15 (Viewpoint 62)
- Thurcroft Footpath No.10 (Viewpoint 20)
- Anston Footpath No.5 (Viewpoint 22)

- Todwick Footpath No.9 (Viewpoint 25)
- Harthill Footpath No.1 (Viewpoint 50)
- Harthill Footpath No.3 (Viewpoint 49)
- Harthill Footpath No.21 (Viewpoint 50)
- Wales Footpath No.13 (Viewpoint 56)
- Barlborough Footpath No.21 (Viewpoint 66)
- Barlborough Footpath No.22 (Viewpoint 52); and
- Barlborough Footpath No.47 (Viewpoint 53).

PRoW Bridleways:

- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 (Viewpoint 7, 8, 16)
- Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.25 (Viewpoint 66)
- Whiston Bridleway No.20 (Viewpoint 44)
- Aston Bridleway No.1 (Viewpoint 21)
- Aston Bridleway No.7 (Viewpoint 23)
- Thurcroft Bridleway No.29b (Viewpoint 18)
- Todwick Bridleway No.7 (Viewpoint 26)
- Harthill Bridleway No.16 (Viewpoint 48, 60)
- Ulley Bridleway No.6 (Viewpoint 40); and
- Wales Bridleway No.35 (Viewpoints 46, 47).

7.5.77 Views from recreational routes vary and are dynamic in nature, depending on the section of a route that is travelled, and how much of the route is travelled. In some instances open views across the wider area and surrounding countryside occur but the extent of view can be reduced by neighbouring buildings and/or vegetation, particularly by those in close proximity to the route.

7.5.78 In addition to recreational routes recreational receptor locations include:

- Visitors to Harthill Reservoir (illustrated by Viewpoints 49 and 50)
- Visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland (illustrated by Viewpoint 48)
- Visitors to Ulley Country Park (illustrated by Viewpoint 43)
- Visitors to Pebley Reservoir (illustrated by Viewpoint 52); and
- Visitors to Firsby Reservoir (illustrated by Viewpoint 11).

7.5.79 These are illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4.4 – 7.4.6: Public Rights of Way and Private Receptors with ZTV W1 – W3 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.5.80 A summary of the visual receptors and the representative viewpoint assigned to the receptor is provided below in **Table 7-10**.

Table 7-10 Summary of Visual Receptors and Representative Viewpoints

Receptor		Representative Viewpoint(s)
Settlements	Conisbrough	Viewpoint 10.
	Clifton	Viewpoint 4.

	Firsby	Viewpoint 11.
	Micklebring	Viewpoints 5 and 6.
	Ravenfield	Viewpoints 9 and 65.
	Ravenfield Grange	Viewpoint 9.
	Wickersley	Viewpoint 17
	Thurcroft	Viewpoint 38.
	Laughton Common	Viewpoint 62.
	Todwick	Viewpoint 25.
	Aughton	Viewpoint 64.
	Aston	Viewpoint 64.
	Ulley	Viewpoints 41 and 39.
	Harthill	Viewpoints 49, 50, 51 and 69.
	South Anston	Viewpoints 22 and 23.
	North Anston	Viewpoints 21 and 22.
	Wales	Viewpoint 46.
	Wales Bar	Viewpoint 56.
	Treeton	Viewpoint 30.
Transport Routes	A57	Viewpoints 22 and 23
National Cycle Routes	National Cycle Network Route 6	Viewpoints 64 and 42
Long Distance Routes and Walks	Cuckoo Way	Viewpoint 47
	Rotherham Round Walk	Viewpoints 31, 34, 59
PRoWs and Bridleways	Braithwell Footpath No.1	Viewpoint 6
	Braithwell Footpath No. 5	Viewpoint 5
	Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.3	Viewpoint 11
	Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.5	Viewpoint 14
	Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16	Viewpoint 3, 4
	Wickersley Footpath No.8B	Viewpoint 35
	Wickersley Footpath No. 7	Viewpoint 17
	Treeton Footpath No. 4	Viewpoint 59
	Treeton Footpath No.15	Viewpoint 30
	Ulley Footpath No.2	Viewpoint 42
	Ulley Footpath No.3	Viewpoint 41
	Ulley Footpath No.4	Viewpoint 40
	Ulley Footpath No.5	Viewpoint 39
	Whiston Footpath No. 14	Viewpoint 31
	Thurcroft Footpath No.15	Viewpoint 62

	Thurcroft Footpath No.10	Viewpoint 20
	Anston Footpath No.5	Viewpoint 22
	Todwick Footpath No.9	Viewpoint 25
	Harthill Footpath No.1	Viewpoint 50
	Harthill Footpath No.3	Viewpoint 49
	Harthill Footpath No.21	Viewpoint 50
	Wales Footpath No.13	Viewpoint 56
	Barlborough Footpath No.21	Viewpoint 66
	Barlborough Footpath No.22	Viewpoint 52
	Barlborough Footpath No.47	Viewpoint 53
	Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4	Viewpoints 7, 8, 16
	Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.	Viewpoint 66
	Whiston Bridleway No.20	Viewpoint 44
	Aston Bridleway No.1	Viewpoint 21
	Aston Bridleway No.7	Viewpoint 23
	Thurcroft Bridleway No.29b	Viewpoint 18
	Todwick Bridleway No.7	Viewpoint 26
	Harthill Bridleway No.16	Viewpoints 48, 60
	Ulley Bridleway No.6	Viewpoint 40
	Wales Bridleway No.35	Viewpoints 46, 47
Recreational Receptors	Harthill Reservoir	Viewpoints 49 and 50
	Kiveton Community Woodland	Viewpoint 48
	Ulley Country Park	Viewpoint 43
	Pebley Reservoir	Viewpoint 52
	Firsby Reservoir	Viewpoint 11

Future Baseline Conditions

7.5.81 For the purposes of the LVIA, the future baseline of the Order Limits has been taken to be the same as the current baseline. Over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, agricultural practices and crops may change resulting in alteration to the baseline arable and pasture landscape.

7.5.82 In a scenario where the Proposed Development does not proceed, there is a presumption that land use will continue under the current regime for the foreseeable future, with land primarily used for agriculture and farming.

7.5.83 In this scenario, there would be continuing subtle changes to the landscape arising from the effects of climate change which may result over time in changes to the landscape character. Warmer and wetter winters resulting in storms and more frequent flooding of farmland may result in changes to vegetation with more waterlogging, affecting grazing patterns, potentially reducing usable farmland and the loss of certain types of indigenous plant species in favour of hardier more stress tolerant species. This, combined with a greater chance of hotter, more arid

summers, resulting in weathering of topsoil and the cracking and separating of overburden may also change the type of farming leading to crop shifts.

7.5.84 Climate change may accelerate this change in the landscape, but this is difficult to predict with any certainty, and it is therefore assumed the baseline would remain unaltered in the absence of the Proposed Development. Future climate change projections and the effect of climate change on the Proposed Development are presented in **ES Volume 2, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.11]**.

7.6 Embedded Mitigation Measures

General

7.6.1 This section of the LVIA provides an overview of the embedded mitigation measures in the Proposed Development that would be adopted in order to mitigate potential adverse effects on the landscape and to views and visual amenity.

7.6.2 These measures are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**. These management plans are secured via requirements in the **Draft DCO [EN0110020/APP/3.1]** which provide that the final management plans have to be carried out substantially in accordance with the outline management plans which will be submitted with the Application.

7.6.3 The approach to the development of the landscape and visual mitigation measures is cognisant of the policy set out in Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), 2025, the design of the Proposed Development taking into account the following key aspects set out in the policy statement:

- Paragraph 5.10.6 *"Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate."*
- Paragraph 5.10.19 *"The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme."*
- Paragraph 5.10.24 *"Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality."*

7.6.4 The design and layout of the Proposed Development has formed part of an iterative process that has been informed by the ongoing environmental assessments, site selection assessment and taking into consideration the **Outline Design Parameters [EN0110020/APP/7.3]**, non-statutory and Statutory Consultation feedback, and engagement with stakeholders and consultees.

7.6.5 Full details of the design evolution of the Proposed Development are provided in **ES Volume 1; Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN0110020/APP/6.4]**. The mitigation measures are illustrated in **ES Volume 3,**

Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19] and the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** to adapt the design to reduce the potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects.

7.6.6 The primary element of the embedded mitigation for landscape and visual effects arises from site selection – in that the Proposed Development is not within and would not affect any nationally (or locally) designated landscapes.

7.6.7 Further measures that are proposed through the development of the design are discussed below.

Principles of Landscape and Visual Mitigation

Approach

7.6.8 Following the initial feasibility and optioneering studies and based on Statutory Consultation feedback and fieldwork undertaken to date, a number of offsets to landscape features have been incorporated into the Proposed Development layout:

- All infrastructure has been sited within the existing field pattern, protecting existing vegetation and maximising the screening effect of existing vegetation
- Larger infrastructure i.e. primary substation would be located a minimum of 300m from residential dwellings and 10m from PRoWs and sited so that they minimise potential harm to the landscape and affect the views and visual amenity of people; and
- All infrastructure has been sited to minimise impacts on the character, including the setting, of villages.

7.6.9 The following planting types have been proposed across the Proposed Development to provide visual mitigation and introduce landscape features which are characteristic of the landscape setting in the Study Area. These include:

- Creation of woodland belts
- Reinforcement of existing field boundary hedgerows where required
- New hedgerows are proposed across the Order Limits, to improve connectivity
- Areas of ecological mitigation
- Reinforced roadside planting
- Planting of individual trees; and
- Species rich grassland and wildflower meadow seed mixes will be integrated across the Order Limits.

7.6.10 Confirmed mitigation measures and detailed enhancement measures are included in the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**. During the operational (and maintenance) phase of the life of the Proposed Development, the management of existing vegetation and new planting will be guided by the oLEMP. This will set out the aspirations of the habitats and their management and will include monitoring and review cycles. These cycles will ensure that where habitats or planting are not achieving their design objectives, they are reviewed, management practices are adopted, and subsequent updates to the oLEMP are captured to achieve the design objectives.

Lighting

7.6.11 Lighting is not required within the solar arrays. However, it would be installed in the primary and satellite substation compounds and the BESS location(s) and would be used only as needed for maintenance and security purposes. All lighting would be manually operated or PIR motion activated and directed into the compounds, avoiding hedgerows, tree lines, woodland blocks, watercourses, ponds, and other areas to minimise impact on nocturnal or crepuscular fauna and potential sensitive residential receptors where possible.

Cabling

7.6.12 All cables proposed across the Proposed Development will be underground, limiting the associated visual impact.

Fencing

7.6.13 Fencing surrounding the solar PV array is anticipated to be a maximum of 2.2m in height. If necessary, a double fence may be installed. Mammal gates would be incorporated into perimeter fencing to allow for movement of wildlife.

7.6.14 The substation compounds would be surrounded by a double fence of galvanised welded wire which would be a maximum of 3m in height, with an additional 1m of electrified fencing. Fencing would be muted in colour, and sensitive with the surrounding environment.

7.6.15 The BESS compound would be surrounded by a double fence of galvanised welded wire which would be a maximum of 3m in height, with an additional 1m of electrified fencing. Fencing would be muted in colour, and sensitive with the surrounding environment

7.6.16 Glint and glare screening would be installed as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate glare impacts on highways. Glint and glare mitigation is further discussed in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics [EN0110020/APP/6.16]**.

Location Specific Mitigation Measures

7.6.17 The following location specific mitigation measures listed in **Table 7-9** have been adopted as the design of the Proposed Development has evolved.

Table 7-11 Location Specific Landscape and Visual Mitigation Measures

Location	Embedded Mitigation Measure
Whitestone 1	
Conisbrough	Withdrew proposed solar by 300m from southern edge of Conisbrough, reducing visual impact from the southern edge of the settlement and in views experienced when travelling along Sheffield Road.
Individual residential properties	Increased offset in proximity to individual residential properties including: • 255m from Hill Top House; • 250m from Parks Farm Cottages;

Location	Embedded Mitigation Measure
	• Removal of proposed panels on land south of Spring Bank Bungalow; and • Removal of proposed panels on land north of Hill Top Farm.
Firsby	Removal of proposed solar panels on land north, east and west of Firsby with offset ranging between 250 – 500m in response to existing views and topography.
Clifton	Proposed solar removed from the west and south of Clifton in response to local resident feedback.
Wider land	Expansion of offsets from PRoWs, maintaining one side open in several instances in response to feedback explaining the importance of the routes for recreation.
	Exclusion of proposed solar panels from land identified as having high potential for archaeological sensitivity.
Whitestone 2	
Upper Whiston	Inclusion of 220m offset across land south of Upper Whiston to minimise impact on setting.
Ulley	Removal of proposed solar panels north of Ulley to minimise impact on the setting and views from the village, and to fragment the Proposed Development across the wider landscape.
	Removal of proposed solar panels south of Ulley on at least one side of the PRoW connecting to Aston to retain sense of openness.
Brampton en le Morthen	Incorporation of offset to the south, siting solar beyond landform and vegetation to minimise visual impact.
	Removal of proposed solar panels on land south west of village to preserve sense of arrival to village from the west.
Individual properties	Increase of offsets from residential properties including Meadow View where an offset of 245m across land to the south was embedded.
Brampton Common	Removal of proposed solar panels on land at Brampton Common to retain open land between Whitestone and other solar developments to minimise cumulative impact.
Hardwick	Incorporation of offsets on land east of Hardwick to remove visual impact that would be experienced when travelling on local PRoWs.
South of Turnshaw Plantation	Removal of proposed solar on land south of Turnshaw Plantation, preserving the setting to South Yorkshire Woodland Burial Ground.

Location	Embedded Mitigation Measure
Whitestone 3	
High Moor	Increased offset from High Moor, siting solar beyond landform to minimise potential for visual impact from settlement.
Woodall	Increased offset from Woodall, siting solar beyond landform to minimise potential for visual impact.
Woodall and Harthill	Removal of proposed solar on land between Woodall and Harthill, north of Harthill Reservoir, to maintain openness between the two villages and reduce visual impact.

Protection of Existing Vegetation

7.6.18 Conservation of the existing landscape patterns has guided design development to retain the scale, pattern and features of the landscape. The Proposed Development incorporated a number of standard buffers for the location of infrastructure from easily identifiable features, with the aim of reducing any potential impacts to sensitive receptors where practicable.

7.6.19 All works have been integrated into the existing landscape pattern, as far as possible, minimising vegetation loss and embedding minimum offsets from existing features where practicable, namely:

- Hedgerows: 5m
- Trees: 15m
- Woodlands: 25m; and
- Waterbodies and watercourses: 10m.

7.6.20 Access points have been located to minimise vegetation removal. Where access points necessitate the removal of vegetation for visibility splays it is proposed that such vegetation is coppiced, rather than removed, as set out in the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**, **Vegetation Removal Plan [EN0110020/APP/2.9]** and the **Rights of Way, Streets, and Access Plans [EN010159/APP/2.4]**.

Enhancements to the Landscape

7.6.21 The Proposed Development presents the opportunity for the enhancement of vegetation across the Order Limits, benefitting ecological connectivity, diversity and biosecurity whilst contributing to the quality of the landscape. The Proposed Development will include the following new planting:

- Species-rich grassland and wildflower meadow
- Mixed grassland under solar modules
- Hedgerow margin/species-rich grassland
- Riparian zones/species-rich grassland
- Native woodland and tree belts
- Proposed native hedgerows; and
- Proposed native hedgerows with trees.

Construction Mitigation Measures

7.6.22 The Applicant has committed to implementing a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) during construction activities for the Proposed Development. An **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** is submitted with the Application.

7.6.23 The **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** includes the following embedded mitigation measures:

- Minimising of lighting during construction, specific to task and concentrated on the work area to avoid overspill to adjacent areas
- Protection of vegetation to be retained through appropriate Root Protection Areas and fencing
- Minimising vegetation removal to the minimum required for access and construction
- Ground protection measures to reduce compaction of the soil during construction
- Layout and design of haul roads and construction compounds have been set out to reduce loss of physical landscape features and minimum offsets to sensitive designations
- Hoarding to be present around construction compounds and construction laydown areas to reduce clutter of materials in views; and
- Construction compounds and laydown areas to be located away from sensitive receptors where possible.

Decommissioning Mitigation Measures

7.6.24 A Decommissioning Plan (including a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)) will be prepared at the cessation of operations at the Site, in line with relevant legislation at that time. An **outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.11]** is submitted with the Application.

7.7 Assessment of Effects

Introduction

7.7.1 Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, the overall assessment of the Proposed Development is based upon the findings associated with each of the individual areas of W1, W2, W3 and the Cable Corridors.

7.7.2 The LVIA of this ES has undertaken an assessment of effects on Landscape and Visual Receptors which is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.7.3 Taking into account the embedded mitigation measures as detailed in Section 7.6, the potential for the Proposed Development to generate effects was assessed using the methodology as detailed in Section 0 of this Chapter. In the sections below, a summary of the associated impacts and effects during the construction,

operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are discussed.

7.7.4 Whilst mental health and wellbeing of the local population is not specifically assessed as part of the LVIA, it is recognised that a potential cause of mental health issues is a result of impacts to landscape character and visual amenity. This is considered further in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.17]**.

Construction

7.7.5 The construction activities that will have an effect upon landscape character and visual amenity during the construction phase include:

- Alterations to the existing appearance of the Site and Cable Corridors caused by the construction activities
- The introduction of new temporary elements, including construction compounds, internal haulage road, equipment stockpiles, welfare facilities, plant and machinery
- Groundworks, topsoil stripping and excavation for ancillary structures and tables; and
- The movement of plant and machinery within the Order Limits and the surrounding landscape and construction/delivery traffic on local roads.

Summary of Landscape Character Effects: Construction Phase

7.7.6 A full assessment of effects upon landscape character during construction is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.7.7 The LVIA of this ES indicates that construction would result in Significant effects on the host LCAs with **Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)** effects on LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland and **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** upon LCA A1: Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands. There would be **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effects on 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton and 6: Rother Valley Floor with **Negligible or Neutral (Not Significant)** effects on the rest of the LCA's in the Study Area. Within all LCAs there would be a perceived reduction in tranquillity as a result of the construction activities which would typically be greater than that resulting from the presence of farming machinery. In parcels where the construction of PV array is complete, the perceived tranquillity of the LCA would return.

7.7.8 No Significant effects have been identified during the construction of the Cable Corridors. The highest effects were **Minor Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** upon 5b: Coalfield tributary Valleys – Treeton resulting from the construction of CR 2c and on 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau resulting from the construction CR 3b. For the remaining Cable Corridors **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effects are predicted on the LCAs they directly pass through during construction.

Summary of Visual Effects: Construction

7.7.9 A full assessment of effects upon visual receptors during construction is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment**

[EN0110020/APP/6.20]. The LVIA of this ES indicates that there would be **Moderate, Major/Moderate and Major Significant** effects upon:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint and residents on the northern edge of Micklebring and along Greaves Sike Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)
- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Residents of Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoints 14** and **15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley and recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 37**)
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**);
- Recreational users of bridleway and residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**)
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**)
- Recreational users of the local Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW/bridleway network and visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland (refer to **Viewpoint 48**)
- Recreational users of Rotherham Round Walk / Treeton Footpath No. 4 and residential receptors at Spa House (refer to **Viewpoint 59**); and
- Recreational users of Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW and residential properties along Walseker Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 60**).

7.7.10 During construction of the Cable Corridors, there would be potential **Minor (Not Significant)** Effects upon users of Cuckoo Way for Cable Corridor CRL. All other Cable Corridors were assessed as giving rise to **Minor to Moderate Adverse (Not Significant)** Effects or **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** Effects.

Operation and Maintenance Phase

Operation and Maintenance Phase – Year 1

7.7.11 The potential impacts on landscape receptors as result of the operation of the Proposed Development primarily relate to the increased presence of energy infrastructure in the Study Area.

7.7.12 Visual effects are likely to result from the introduction of solar PV panels, BESS and substation into views experienced by residents, people travelling on PRoW and people travelling by road.

7.7.13 The assessment of effects takes into account the embedded mitigation measures which are set out in Section 7.6 and as described and illustrated in **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**.

Landscape Character Effects: Year 1

7.7.14 A full assessment of the operational Year 1 landscape effects can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and a summary of landscape effects is set out in **Table 7-12**.

7.7.15 The Year 1 assessment has identified the following potential Significant effects of **Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)** upon LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland and LCA A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands.

7.7.16 All other LCAs within the Study Area were found to have Not Significant effects with four LCAs having **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effects and six LCAs to have **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effects.

Visual Effects: Year 1

7.7.17 A full assessment of the operational Year 1 visual effects can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4. Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. A summary of the visual effects (Operation Year 1) is set out in **Table 7-13**.

7.7.18 The Year 1 assessment has identified the following potential Significant effects of **Major Adverse (Significant)** effects on:

- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley and recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**); and
- Recreational users of the local Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW/bridleway network and visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland (refer to **Viewpoint 48**).

7.7.19 With **Moderate, or Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effects on:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)

- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoints 14** and **15**)
- Residential receptors at Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 37**)
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**)
- Recreational users of bridleway and residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**)
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**)
- Recreational users of Rotherham Round Walk / Treeton Footpath No. 4 and residential receptors at Spa House (refer to **Viewpoint 59**); and
- Recreational users of Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW and residential properties along Walseker Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 60**).

7.7.20 The Year 1 assessment found there would be no Significant effects on the remaining viewpoints.

Operation and Maintenance Phase – Year 15

Landscape Character Effects (Year 15)

7.7.21 A full assessment of the operational Year 15 landscape and visual effects can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and a summary of landscape effects is set out **Table 7-12**. All other viewpoints at Year 15 were considered to have **Not Significant** effects

7.7.22 There would be a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon the host LCA A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands and the LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland.

7.7.23 All other host and indirect landscape character areas were found to have **Not Significant** effects.

Visual Effects (Year 15)

7.7.24 A full assessment of the operational Year 15 visual effects can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4. Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**. A summary of the visual effects (Operation Year 15) is set out in **Table 7-13**.

7.7.25 The Year 15 assessment found the following effects, there would be **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effects upon Viewpoints 4, 35, 40, and 44:

- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)

- Recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**); and
- Recreational users of the bridleway at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**).

7.7.26 With **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effects upon:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)
- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Residents of Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**); and
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**).

7.7.27 All other viewpoints at Year 15 were considered to have **Not Significant** effects.

Table 7-12: Summary of Residual Effects on Landscape Character (Operation Year 1 and Year 15) Effects

LCA	Effect (Year 1)	Effect (Year 15)
Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment		
A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
A2: Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
A3: Barnburgh to Hooton Coalfield Farmlands	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
B1: Don Coalfield River Corridor	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
B2: Dearne Coalfield River Corridor	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau	Negligible Neutral (Not Significant)	Negligible Neutral (Not Significant)
C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
D1: Don Limestone River Valley	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment		

LCA	Effect (Year 1)	Effect (Year 15)
4: Don Valley North	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
5a: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Thrybergh	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
5b: Coalfield Farmland Tributary Valleys - Treeton	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
5C: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Canklow	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
6: Rother Valley Floor	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau - Maltby Colliery	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
11: Ryton Farmlands	Not assessed further	Not assessed further
Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment		
A: Limestone Farmland LCT	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
B: Wooded Farmland LCT	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
C: Estate Farmland	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
D: Riverside Meadows	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.

LCA	Effect (Year 1)	Effect (Year 15)
E: Wooded hills and Valleys	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
Sheffield Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment		
HM1: Highly Maintained Landscapes	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
LO1: Encapsulated River Valleys	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
LO3: Lowland, Broad River Valley	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.
LO5: Encapsulated Farmland	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.	Indirect effects only on the LCA and no change to defining features and elements will occur. As no LSE predicted the LCA has not been considered further.

Table 7-13: Summary of Residual Visual (Operation Year 1 and Year 15) Effects

Viewpoint	Viewpoint Name	Receptors	Effect (Year 1)	Effect (Year 15)
1	Conisbrough Cemetery, Spring Bank Road	Visitors to Conisbrough Cemetery	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residents along Spring Bank Road	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
2	Kearsley Lane	Residents along Kearsley Lane	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
3	Conisbrough Parks Farm / Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW	Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
4	Clifton (West) / Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW	Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Residents on the western edge of Clifton.	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)
5	Millennium Viewpoint / Micklebring (West)	Visitors to Millennium Viewpoint	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Residents on the northern edge of Micklebring and along Greaves Sike Lane	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
6	Micklebring (North) / Braithwell Footpath No.1 PRoW	Residents on the northern edge of Micklebring	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of the Braithwell Footpath No.1 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

7	Conisbrough Grange Farm, Park Lane / Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4	Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4	Moderate Adverse Significant)	Moderate Adverse Significant)
		Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm	Moderate/ Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
8	Birk Lodge Farm, Park Lane / Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4	Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 PRoW and bridleway	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Birk Lodge Farm	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
9	Ravenfield (East), Garden Lane / Ravenfield Footpath No.10 PRoW	Recreational users of the Ravenfield Footpath No.10 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors east of Ravenfield	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
10	Conisbrough (South)	Residential receptors south of Conisbrough	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
11	Firsby Hall Farm / Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.3 PRoW	Residents of Firsby	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.3 PRoW and bridleway	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
13	Hill Top and Hill Top Farm, Firsby Lane / Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2	Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

14	Conisbrough (South), Park Lane	Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.5 PRoW	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
15	Parks Farm Cottages / Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW	Residential receptors at Parks Farm Cottages	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
16	Conisbrough Lodge / Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW	Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW	Major Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
17	Bramley Lings (south) / Wickersley Footpath No. 7 PRoW	Residential receptors at Bramley Lings	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No. 7 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
20	Common Farm, Long Road / Thurcroft Footpath No.10 PRoW	Residential receptors at Common Farm	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Thurcroft Footpath No.10 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
21	North Anston (West) / Anston Bridleway No. 46	Residential receptors at North Anston	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Anston Bridleway No. 46	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
22	South Anston (West) / Anston Footpath No.5 PRoW on A57	Residential receptors at South Anston	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Anston Footpath No.5 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

23	South Anston (West) / Anston Bridleway No.7	Residential receptors at South Anston	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Anston Bridleway No.7	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
25	Grange Farm, A57 / Todwick Footpath No.9 PRoW	Recreational users of Todwick Footpath No.9 PRoW and visitors to Grange Farm	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
26	Hardwick (South) / Todwick Bridleway No.7	Residential receptors at Hardwick Grange Farm and Hardwick Hall	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Todwick Bridleway No.7	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
29	Treeton Wood, Wood Lane	Visitors to Treeton Wood	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
30	Treeton (North), Well Lane / Treeton Footpath No.15 PRoW	Recreational users of Treeton Footpath No.15 PRoW and recreation ground.	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Treeton	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
31	Guilthwaite (South) / Rotherham Round Walk / Whiston Footpath No. 14	Residents of properties at Guilthwaite	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Rotherham Roundwalk / Whiston Footpath No. 14	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
34	Wickersley (West) / Rotherham Round Walk	Recreational users of Rotherham Roundwalk	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)

		Residential receptors at Wickersley	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
35	Wickersley (East), Second Lane / Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW	Recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW	Major Adverse (Significant)	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Residential receptors at Wickersley	Major Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
37	Slacks Farm / Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW	Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Slacks Farm	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
38	Thurcroft (South) / Thurcroft Footpath No.1 PRoW	Recreational users of Thurcroft Footpath No.1 PRoW	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Thurcroft	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
39	Ulley (South) / Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW	Residents at Ulley	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
40	Stoket Lane / Ulley Footpath No.4 PRoW	Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway	Major Adverse (Significant)	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)
41	Ulley (North) / Ulley Footpath No.3 PRoW	Residential receptors at north and east of Ulley	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.3 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

42	Ulley (West), Reservoir Road / Ulley Footpath No.2 PRoW	Residents at the western edge of Ulley	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.2 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
43	Ulley Country Park	Visitors to Ulley Country Park	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
44	Upper Whiston (East), Field Lane / Whiston Bridleway No.20	Recreational users of bridleway	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)
		Residential receptors at Upper Whiston	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
45	Morthen (South) / Whiston Footpath No.21 PRoW	Residential receptors at Morthen and adjacent farms	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Recreational users of Whiston Footpath No.21 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
46	Wales (South), Church Street / Wales Bridleway no.35	Residential receptors at Wales	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
47	Cuckoo Way / NCN Route 6 / Wales Bridleway No.37 on Coalpit Lane	Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
48	Kiveton Community Woodland / Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW	Recreational users of the local Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW/bridleway network	Major Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland	Major Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
49	Woodall Lane, Harthill (West) / Harthill Footpath	Recreational users of Harthill Footpath No.3 PRoW and visitors to Harthill Reservoir	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

	No.3 PRoW at Harthill Reservoir	Residential receptors at Woodall Lane west of Harthill	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
50	West of Harthill / Harthill Footpath No.1 and No. 21 PRoWs	Recreational users of Harthill Footpath No.1 and No. 21 PRoWs	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at west Harthill	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
51	Harthill (South) / South Yorkshire Way - Boundary Route	Recreational users of South Yorkshire Way - Boundary Route / Harthill Footpath No.1 PROW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors in the south of Harthill	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
52	Pebleygrove Farm / Barlborough Footpath No.22 PRoW	Recreational users of Barlborough Footpath No.22 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Pebleygrove Farm	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
53	Rotherham Road / Barlborough Footpath No.47 PRoW	Recreational users of Barlborough Footpath No.47 PRoW	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Users of Rotherham Road	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
56	Wales Bar (South) / Wales Footpath No.13 PRoW	Recreational users of Wales Footpath No.13 PRoW	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)

		Residential receptors south of Wales Bar	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
58	Ulley Beech Farm, High Lane	High Lane Road Users	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Ulley Beech Farm	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
59	Spa House / Rotherham Round Walk	Recreational users of Rotherham Roundwalk / Treeton Footpath No. 4	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential receptors at Spa House	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
60	Walseker Lane / Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW	Recreational users of Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
		Residential properties along Walseker Lane	Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
61	Lidgets Hill / Conisbrough Parks Bridleway	Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor/Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
62	Laughton Common Road / Thurcroft Footpath No.15 PRoW	Recreational users of Thurcroft Footpath No.15 PRoW	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
63	Common Road	People travelling along Common Road	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
64	South Yorkshire Woodland Burial Ground	Visitors to South Yorkshire Woodland Burial Ground	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
65	Ravenfield (East) / Ravenfield Bridleway No.4	Recreational users of Ravenfield Bridleway No.4	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

		Residential receptors, Ravenfield	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
66	Barlborough Hall / Barlborough Footpath No.21 PRoW	Recreational users of Barlborough Footpath No.21 PRoW and visitors to Barlborough Hall	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)	Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)
68	Killamarsh Lane	Those travelling along Killamarsh Lane	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Minor Adverse (Not Significant)
69	Hard Lane, Harthill	Residential receptors	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse (Not Significant)

Decommissioning

7.7.28 The decommissioning phase would broadly reflect the activities set out in the construction phase but likely to be reduced as removal would require less disturbance than during the construction phase. Effects identified during construction phase are considered to be similar or less for the decommissioning phase, therefore a separate assessment for decommissioning phase has not been undertaken and would be as reported for construction.

7.8 Additional Mitigation and Residual Effects

Additional Mitigation

7.8.1 No additional mitigation is proposed in order to mitigate Landscape and Visual effects.

Residual Effects

7.8.2 A summary of the potential Landscape and Visual effects is presented in **Table 7-11** and **Table 7-12**.

7.9 Cumulative Effects

7.9.1 This section summarises the potential cumulative Landscape and Visual effects of the Proposed Development. The methodology of this assessment is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.2 Landscape and Visual Impact Methodology [EN0110020/APP/6.20].**

Intra-Cumulative Effects

7.9.2 Intra-cumulative impacts can be defined as those that occur where a single receptor is affected by more than one source of effect arising from different aspects of the Proposed Development, e.g. for people these may arise from impacts related to noise, air quality and visual impacts. Consideration of these intra-cumulative effects on human health are considered in **ES Volume 2: Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects [EN0110020/APP/6.17].**

Inter-Cumulative Effects

7.9.3 Inter-cumulative effects refer to the impacts that arise from other existing and, or approved developments within reasonable proximity of the Proposed Development, which individually might not be Significant, but when considered together could create a Significant cumulative effect on a shared receptor.

7.9.4 This assessment has considered similar forms of development proposals identified in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 17.2: Cumulative Long List [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**.

7.9.5 They include the projects listed in **Table 7-14**. Cumulative assessment on landscape character and representative viewpoints are provided in the relevant appendix **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.3 Landscape Character Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20] and ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.4 Representative Viewpoint Assessment [EN0110020/APP/6.20].**

Table 7-14: Cumulative Developments

Project Name	Address	Planning Reference	Description
Common Farm Solar	Common Farm, Bookers Lane, Dinnington	RB2022/1203	Installation and operation of a solar energy park and associated infrastructure.
Hallam Park Substation	Best Meats UK Ltd Houghton Road North Anston Trading Estate North Anston	RB2025/1648	Erection of new sub station
Kiveton Park BESS	Land at Hard Lane Kiveton Park	RB2025/0240	Proposed Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS)

Long Lane 400kV GIS Substation	Land at Long Lane Whiston	RB2025/1468	Erection of a new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation including gantries, internal access roads, a GIS building, parking, drainage, emergency diesel generator, lighting and CCTV, permanent access road from Long Lane, earthworks, landscaping and biodiversity enhancement, and fencing and the permanent realignment of Whiston Footpath 10
Maltby Solar Park	Land North and South of Stainton Lane Maltby	RB2025/1009 (RMBC) 25/01554/FULM (CDC)	Proposed development of a solar park, battery energy storage system ('BESS'), underground cable route and associated infrastructure
Mere Flats Solar Farm	Land Off Moor Lane Micklebring Rotherham S66 7RN	22/00840/SCRE	Request for an EIA screening opinion for the Proposed Mere Flats Solar Energy Supply Project
Piper Lane Solar Farm	Land off Carr Lane Ulley	RB2025/0029	Proposed ground-mounted solar PV arrays, supporting energy infrastructure (including battery storage (BESS), access improvements and ancillary development including, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements and continued shared agricultural use
Thurcroft Interchange Energy Park	Land off Morthen Lane Morthen	RB2025/0714	Construction, operation, and subsequent decommissioning of a renewable energy park, comprising ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) together with associated infrastructure including inverters, substation compound, cabling, access tracks, fencing, and landscaping
Wickersley BESS	Land off Moat Lane Wickersley	RB2024/0063 (Appeal ref. APP/P4415/W/25/3363208)	Erection of battery storage facility and associated works.
Woodall Substation	Land north of Woodall Services Killamarsh Lane Woodall	RB2026/0228	Erection of new substation, associated infrastructure including access, parking, landscaping and temporary construction access

7.9.6 The solar projects in the vicinity of the Proposed Development include, or are likely to include, landscape and ecological mitigation measures of a similar nature to those proposed as part of the Proposed Development. These measures typically focus on screening and integrating respective developments into the

landscape whilst also increasing biodiversity and habitat value. In combination with these measures the Proposed Development would result in the enhancement and strengthening of the hedgerows and tree belts which contribute to the landscape framework within the Order Limits in addition to diversifying plant species. In this respect the Proposed Development, in combination with similar development proposals would make a long-term beneficial contribution to the landscape and continue to do so as the planting to the landscape and ecological mitigation measures mature.

7.9.7 In respect of landscape character, while the Proposed Development would increase the prevalence of similar developments within host LCAs, the cumulative effects would not be of such sufficient magnitude to redefine the LCAs or LCTs. Therefore, no Significant direct cumulative effects are identified during construction or operation. From LCAs where only views of the Proposed Development in combination with other similar proposals would occur no Significant indirect effects on LCAs are predicted as there would be no change to the features and elements that define the LCA.

7.9.8 In respect of views and visual amenity, the assessment found that combined visibility of the Proposed Development with similar developments would be limited and effects resulting from combined visibility would be likely to be reduced as the landscape mitigation proposals to the respective developments mature and limit views during operation. Where combined visibility occurs this tends to relate to solar projects in close proximity to the Proposed Development notably Common Farm Solar Farm and Thurcroft Interchange Energy Park.

7.9.9 Instances of sequential views were predicted to arise, notably in relation to Common Farm Solar Farm and Thurcroft Interchange Energy Park from recreational routes and roads. Such views will alter over time as the mitigation planting to the other solar farms and the Proposed Development matures and likely reduces the amount of visibility of the developments.

7.9.10 The assessment identified that there would be likely to be no Significant Adverse cumulative effects on views and visual amenity at either construction phase or during operation as a result of the Proposed Development cumulatively with other similar developments within the Study Area.

7.10 Summary

Statement of Significance

7.10.1 This Chapter of ES has identified the existing environment in relation to the landscape and visual resource and the assessment work that has been undertaken to date. Mitigation measures have been set out in the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**), and the following Significant effects remain in the ES.

7.10.2 Effects would be greatest during construction and early operation, prior to the mitigation planting included as part of the Proposed Development establishing and maturing.

Landscape Effects

7.10.3 The LVIA found that the construction phase would result in Significant effects on the host LCAs with **Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)** effects on LCA 8:

Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland and **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** upon LCA A1: Conisbrough and Denaby Coafield Farmlands. There would be **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effects on C1: Stainton to Edington Limestone Plateau, 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton and 6: Rother Valley Floor with **Negligible or Neutral (Not Significant)** effects on the rest of the LCA's in the Study Area.

7.10.4 The Year 1 assessment identified the following potential Significant effects of **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** Effect upon the host LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland and **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** Effect upon the host LCA A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands.

7.10.5 All other LCAs within the Study Area were found to have Not Significant effects with four LCAs having **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** Effects and six LCAs to have **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** Effects.

7.10.6 During operation (Year 15) the Proposed Development would result in a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon the host LCA A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands and the LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland.

7.10.7 All other host and indirect landscape character areas were found to have **Not Significant** effects and no further design modification required but would be reviewed to seek out any potential enhancement measures or further reduce effects.

7.10.8 No Significant effects have been identified during the construction of the Cable Corridors.

7.10.9 The assessment identified that there would be no Significant adverse landscape character effects at either construction phase or during operation as a result of the Proposed Development cumulatively with other similar developments within the Study Area.

Visual Effects

7.10.10 During construction there would be **Major/Moderate to Major (Significant)** temporary effects upon the following receptors:

- Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)
- Residents of Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoints 14** and **15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley and recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 37**)
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**)

- Recreational users of bridleway and residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**)
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**)
- Recreational users of the local Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW/bridleway network and visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland (refer to **Viewpoint 48**)
- Recreational users of Rotherham Round Walk / Treeton Footpath No. 4 and residential receptors at Spa House (refer to **Viewpoint 59**); and
- Recreational users of Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW and residential properties along Walseker Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 60**).

7.10.11 There would be a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** temporary effect upon:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)
- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoints 14** and **15**)
- Residential receptors at Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**); and
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**).

7.10.12 During construction effects on visual receptors would arise as a result of changes to views including visibility of the construction activities and the Proposed Development (i.e. the solar panels, substations and/or the BESS) before planting matures.

7.10.13 The Year 1 assessment identified the potential for Significant effects of **Major Adverse (Significant)** effects upon:

- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley and recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**); and
- Recreational users of the local Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW/bridleway network and visitors to Kiveton Community Woodland (refer to **Viewpoint 48**).

7.10.14 With **Major/Moderate (Significant**) effects upon:

- Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)

- Residents of Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW and residential receptors at Slacks Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 37**)
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**)
- Recreational users of bridleway and residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**)
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**)
- Recreational users of Rotherham Round Walk / Treeton Footpath No. 4 and residential receptors at Spa House (refer to **Viewpoint 59**); and
- Recreational users of Harthill Bridleway No.16 PRoW and residential properties along Walseker Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 60**).

7.10.15 There would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant) Effects** upon:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)
- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No. 5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoints 14** and **15**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.4 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 16**)
- Recreational users of Bramley Footpath No.6 PRoW and residential receptors at Slacks Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 37**); and
- Residents at Ulley and recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.5 PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 39**).

7.10.16 The Year 15 assessment has identified that potential Significant effects would remain based upon **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the Illustrative Mitigation Masterplan (see the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**.

7.10.17 The Year 15 assessment found that there would be no **Major Adverse (Significant)** effects on visual receptors, where major effects had arisen at Year 1 these have been reduced as the mitigation planting has matured.

7.10.18 There would be **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** residual effects upon:

- Recreational users of the Conisbrough Parks Footpath No.16 PRoW and Residents on the western edge of Clifton (refer to **Viewpoint 4**)
- Recreational users of Wickersley Footpath No.8B PRoW (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Recreational users of Ulley Footpath No.4 bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 40**); and

- Recreational users of the bridleway at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**).

7.10.19 For users of the footpaths and bridleways these effects would be likely to be of relatively short duration, experienced where the routes pass in close proximity to the PV array or associated infrastructure and do not necessarily persist for the duration of the route. Views would be likely to vary and be dynamic in nature as the route is travelled however for the purposes of this assessment a representative view that may be experienced from the route has been appropriately assessed.

7.10.20 There would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** residual effects upon:

- Residents of Spring Bank Road, Conisbrough (refer to **Viewpoint 1**)
- Visitors to the Millennium Viewpoint and residents on the northern edge of Micklebring and along Greaves Sike Lane (refer to **Viewpoint 5**)
- Recreational users of Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.4 and Residential receptors at Conisbrough Grange Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 7**)
- Recreational users of Firsby Lane and Conisbrough Parks Bridleway No.2 Residential receptors at properties at Hill Top and Hill Top Farm (refer to **Viewpoint 13**)
- Residents of Parks Farm Cottages (refer to **Viewpoint 15**)
- Residential receptors at Wickersley (refer to **Viewpoint 35**)
- Residential receptors at Upper Whiston (refer to **Viewpoint 44**); and
- Recreational users of Cuckoo Way and NCN Route 6 and users of the local PRoW and bridleway (refer to **Viewpoint 47**).

7.10.21 No Significant effects have been identified during the construction of the Cable Corridors.

7.10.22 The assessment identified that there would be no Significant adverse visual effects at the representative viewpoints at either construction phase or during operation as a result of the Proposed Development cumulatively with other similar developments within the Study Area.

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