

Sea Link

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

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Part 3 Kent

Chapter 1 Appendix 3.1.D

Visual Amenity Baseline and Assessment

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**Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(a)**

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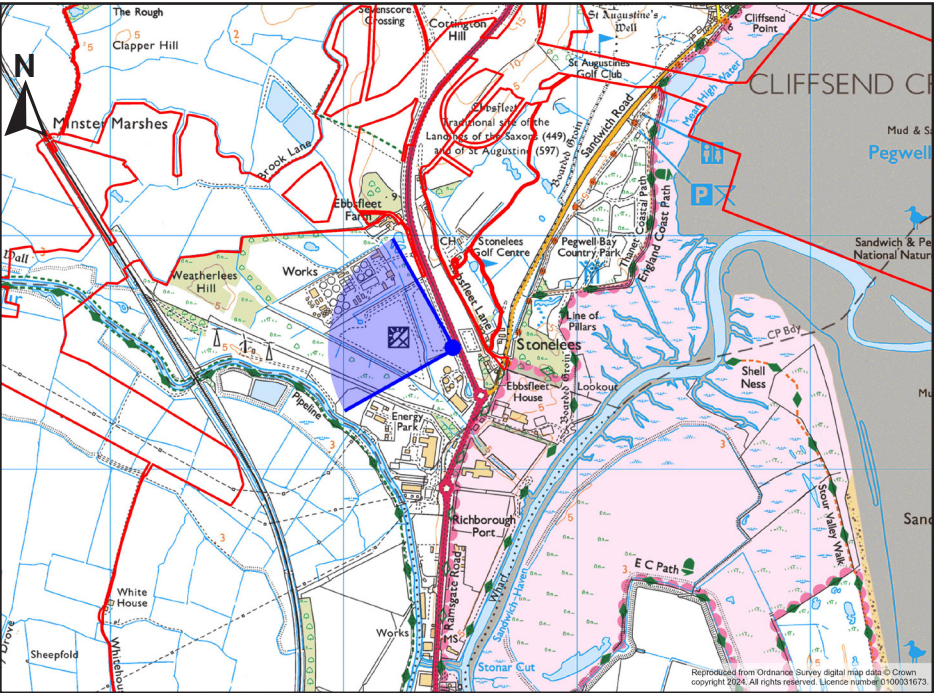
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Table 1.1 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 1: Jutes Lane, north of Ebbsfleet Roundabout, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E633469 N162513
Approx. Distance to the Project	1044m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The view is heavily managed and comprises detracting features in the composition of the view including solar panels, both in the foreground and distance, which reduce scenic qualities relating to content of the view. NEGLIGIBLE
Susceptibility	Representative of those using the local road network along Jutes Lane where the interest or appreciation of the view is secondary to the activity and representative of those working at the Solar Energy Farm where views are not an important part of the experience. LOW
Sensitivity	LOW

*It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the masts have been removed at the time of writing.*

The viewpoint is representative of the local road users and workers within the Solar Energy Farm

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a large-scale field occupied by a Solar Energy Farm, with rows of solar panels extending into the middle distance. The field is bound by metal fencing along the eastern boundary, which lies in the foreground of the viewpoint. The local landform is generally flat, which together with vegetation, combine to limit long-distance views.

A low hedgerow extends from the metal fencing in the foreground, along the southern boundary of the Solar Farm, into the middle distance. Another low hedgerow runs perpendicular to the rows of solar panels across the middle distance, scattered with isolated small trees and shrubs, which provides a layered view. Wooden electricity poles follow the line of this hedgerow.

Dense woodland forms the skyline in the distance which is visible above the Solar Energy Farm. Existing vertical structures break the skyline, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL to the west of this viewpoint. The upper extents of buildings associated with Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works to the northwest of this viewpoint are also visible interspersed and above the vegetation in the middle ground. The rising landform to the north of the viewpoint is barely perceptible on the skyline for a small part of the view.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially screened views of construction activity associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL, HVDC cable, Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes in the middle ground. This would include construction compounds as well as construction plant and material, however the majority of the lower extents would be screened by intervening vegetation and built form at Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works.

The construction activity would be visible for a large part of the horizontal extent of the view; however, the scale of change would be reduced due to the screening of the lower extents of activity. The construction works would break the skyline; however, this would be within the context of existing vertical infrastructure in the view. The degree of contrast to the existing view is lessened by the existing context of the solar panels, communication mast, built form at Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works and the existing towers and OHL.

The construction activity would partially obstruct long distance views to rising landform to the north, however this is a barely perceptible change. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape. Due to the existing composition of the view, including the fencing in the foreground, this is considered to be an unobtrusive change to the view.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across parts of horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds in the context of the A256.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially screened views of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground above intervening vegetation and built form.

The new permanent infrastructure would be visible across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would break the skyline. The scale of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be emphasised due to the comparison of existing built form in the view. The permanent towers would increase the wirescape in a small part of the view when views against the existing towers in the background, however the existing towers are barely perceptible in this part of the view which reduces the effect of the new features in the view.

All new permanent infrastructure would be within the context of existing energy infrastructure in the foreground and middle ground of the view and existing vertical infrastructure which breaks the skyline. This lessens the scale of change and degree of contrast to the existing view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the A256 corridor.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the southeast of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be partially screened views of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground above intervening vegetation and built form.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the southeast of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. The upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

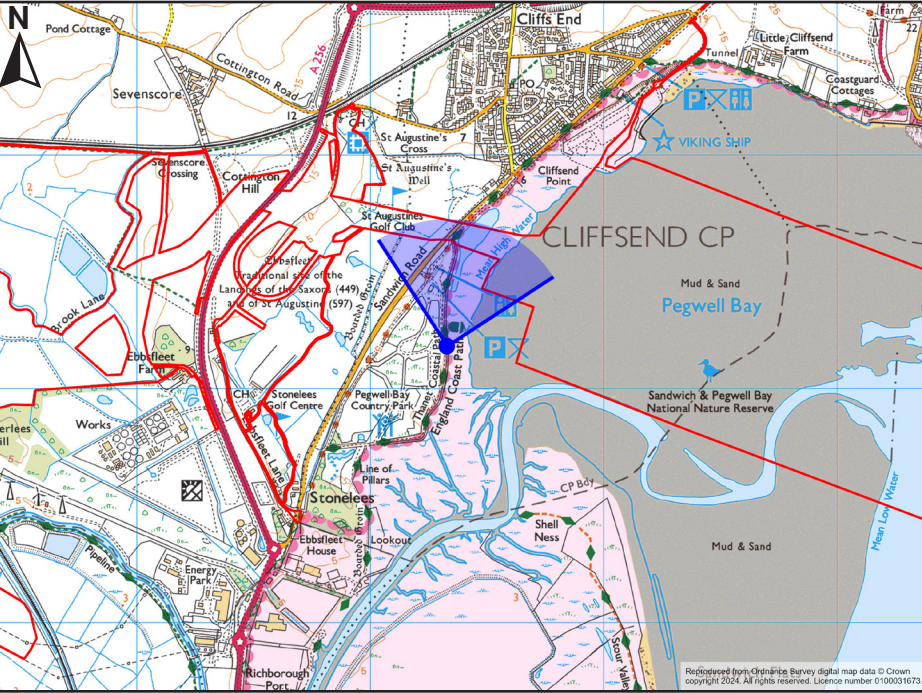
Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

*For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.*



Table 1.2 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 2: Pegwell Bay Country Park along King Charles III England Coast Path, northeast of Richborough Energy Park, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The route of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail) extends from the foreground into the distance to the north and northeast of the receptor. The route denotes the boundary between Pegwell Bay Country Park to the west and Pegwell Bay with associated sand and mud flats to the east.

A grass verge, scrubby vegetation and shrubs are located to the west of the receptor, on the western boundary of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), screening long distance views to the northwest and west of the receptor. To the east of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), an open view comprises large areas of sand and mud flat associated with Pegwell Bay within the foreground and middle ground, which extends along the coastline in the distance, to the northeast.

The residential edge of Cliffsend is visible in the distance to the northeast of the receptor which includes several layers of housing as the landform rises and views of movement along Sandwich Road. Parts of the settlement edge and the route of Sandwich Road is screened by blocks of woodland to the south of Sandwich Road and along the coastline. Agricultural field enclosures are also visible in the distance separate the residential area of Cliffsend to the western edge of Ramsgate.

The white cliffs at Ramsgate are visible in the distance to the northeast of this viewpoint, with the southern settlement edge of Ramsgate visible on top of the cliffs. A tall block of flats on the western edge of Ramsgate is visible which breaks the skyline. Ramsgate Port is also visible, located to the south of the cliffs, and comprises several vertical floodlight structures.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels temporarily within Pegwell Bay and out at sea. There would also be direct views of construction access on the former hoverport site in the distance and partial views, set behind intervening vegetation, to another construction compound and construction access to the west of Sandwich Road on the edge of an agricultural field, both within the distance.

The construction activity would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view near to the Cliffsend residential edge and another part within Pegwell Bay and the remainder of the view would be unaffected. The direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels present within Pegwell Bay and out at sea for a temporary and short period of time would be within the context of offshore views of wind farms, recreational vessels within the nearshore waters and the heavily developed coastal hinterland, which lessens the degree of contrast to the existing view.

The construction access on the former hoverport site would introduce movement into part of the view which is relatively still. This would be within the context of movement along Sandwich Road in a similar part of the view, the developed coastal hinterland and would be set against mature vegetation on the southern edge of Sandwich Road, which would reduce the scale of change and alteration to the composition of the view.

The construction activity associated with the construction compound within the agricultural field to the west of Sandwich Road would result in the temporary loss of agricultural land in the context of the A299 and A256 and residential properties at Cliffsend. This would be partially screened by intervening mature vegetation which would lessen the scale of the effect and there would remain to be unaffected agricultural land between the settlement area of Cliffsend and the western edge of Ramsgate which is more visible in the view.

Views of tall construction plant associated with the construction of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and HVAC OHL may break the skyline in the distance to the west of the receptor but predominantly would be barely discernible above the intervening existing built form and vegetation and would be in the context of other vertical infrastructure at a similar distance. Such activity would comprise a very small proportion of the typically panoramic coastal views.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across a small part of horizontal extent of the view in the context of the A256.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening mature vegetation along the coastline, views of a short section of a monitoring access route with occasional vehicle movement along the coastline. The land where the construction compounds were located would be fully reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated to agricultural land.

The occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would be within part of the view with existing movement along Sandwich Road and would be set against existing mature vegetation along the coastline and south of Sandwich Road, which would reduce the scale of change and alteration to the composition of the view.

Associated construction lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site is unlikely to be perceptible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation or HVAC OHL are not considered to be perceptible from the visual receptor due to intervening vegetation and built form.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

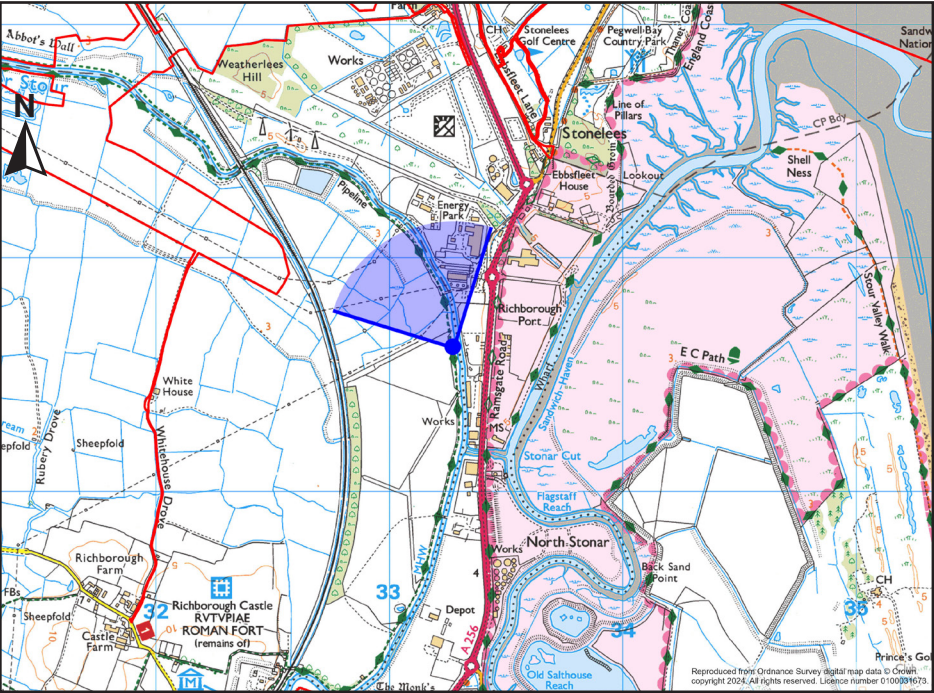
There would continue to be direct and partially screened views of a short section of occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access. This would be a barely perceptible change to the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

No wireline has been prepared as no permanent infrastructure would be present in the view.

Table 1.3 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 3: Saxon Shore Way, west of Richborough Energy Park, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E633256 N161604
Approx. Distance to the Project	1541m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The view contains typical large-scale agricultural land which is likely to be valued by the local community. The influence of vertical detracting features and energy infrastructure reduces the scenic quality of the view. LOW
Susceptibility	Representative of recreational users of the Saxon Shore Way recreational route, where attention is focused on the landscape however noting the industrial context in this locality which lowers the susceptibility. HIGH
Sensitivity	MEDIUM

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Saxon Shore Way recreational route.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise medium and large-scale pastoral fields, bound by post and wire fencing and individual shrubs. To the east of the viewpoint, scrubby vegetation and shrubs line the River Stour, with buildings within Richborough Energy Park visible above the vegetation. Existing towers and OHL are also visible as prominent features within the foreground extending in the distance. This network extends across a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and appears at differing heights and repetition in parts of the view.

In the distance, pastoral land extends along the route of the River Stour, which is bound by low growing shrubby vegetation. Buildings within the north of Richborough Energy Park are visible above lower vegetation in the distance, as well as glimpsed views of structures within Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Works. Tall, vertical structures in the middle and long distance, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL break the skyline. Denser vegetation and blocks of woodland dominate the skyline to the northwest of the viewpoint.

Filtered views to the north of the receptor towards landform and buildings on higher ground to the north of the A299 are visible above intervening dense vegetation and built form in the distance. Otherwise, the ground plane of the landscape in the distance is heavily screened by intervening vegetation and built form extending from the foreground into the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground. There would be partially screened, by intervening vegetation and built form, views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable, Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes in the distance. This would include construction compounds as well as construction plant and material.

The construction activity would be visible for a large part of the horizontal extent of the view however the scale of change would be reduced due to the partial screening of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable, Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes.

The construction works associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL would introduce new structures into the view and movement for construction access. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing towers OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape. This would be within the context of existing towers and OHL visible at differing heights and extending across the full horizontal extent of the view, which would reduce the degree of contrast to the existing view. The movement introduced in the view is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural works in the landscape, which lessens the degree of contrast.

The construction works associated with the HVDC cable, Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes would be partially visible above intervening vegetation, including on Weatherlees Hill, and built form, including within Richborough Energy Park and Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant. The ground plane of construction activity would be fully screened; therefore, views of construction activity would be limited other than tall construction plant associated with the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation which would lessen the scale of change. The construction activity would temporarily displace long-distance views to rising land to the north near to the route of the A299, however this would be within a small part of the view, it is already obstructed by existing intervening vegetation and built form within the view and there would remain views of this landform elsewhere in the view.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Views of tall construction plant associated with the HVAC OHL, Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be visible in the middle ground and distance above intervening vegetation and built form. This would break the skyline, in the context of other vertical infrastructure also breaking the skyline in close proximity, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL.

Tall construction plant associated with the construction activity landfall may be visible above intervening built form and vegetation, resulting in an increased proportion of the view including construction activity, dependent on phasing. This would be within a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and is likely to be heavily screened.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised and would be visible across parts of horizontal extent of the view and likely to be largely screened by intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be direct views of the permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground. There would be partially screened views to Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the middle ground, above intervening mature vegetation, including on Weatherlees Hill.

The new permanent infrastructure associated with Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be located across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The built form would break the skyline at a similar height to the rising land associated with the A299 and would be at a similar scale to existing energy infrastructure within the view at Richborough Energy Park, which reduces the scale of change. The built form would permanently displace long-distance views to rising land near to the route of the A299; however this would be within a small part of the view, it is already obstructed by existing intervening vegetation and built form within the view and there would remain views of this landform elsewhere in the view.

Views of the new permanent towers would be located in part of the view with existing towers in the background. This would increase the wirescape however this is typical in part of the view due to views of towers and OHL visible at differing heights and extending across the full horizontal extent of the view, which would reduce the degree of contrast to the existing view. This would also be in the context of other vertical infrastructure, including a communication mast, in a similar part of the view.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be partially visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time. There would also potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of HVAC OHL which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the nearby road network.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

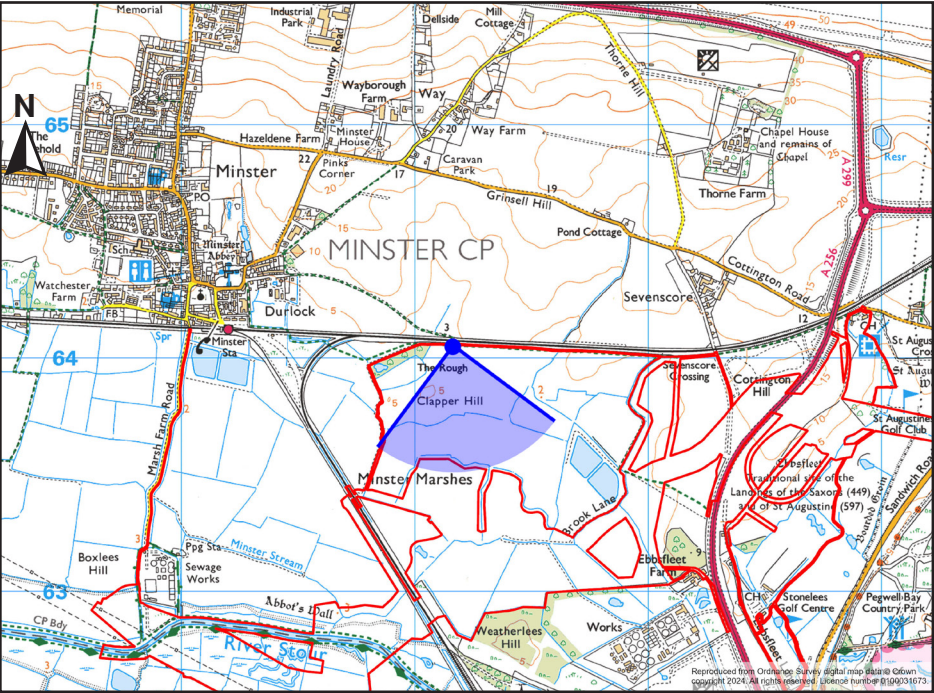
There would continue to be partially screened views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the middle ground and direct views of the new permanent towers and HVAC OHL, also within the middle ground.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would slightly increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. The upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Table 1.4 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 4: Public footpath (boundary of 0173/TE40/1 and 0173/TE37/2), east of Minster, looking south at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a very gently undulating, large-scale arable field, which extends to the middle ground and is bound by a mixture of individual trees, shrubs and small linear belts of mature trees. This includes slightly higher land to the south of the receptor associated with Clapper Hill. The foreground also comprises a mature tree grouping to the south of the railway line.

Slightly raised land is visible to the southeast of the receptor associated with two reservoirs. Arable land use extends to the distance, creating layers of individual trees and hedges. This layered vegetation network results in filtered views towards dense woodland blocks on the skyline. The route of the railway line is bound by vegetation in the middle distance extending into the distance but movement along this is visible through the landscape through gaps in the layered vegetation network. There are also filtered views to the east of the receptor towards associated with traffic moving along the A256.

Buildings within Richborough Energy Park and Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant on Jutes Lane are visible between gaps in vegetation to the southeast of the viewpoint. Some of the buildings within the Energy Park break the skyline and are prominent in the view due to flat roof compared with the sloping mature woodland elsewhere on the skyline. The buildings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant are typically set against the backdrop of mature vegetation which reduces the prominence in the view. In the distance, tall vertical structures dominate the skyline, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Very Large Effect: Major adverse (significant)

It should be noted that TE37 (from which the viewpoint is taken) would be diverted during the construction period, however it is considered that the magnitude of effect and significance of effect would be the same for the diverted route.

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, new towers and HVAC OHL, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor predominantly in the middle ground. This would include construction compounds as well as construction plant and material within the irregularly shaped agricultural field enclosures to the west of the A256. There would also be views of vegetation removal within the landscape in the middle ground. Together these activities would result in a substantial change to the composition of the view.

The construction activity would be visible for a large part of the horizontal extent of the view and would largely be direct, which emphasises the scale of change. All construction activity would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL and existing buildings within Richborough Energy Park and Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant which reduces the degree of contrast. As far as possible the construction activity would respect the existing drainage ditch and vegetation pattern, which would reduce the scale of change. The construction activity would obstruct long-distance views towards the vegetation network, including mature vegetation on Weatherlees Hill, and existing views of energy infrastructure in the distance, which slightly reduces the degree of contrast.

Construction activity associated with the construction compounds to the north and east of Minster Substation and Minster Converter Station would be directly visible and would be a pronounced change in the view as it would displace existing agricultural land.

Construction associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL would be visible within the context of existing towers and OHL and other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Very Large Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and a permanent attenuation pond in the middle ground. There is small shrub vegetation in the intervening landscape, however these would not assist in screening the new permanent infrastructure. There would also be direct views of new permanent towers and HVAC OHL and permanent access route in the middle ground. There would be direct views of occasional vehicle movement along a permanent monitoring access in the foreground along the field boundary from which the viewpoint is located and to the southwest of the view.

The direct views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be a substantial change in the composition of the view. The new infrastructure would be within the same part of the view as existing built form associated with Richborough Energy Park and Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant, however the new built form would be in closer proximity to the receptor therefore occupying a larger part of the horizontal extent of the view. The infrastructure would break the skyline and would permanently displace views to woodland in the background of the view. The scale comparison to existing infrastructure and woodland in the distance emphasises the scale of the Kent Onshore Scheme in the view albeit within the context of existing vertical infrastructure in the view.

The new permanent towers and HVAC OHL would be located in the same part of the view as the existing towers and OHL, however due to distance between the OHL, the concentration of wirescape would be increased, appearing more prominent as a consequence. The new towers and HVAC OHL would be within the context of other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast but would remain a noticeable addition to the view.

Occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access and permanent access route would generally be located in parts of the view with existing influence of either the HVAC works or Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation, which reduces the scale of change in the view. This activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape and within the context of existing movement along the railway line and A256. Part of this activity would also be screened by intervening undulating landform in the foreground associated with Clapper Hill.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

CONTINUED... Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Very Large Effect: Major adverse (significant)

The permanent access road would split the large-scale field; however, this would not be perceptible from this viewpoint due to the angle of the view and intervening screening vegetation.

The HVDC cable corridor and construction compound areas may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated to agricultural land.

Permanent vegetation removal would be limited to localised tree removal to the east of the Minster Converter Station, the junction to the A256, near to the railway line and loss of the Category C hedgerow through the Site. The permanent loss of vegetation would be highly localised and would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time. There would also potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of HVAC OHL which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the nearby road network.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Very Large Effect: Major adverse (significant)

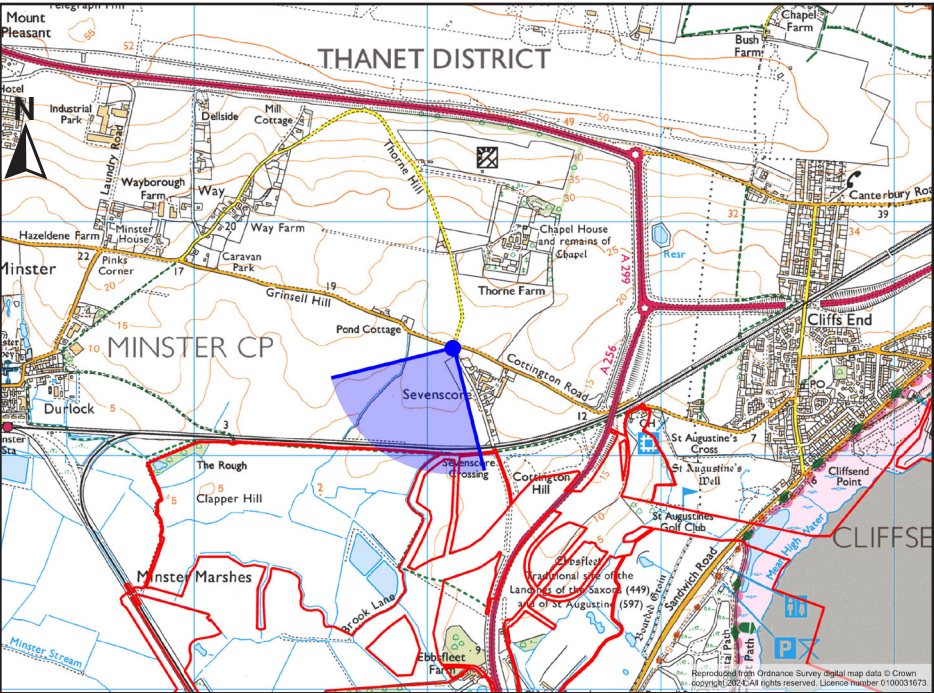
There would continue to be direct views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent attenuation pond in the middle ground, new towers and HVAC OHL and permanent access route in the middle ground. There would also be views of occasional vehicle movement along a permanent monitoring access extending from the foreground into the middle ground.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. However, the majority of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible resulting in a considerable change to the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Table 1.5 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 5: Junction of Grinsell Hill and Ebbsfleet Lane North, looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E633109 N164457
Approx. Distance to the Project	1407m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	SOUTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view has some scenic quality, with landscape features promoting a rural character likely to be valued by the local community. The tall vertical features have influence on the composition of the view, however this is reduced due to the distance from these structures. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors from Sevenscore where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation. It is also representative of users of the Viking Coastal Trail cycle trail where attention is focused on the landscape and users of the local road network, including Grinsell Hill, Cottington Road, Thorne Hill and Ebbsfleet Lane North where their focus is not on views of the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

*It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.*

The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors within Sevenscore, albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation, users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail and users of the local road network

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise a large-scale arable field, bound by linear tree belts to the southwest and south of the viewpoint. In the middle distance, the railway line runs along the southern boundary of the arable field in the foreground, bound by hedgerow and scattered hedgerow trees. The railway line is on a slight embankment and movement is visible across this. Wooden electricity poles break the skyline in the middle distance, to the southeast of the viewpoint.

Arable fields extend into the distance, with filtered views through layered linear belts of vegetation and woodland blocks. Buildings within Richborough Energy Park are visible to the southwest of the visual receptor, through gaps in vegetation. Tall vertical structures, such as a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL break the skyline in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: **Large** Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

There would be direct and partially filtered, by the intervening layered vegetation network, views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, new towers and HVAC OHL, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor predominantly in the middle ground and distance. This would include construction compounds as well as construction plant and material in the irregularly shaped agricultural fields to the west of the A256. There would also be views of vegetation removal within the landscape in the middle ground and background.

The construction activity would be visible for a large part of the horizontal extent of the view and would be a mixture of direct and screened views due to the intervening vegetation network, which lessens the scale of change. All construction activity would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL and existing buildings within Richborough Energy Park which somewhat reduces the degree of contrast, although the construction activity would be closer to the receptor therefore increasing the scale of change.

As far as possible the construction activity would respect the existing drainage ditch and vegetation pattern, which would reduce the scale of change. The construction activity would obstruct long-distance views towards the vegetation network, including mature vegetation on Weatherlees Hill, and existing views of energy infrastructure in the distance, which slightly reduces the degree of contrast.

Construction activity associated with the construction compounds would be a noticeable change in the view as they would displace existing agricultural land in the middle ground however would be set against either a mature woodland block or the layered vegetation network which would reduce the prominence in the view.

Construction associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL would be visible within the context of existing towers and OHL and other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape. Construction access would be visible across the view, including along the

railway line in the middle ground to the southwest of the visual receptor. This activity, as well as works for the HVDC cable route and permanent access route, would introduce movement into the landscape, which is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the railway line.

Vegetation removal would be localised and would include four tree groups and one individual tree, all Category C, to the east of the Minster Converter Station to facilitate the HVDC cable route, hedgerow including the existing Category C hedgerow through the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation site, part of a Category C tree group to north of Minster Stream and Minster Substation to facilitate a temporary drainage pond and a Category C tree group to facilitate the construction access route over the railway line. There would also be maintenance and management of existing vegetation within the SSSI to facilitate the HVAC OHL works.

As the existing vegetation network within the view is varied, the removal of vegetation in localised areas is not considered to contrast the existing view and would be less perceptible as the removal would be set against the existing layered vegetation network.

Tall construction plant associated with the construction activity landfall may be visible above intervening built form and vegetation, resulting in an increased proportion of the view including construction activity, dependent on phasing. This would be within a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and is likely to be heavily screened.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be partially visible across parts of horizontal extent of the view associated with the construction compounds.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: **Medium** Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

There would be direct and partially filtered views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and a permanent attenuation pond in the middle ground. There would also be direct views of new permanent towers and HVAC OHL and permanent access route in the middle ground. There would be direct views of occasional vehicle

movement along a permanent monitoring access in the middle ground along the field boundary from which the viewpoint is located and to the southwest of the view.

The direct and partially screened views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be a noticeable change in the composition of the view. The new infrastructure would be within the same part of the view as existing built form associated with Richborough Energy Park, however the new built form would be in closer proximity to the receptor therefore occupying a larger part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be within a proportion of the wider horizontal extent of the view. The infrastructure would break the skyline and would permanent displace views to woodland in the background of the view.

The new permanent towers and HVAC OHL would be located in the same part of the view as the existing towers and OHL, however due to distance between the OHLs, the concentration of wirescape would be increased, appearing more prominent as a consequence. The new towers and HVAC OHL would be within the context of other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast but would remain to be a noticeable addition to the view.

Occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access and permanent access route would generally be located in parts of the view with existing influence of either the HVAC works or Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation, which reduces the scale of change in the view. This activity would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape and within the context of existing movement along the railway line and A256.

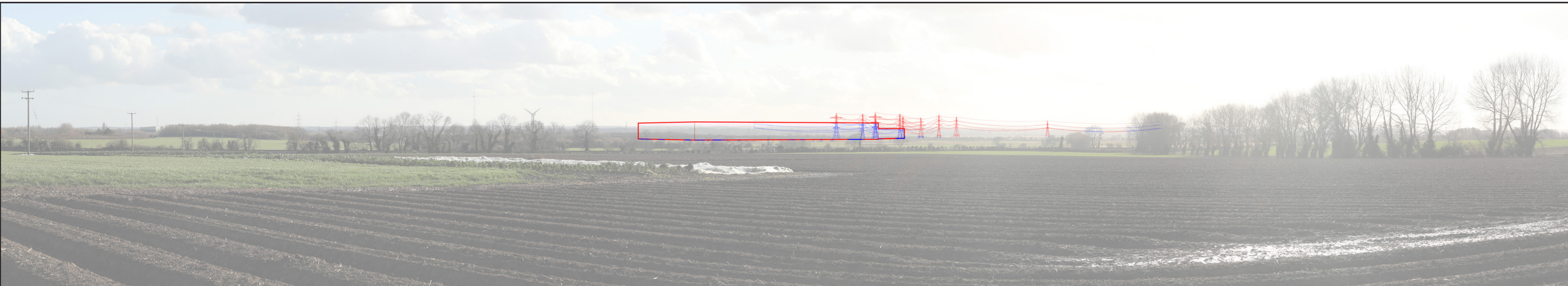
The HVDC cable corridor and construction compound areas may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated to agricultural land.

Permanent vegetation removal would be limited to localised tree loss to the east of the Minster Converter Station, the junction to the A256, near to the railway line and loss of a Category C hedgerow through the Site . The permanent loss of vegetation would be highly localised and would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be direct and partially visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

*For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.*



CONTINUED... Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

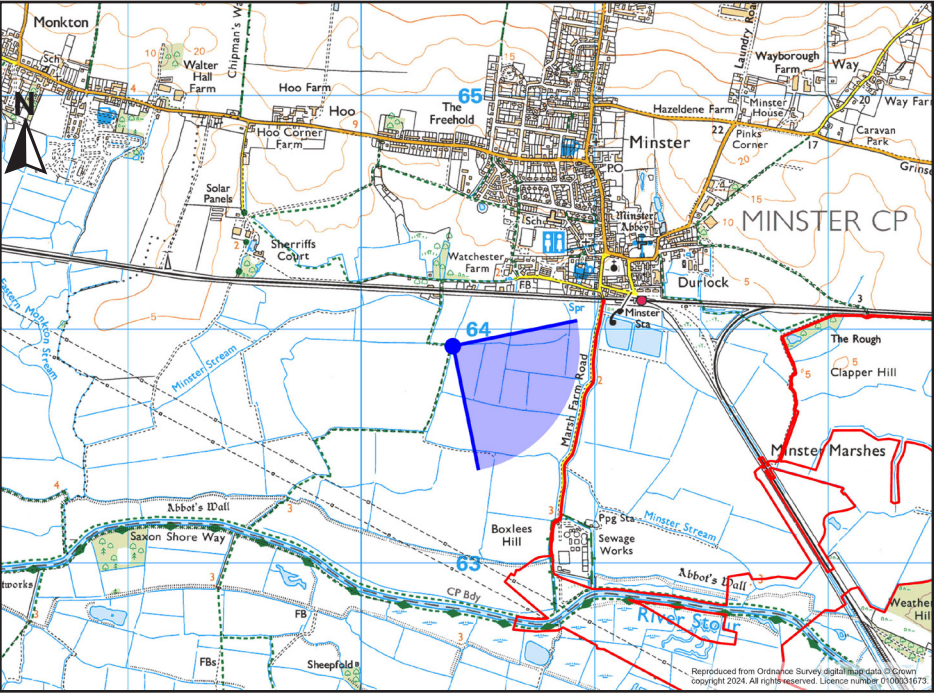
There would continue to be direct and filtered views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent attenuation pond in the middle ground, new towers and HVAC OHL and permanent access route in the middle ground. There would also be views of occasional vehicle movement along a permanent monitoring access within the middle ground.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. The upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Table 1.6 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 6: J: Public footpath (0173/TE32/1), south of Minster, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E630390 N163926
Approx. Distance to the Project	1889m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	SOUTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. Located within Minster Marshes, the composition and content of the view has high scenic qualities of a distinctive landscape which is likely to be valued by the local community. Vertical features in the view have some influence on the character of the view but at a distance from the viewpoint. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network to the south of the settlement of Minster, where views are an important part of the experience. Also representative of users of the railway line where their focus is not on views of the landscape. HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local PRoW network and the local railway network.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise small to medium scale arable fields lined with drainage ditches and long grass within the Minster Marshes. Small pockets of isolated scrub and small shrubs are intermittent along the field boundaries. The flat landform and the limited vegetation cover creates an open view in the middle ground. Further in the middle ground, mature shrub and tree blocks and linear strips are visible, including along the railway line, which create a layered vegetated strip and limit long distance views due to the flat landform. Occasional movement along the railway line is visible.

In the distance, dense woodland dominates the skyline, screening much of Richborough Energy Park. One building within Richborough Energy Park, the Nemo Converter Station, is visible above the vegetation in the distance to the southeast of the receptor. Tall vertical structures, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL break the skyline to the southeast of the viewpoint.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be partially screened, by intervening vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, new towers and HVAC OHL, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor predominantly in the middle ground and background of the view. This would include construction compounds as well as construction plant and material.

The construction activity would predominantly be set behind mature vegetation along the railway line in the middle ground. This would result in the ground plane of construction activity to not be visible and only taller plant and activities visible, resulting in less of the horizontal extent of the view affected and reduced scale of change. The construction activity would be visible in the same part of the view as existing energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park, which lessens the degree of contrast somewhat as the existing infrastructure is further in the distance so the scale appears smaller but remains to break the skyline. The activity is also in the context of the existing towers and OHL, which also break the skyline.

The construction activity associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL would be visible within the context of existing towers and OHL and other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape.

Construction activity would be directly visible in the middle ground along an existing farm track along Marsh Farm Road. This activity would introduce movement into the landscape, which is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the railway line.

Due to intervening vegetation, it is unlikely that any vegetation removal to facilitate the construction activity would be visible. There is the possibility of heavily screened views to the maintenance and management of existing vegetation within the SSSI to facilitate the HVAC OHL works but this would be barely perceptible.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised expected to be localised which would be visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds in the context of the A256.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be partially screened views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the new permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground. There are unlikely to be views of any other permanent elements of the Kent Onshore Scheme due to intervening mature vegetation, predominantly along the railway line in the middle ground.

The filtered views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would introduce new large-scale energy infrastructure into the middle ground of the view. The lower extents would be screened by intervening vegetation and it would be within the same part the view as existing vertical infrastructure and an existing energy building at Richborough Energy Park which all also break the skyline. However, the Kent Onshore Scheme would appear larger due to proximity to the receptor.

The new permanent towers and HVAC OHL would be located in the same part of the view as the existing towers and OHL, however due to distance between the OHLs, the concentration of wirescape would be increased, appearing more prominent as a consequence. The new towers and HVAC OHL would be within the context of other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast but would remain to be a noticeable addition to the view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be partially visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the A256 corridor. There would also potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of HVAC OHL which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the nearby road network.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north and south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be partially screened views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and new towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground.

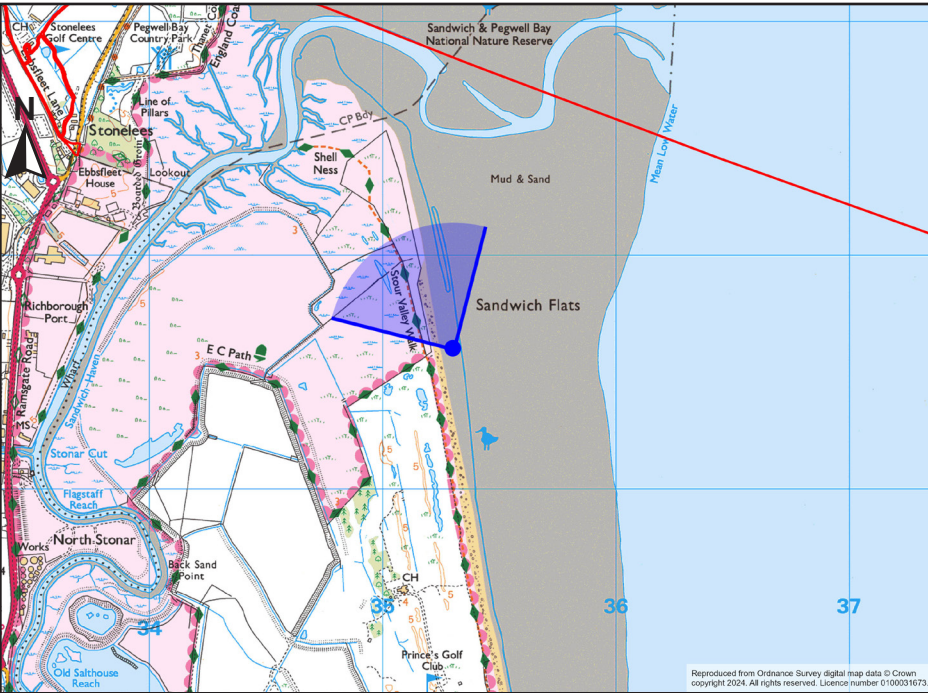
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north and south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. The upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Table 1.7 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 7: Sandwich Bay, adjacent to King Charles III England Coast Path, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a shingle and sand beach with tufts of grass and scrub vegetation. The shingle and sand extend into the middle and long distance to the west of the receptor. The Pegwell and Sandwich Bays comprise the view in the middle distance to the north of the receptor.

The landform in the foreground and middle ground is generally flat, with land gently rising to the northwest which, along with layers of vegetation, screens long distance views in this direction. However, tall vertical structures including a communication mast, rise above the vegetation to the northwest, breaking the skyline.

In the distance, the heavily urbanised hinterland is visible, including the settlement edge of Cliffsend and western settlement edge of Ramsgate including a tall tower block within the town breaking the skyline. This also includes occasional movement visible along Sandwich Road. The white cliffs at Ramsgate form a distinctive backdrop to the northeast of the viewpoint. Blocks of mature vegetation scatter the skyline in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E635304 N161602
Approx. Distance to the Project	3093m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. Located on Sandwich Bay, with the cliffs at Ramsgate as the backdrop, the content and composition of the view has high scenic qualities and creates a sense of place which is likely to be valued by the local community. The distance from the prominent tower block on the skyline limits the impact on the overall composition of the view. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of recreational users of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail) and the Stour Valley Walk recreational route where attention is focused on the landscape. Also representative of recreational users of the Coastal Margin Access land where views are an important part of the experience and users of the Princes Golf Club where their focus is not on views of the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of the recreational users of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), users of the Stour Valley Walk, users of the Coastal Margin Access land and users of the Princes Golf Club.

Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels located within Pegwell Bay in the middle ground and views of a construction compound and vehicular movement along access tracks associated with the landfall in the distance. There would also be views of the upper extents of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the HVAC OHL works in the long distance.

The construction activity would be visible across a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal view. The direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels present within Pegwell Bay would be seen within the context of the urbanised hinterland and they would not be dissimilar to the presence of typical marine vessels often seen at sea. As such, they would not detract from the current composition of the view.

The views towards the occasional movement along access tracks associated with landfall would be direct for the construction access across the former hoverport site and filtered by intervening vegetation off Sandwich Road for the compound further to the northeast. This activity would be viewed from a long distance, set against the backdrop of mature vegetation and rising landform and in the context of an urbanised coastal panorama including movement along Sandwich Road, which lessens the contrast in the view and consequently there would be an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view.

The views of the upper extents of tall construction plant associated with the construction of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and HVAC OHL works may break the skyline in the distance. However, this would be viewed in the context of other vertical infrastructure at a similar distance, which would lessen the contrast in the view. This activity would be viewed from a long distance, which would result in a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

Views of associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be limited from this receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation and built form but may be possible in small parts of the horizontal extent of the view in the context of the urbanised hinterland.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be views of occasional movement along short sections of a permanent monitoring access along the coastline. This would be within the context of the urbanised coastline and existing movement along Sandwich Road, which lessens the degree of contrast. As such this would result in a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

The construction compound areas may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated. It is unlikely that there would be views of any other operational infrastructure due to intervening vegetation.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be limited due to distance and intervening landform and built form.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be views of occasional movement along short sections of a permanent monitoring access along the coastline and this would continue to result in a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

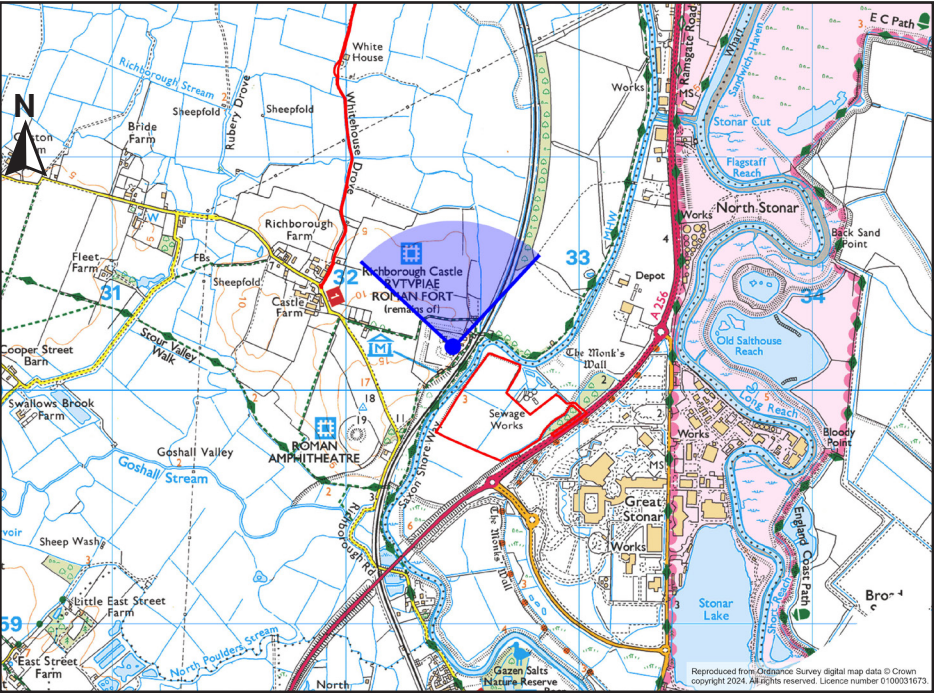
Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



Table 1.8 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 8: Viewing tower within Richborough Roman Fort, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises part of the grounds of Richborough Roman Fort and agricultural land, divided by post and wire fencing, scrub and occasional individual and linear groups of mature trees.

Agricultural land, enclosed by a combination of scrub vegetation and hedgerow trees, creates a layered, vegetated view extending from the foreground into the distance. There are blocks of mature vegetation in the view, notably along the railway line which extends from the foreground into the distance which largely screens the ground plane beyond. Due to the elevated nature of the receptor and the landform rising in the background, long distance views are not typically screened by intervening mature vegetation.

There are views of the upper extents of existing energy infrastructure within the distance, including large-scale built form at Richborough Energy Park, as well as direct views of the existing towers and OHL across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, which break the skyline. There are also views of a communication mast in the distance, which also breaks the skyline.

The landform is generally flat in the foreground and middle ground through the Minster Marshes, rising to a high point in the distance to the north of the receptor near to the A299, which forms the skyline. Existing built form is noticeable on the skyline, including an industrial park to the east of Minster and areas of settlement such as Minster, as well as a Solar Energy Park off Thorne Hill. There are numerous buildings which break the skyline, including a tower block within the western settlement edge of Ramsgate, and there are glimpsed views of movement of vehicles along the A299 on the skyline.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor predominantly in the distance. There may be heavily filtered views to tall construction plant associated with the landfill, also in the distance. There would be direct and partially screened views of new towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground and distance. There would be views of construction access along an existing track through the marshes extending from the foreground to the distance and a small section off the A256 in the middle ground. There would also be views of vegetation removal within the landscape in the distance .

The construction activity would be visible for a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would be a mixture of direct views in the middle ground and limited to upper extents and tall plant in the distance, which would reduce the scale of change. All construction activity would be set within the context of existing built form on rising land to the north of the receptor, the existing towers and OHL, a communication mast, vehicle movement along the A299 and energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park, which would reduce the degree of contrast. The activity would temporarily obstruct views of the rising landform to the north of the receptor for small parts of the view, however at this distance and as the construction activity would be set against the backdrop of the rising landform, this would be an unobtrusive change.

Construction associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL would be visible within the context of existing towers and OHL and other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast. The works to the HVAC OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape.

Construction access would be visible along existing tracks in the foreground and extending into the distance. Within the marsh, this activity would introduce movement into the landscape, which is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the A299 in the distance. Off the A256, this would be within the context of the existing road infrastructure and built form at Richborough Energy Park.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Vegetation removal would be localised and would predominantly not be considered to be perceptible at this distance and as it would be set against the layered vegetation network and rising land. Vegetation removal that may be perceptible would include maintenance and management of existing vegetation within the SSSI to facilitate the HVAC OHL works, which would be barely perceptible from this distance and would not contrast the varied vegetation cover in the layered network.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across parts of horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds at a distance.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially filtered views of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the distance. There would also be views of new permanent towers and the HVAC OHL in the middle ground and distance, which would consist of both direct and partially filtered views.

The views of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the distance would be partially filtered by intervening layered vegetation, including on Weatherlees Hill immediately to the south of the permanent infrastructure, resulting in the only the upper extents visible. The infrastructure would be within a small part of the panoramic view but would extend the influence across more of the horizontal extent of the view as it would be in a separate part of the view to built form at Richborough Energy Park and the Solar Energy Park off Thorne Hill and would appear larger in scale to existing built form in the view.

The new infrastructure would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL and built form visible on the rising land also in the distance, which span a large part of the horizontal extent of the view, which lessens the degree of contrast. The infrastructure would also be set against the rising land to the north and would not break the skyline, which lessens the scale of change.

The new permanent towers and HVAC OHL would be located in the same part of the view as the existing towers and OHL. They would partially appear against the skyline and would increase the concentration of wirescape, appearing more prominent as a consequence. The new towers and HVAC OHL would be within the

context of other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast and would be at a distance from the receptor.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site is expected to be limited and noting that Richborough Roman Fort is closed during the hours of dusk and darkness.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be partially filtered views of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the distance and views of the new permanent towers and the HVAC OHL in the middle ground and distance.

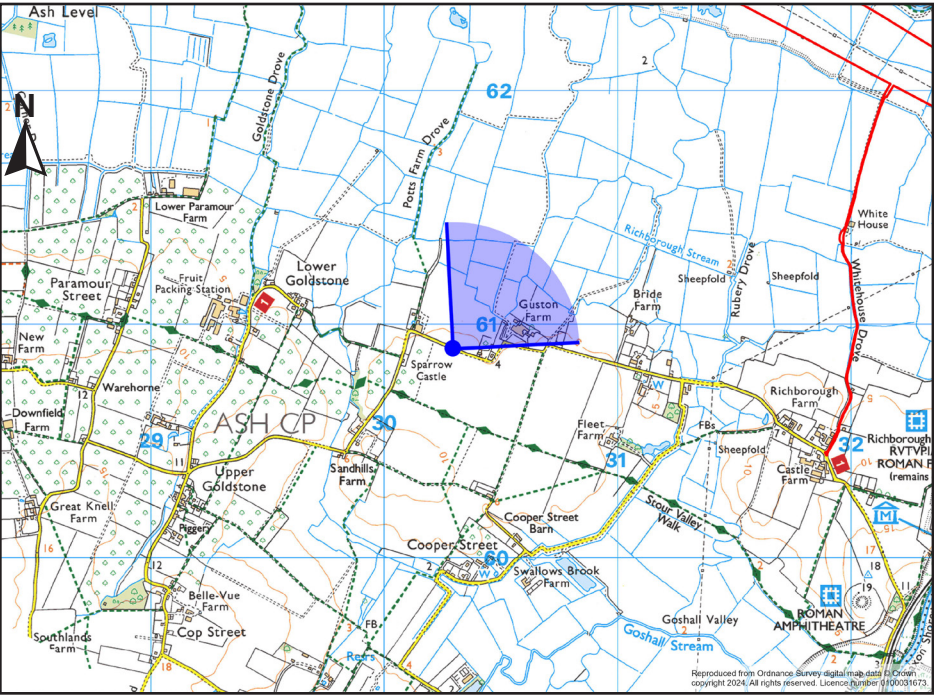
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. The upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would remain directly visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Table 1.9 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 9: Richborough Road, between Lower Gladstone and Richborough, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E630278 N160906
Approx. Distance to the Project	2738m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	NORTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view is typical agricultural land and long-distance views are only partially available through vegetation within the middle ground which is likely to be valued by the local community. Vertical features and energy infrastructure in the distance have limited influence on the view, due to the distance and intervening vegetation. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors along Richborough Road where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents and recreational users of NCN route 1 where attention is focused on the landscape. Also representative of users of the local road network between Richborough and Lower Goldstone along Richborough Road, where their focus is not on views of the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of the local road users, recreational users of NCN route 1 and receptors within residential properties along Richborough Road.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise large-scale agricultural land. The landform falls towards the middle ground, which comprises a linear hedgerow and tree belt, which denotes the field boundary. A distinctive row of tall, poplar trees occupy the western part of the tree belt. The vegetation in the middle ground results in filtered views of the landscape extending beyond and it should be noted that in the summer such views are heavily screened due to the vegetation being in leaf.

Arable fields extend into the distance, bound by low hedgerows, with buildings within glimpsed views of the settlement of Minister visible through layers of vegetation. There are filtered views to the landform rising in the distance near to the route of the A299.

Vertical structures break the skyline in the distance, including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL which are visible between vegetation in the distance. Large-scale structures within Richborough Energy Park, to the northeast of the receptor are visible in a gap in the vegetation network in the middle ground.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: **Small** Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, new towers and HVAC OHL, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor in the distance. There would also be filtered views of construction access along an existing track within the middle ground. It is not considered that any vegetation removal would be perceptible due to distance and the intervening vegetation.

Views of the construction activity would be filtered by intervening vegetation in the middle ground and predominantly limited to tall construction plant. The activity would be in the background, set against rising landform and would within the context of existing energy infrastructure within the view, including at Richborough Energy Park, and infrastructure which breaks the skyline, including the existing towers and OHL and a communication mast. This would reduce the scale of change within the view and the degree of contrast to the existing view.

Construction access that would be partially visible extending from the middle ground through to the distance would be considered to be similar to existing agricultural activities in the arable landscape which would reduce the degree of contrast to the existing view.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be barely perceptible at this distance and due to intervening vegetation in the middle ground.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: **Negligible** Effect: **Negligible adverse (not significant)**

There would be filtered views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and new permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the distance. Such views would be in a small part of the overall panorama and would be barely perceptible due to the intervening vegetation in the middle distance, the distance from the receptor and set against rising landform. Any views of the infrastructure would also be within the context of existing energy infrastructure within the view, including at Richborough Energy Park, and infrastructure which breaks the skyline, including the existing towers and OHL and a communication mast. This would reduce the scale of change within the view and the degree of contrast to the existing view.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and would be barely perceptible through intervening vegetation at this distance.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

It should be noted that in the summer months, views towards the permanent infrastructure would be very heavily filtered due to the intervening vegetation in the middle ground.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: **Negligible** Effect: **Negligible adverse (not significant)**

There would continue to be filtered views of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and new permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the distance which would remain to be barely perceptible.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. This would be barely perceptible due to the intervening vegetation in the middle ground.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

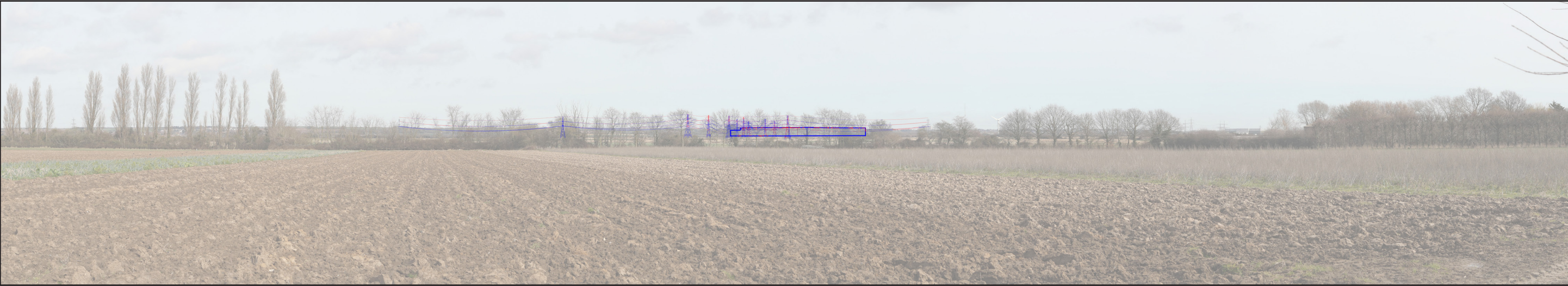
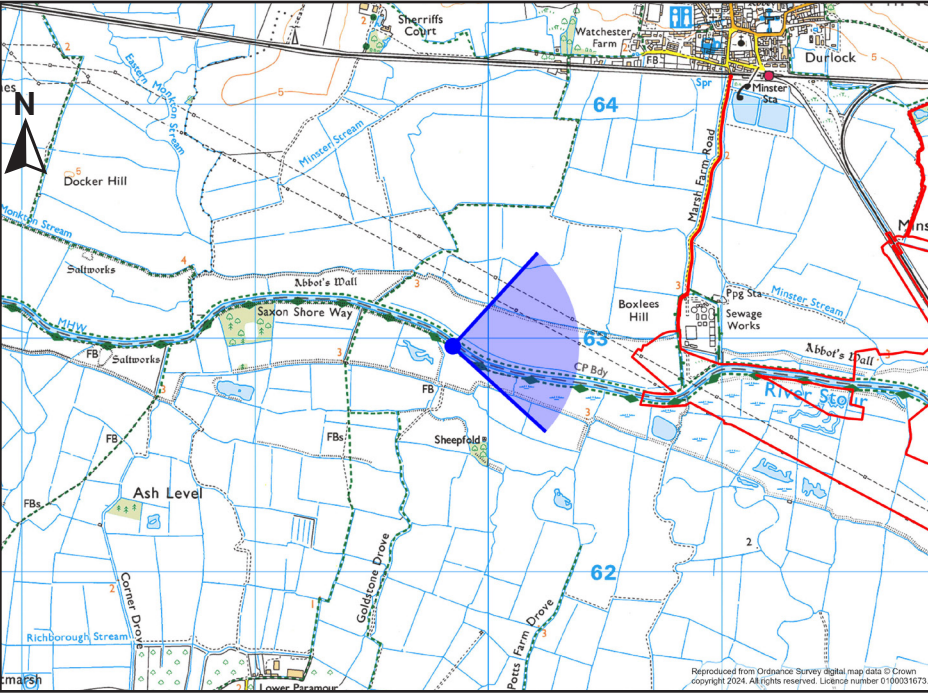


Table 1.10 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 10: Saxon Shore Way, on the River Stour, looking east at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E629851 N162960
Approx. Distance to the Project	2210m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	EAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. Located along the River Stour, the foreground of the view possesses high scenic qualities, associated with the watercourse, marginal vegetation and the grazing marsh. The view is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the scenic quality of the view is partially detracted by the presence of OHL and other vertical structures. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of recreational receptors along the Saxon Shore Way recreational route, where attention is focused on the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Saxon Shore Way.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise grassland with patches of scrub vegetation, which forms the southern bank of the River Stour. The River Stour occupies part of the foreground of the view, extending eastwards from the receptor, and into the middle ground. The River Stour is lined with marginal vegetation and individual scattered trees.

The landform is generally flat in the surrounding landscape, which combined with vegetation on the northern bank of the River Stour and layers of tree belts and hedgerows in the middle to long distance limit long distance views. This includes mature vegetation along the railway line.

There are, however, glimpsed views of a wooded skyline through and above the intervening layers of vegetation. Vertical features break the skyline in the middle to long distance, including the existing towers and OHL, a communication mast and a block of flats on the western edge of Ramsgate. Buildings within Ramsgate are visible in the context of a wooded skyline in the long distance, to the northeast of the viewpoint location, but are barely perceptible.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: **Small** Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, permanent access route, new towers and HVAC OHL, temporary and permanent attenuation ponds and outfall pipes and HVDC cable corridor predominantly in the middle ground and background of the view. There would also be views of vegetation removal within the landscape in the distance.

The construction activity would add movement into an otherwise still view and be visible for a proportion of the horizontal extent of view. Views of the activity would be limited predominantly to tall plant due to intervening mature vegetation in the foreground and middle ground, notably along the railway line, which would lessen the scale of change. All views of the activity would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which are prominent across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, which lessens the degree of contrast.

Construction associated with the new towers and OHL would be visible within the context of existing towers and OHL and other vertical infrastructure including a communication mast. The works to the OHL would result in temporary towers which have the potential to contrast with the existing OHL and could be present at the same time as the new permanent towers, which would result in an increased concentration of wirescape.

Views of construction access would include a route along an existing track in front of the mature vegetation along the railway line to facilitate the HVAC OHL works. This activity would introduce movement into the landscape, which is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities.

Vegetation removal would be localised and would predominantly not be considered to be perceptible at this distance and as it would be set against the layered vegetation network and rising land. Vegetation removal that may be perceptible would include maintenance and management of existing vegetation within the SSSI to facilitate the HVAC OHL works, which would be barely perceptible from this distance and would not contrast the varied vegetation cover in the layered network.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be partially visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: **Small** Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

There would be filtered views of the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the distance. There would be filtered views of new permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground and distance and filtered views of occasional vehicles along a permanent monitoring route in the middle ground.

The filtered views of the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be set behind mature vegetation in the intervening landscape, notably along the railway line. This would permanently introduce energy infrastructure into a small part of the view which would break the skyline, however the views would be set within the context of the existing towers and OHL which are prominent across a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and lessen the degree of contrast.

The new permanent towers and HVAC OHL would increase the number of towers visible but would be at a similar scale to the existing towers which would reduce the impact on the wirescape. This would also be concentrated in a small part of the view with existing influence from the existing towers and OHL and a communication mast, which lessens the degree of contrast.

Occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape and views would be partially filtered by intervening vegetation.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be partially visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time. There would also potentially be effects associated with bird diverters present on the section of HVAC OHL which would have reflective properties at low light and would have localised effect on the nighttime landscape, albeit within the context of the nearby road network.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north and south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: **Small** Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

There would continue to be filtered views of the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation and filtered views of new permanent towers and HVAC OHL and occasional vehicles along a permanent monitoring route in the middle ground and distance.

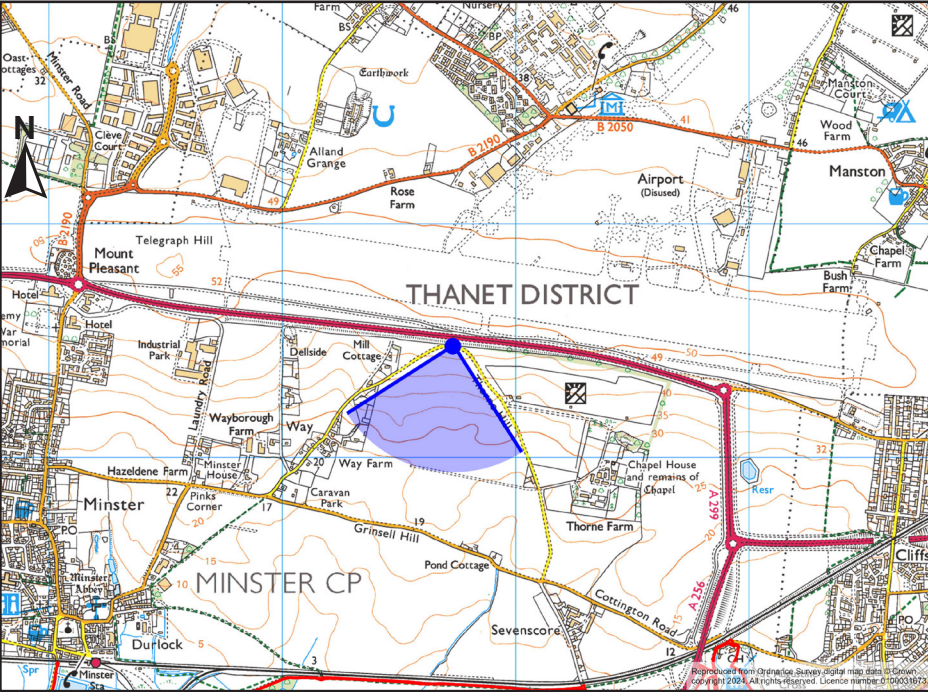
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north and south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would increase the depth of planting between the viewpoint receptor and the permanent infrastructure. There would remain filtered views of the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation as the planting would be screened by intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Table 1.11 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 11: Thorne Hill, south of the A299, looking south at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E632730 N165480
Approx. Distance to the Project	2312m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	SOUTH
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. Located on elevated land relative to the surrounding area, long distance views over an agricultural landscape creates scenic quality which is likely to be valued by the local community. Several detracting features, such as Richborough Energy Park, buildings in the Solar Energy Park, and a communication mast reduce the scenic quality but noting their distance and a minor part of the overall panorama. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of scattered residential receptors to the east of the settlement of Minster, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Also representative of users of the local road network, including Way Hill, Thorne Hill and the A299 corridor where their focus is not on views of the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of scattered residential receptors to the east of the settlement of Minster and road users of Way Hill, Thorne Hill and the A299 corridor.

Visual Baseline Description

Due to the elevated position of the viewpoint, this allows long distance views over a predominantly agricultural landscape with pockets of energy infrastructure visible. The foreground comprises a large-scale agricultural field. In the middle distance, linear scrubby hedgerows and hedgerow trees denote the boundaries of Grinsell Hill Road and the railway line which run east to west across the view. Mature vegetation, associated with properties on Ivy Cottage Hill, is visible to the west of the receptor in the middle distance, as well as a Solar Energy Park to the east of the receptor off Thorne Hill.

The large-scale agricultural fields extend into the middle and long distance, with linear boundary features comprising hedgerow and hedgerow trees, creating layered vegetation. The layered vegetation network also includes vegetation slightly elevated around two reservoirs to the north of Brook Lane. Due to the landform, buildings within the Richborough Energy Park, the Solar Energy Farm on Jutes Lane and movement along the route of the A256 are visible in the distance to the southeast, above layers of vegetation and associated woodland in the local landscape. Pegwell Bay and Stonelees and St Augustine's Golf Clubs are also visible to the southeast of the viewpoint at a considerable distance.

Tall vertical features break the wooded skyline in the distance, including a communication mast, tall chimneys associated with Richborough Energy Park and the existing OHL and towers. There are also distant views to the sea to the southeast of the receptor.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be direct and partially filtered views of construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation, HVDC cable corridor, the permanent access route, landfall and the HVAC OHL works in the middle distance through to the distance. There would also potentially be views of occasional vehicle movement along construction access tracks within the local landscape, including along the railway line in the middle distance, and cable laying barge and other vessels within Pegwell Bay in the distance. There would also be some vegetation removal visible.

Construction activity associated with the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation includes direct and partially filtered views to tall construction plant and material as well as construction compounds. Such activity would largely be set against the layering of vegetation and would be viewed within the context of energy related infrastructure in the distance, including Richborough Energy Park and vertical infrastructure including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL, which reduces the scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view.

Construction activity would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, albeit partially screened in parts by intervening vegetation but this would be minimal. The construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would extend the horizontal visual extent of existing energy infrastructure within the view, and the construction activity would appear somewhat detached from existing energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park due to intervening mature vegetation, including on Weatherlees Hill, but would appear in a similar part of the overall panorama which lessens the scale of change.

There would be partially screened views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route and permanent access route. The views would be partially screened by intervening vegetation including associated with that slightly raised around the reservoirs. The construction activity would be within the same part of the view as existing buildings within the Richborough Energy Park, the Solar Energy Farm on Jutes Lane and movement along the route of the A256, which lessens the degree of contrast. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable is not considered to be dissimilar to typical machinery on arable fields, which reduces the contrast to the existing view.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be direct views to Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation in the middle distance. The permanent access road and associated junction to the A256 and the HVAC OHL works would be visible in the middle ground and distance. The addition of permanent attenuation ponds around the Converter Station and Minster Substation are also likely to be visible.

Views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be largely direct, with the majority of the built form visible due to the elevated position of the viewpoint and limited intervening vegetation. Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would increase the extent of energy infrastructure in the horizontal extent of the view and would permanently displace agricultural fields to the northwest of Richborough Energy Park.

Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be seen as somewhat detached from existing energy infrastructure due to intervening vegetation and therefore would present a noticeable change to the composition of the view, albeit reducing the prominence in the view as the infrastructure would not break the skyline due to the elevated angle of the view, would be set against the layered vegetation network, would be within the context of existing vertical elements and would be in the same part of the view as existing energy infrastructure in the context of the wider panorama.

Partially screened views of the permanent access road and junction onto the A256 would introduce occasional vehicle movement within an agricultural field in the middle ground. This would be seen within the context of movement along the A256 and would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape. The permanent access road would split the large-scale agricultural field but this would not be perceptible from the viewpoint due to the majority of the field screened by intervening mature vegetation.

The HVDC cable corridor and construction compound areas may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated to agricultural land.

Permanent vegetation removal would be limited to localised tree loss to the east of the Minster Converter Station, the junction to the A256, near to the railway line and loss of a Category C hedgerow through the Site.

CONTINUED... Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

The permanent loss of vegetation would be highly localised and would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view.

The new permanent HVAC OHL and towers would be visible within the view, however this would not appear dissimilar to the existing wirescape of the OHL and towers and consequently the composition of the view would remain largely unchanged.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation and potential re-establishment of vegetation associated with the HVDC cable would consist of whips. Therefore, at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be views of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation as explained for Year 1, however this would be limited to the upper extents.

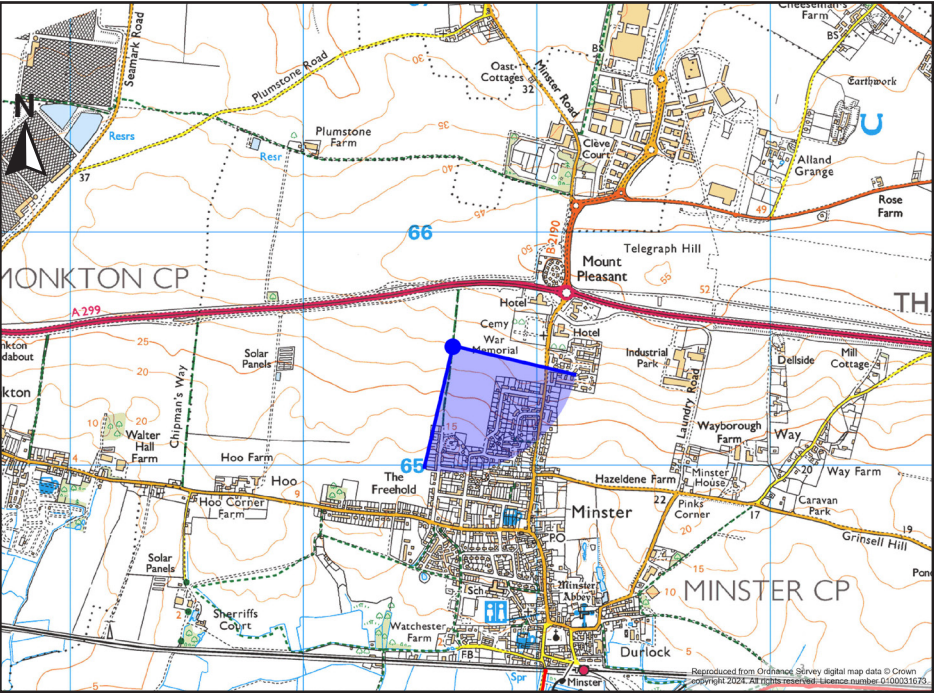
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured which would provide some additional screening benefit. Whilst this would aid the softening of views in the direction of the lower parts of the permanent infrastructure, it would not provide sufficient visual integration to reduce the overall magnitude of effect.

Glimpsed views of occasional movement along the permanent access route would remain, which would not be dissimilar to typical agricultural movement in the existing landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Table 1.12 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 12: Public Bridleway (0173/TE29/1), north of Minster, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E630643 N165511
Approx. Distance to the Project	2812m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	SOUTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. Located on elevated land relative to the surrounding landscape, long distance views are available over a well vegetated agricultural landscape to the south, increasing the scenic quality. The view is likely to be valued by the local community. However, residential development in the middle ground and structures associated with the industrial land uses in the distance partially erode the scenic qualities of the view. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience and users of the local network, including the A299 whose interest is focused on their surroundings. It is also representative of residential receptors on the northern edge of Minster where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network and users of the local road network, including the A299, as well as residential receptors on the northern edge of the settlement of Minster.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises temporary heras fencing, that is unlikely to be a permanent part of the view in the long term. It runs alongside the route of the public bridleway, which extends from the foreground to the middle distance towards the northwest settlement boundary of Minster. Behind the fencing, an agricultural field extends from the foreground to middle ground to Minster, with wooden electricity poles transecting the field. The landform slopes down towards Minster and the flat landscape of the Minster Marshes beyond, to the south of the viewpoint.

The settlement of Minster is visible in the middle ground, including the spire of St Mary the Virgin, with blocks of vegetation on the northern settlement edge. The settlement of Minster and associated vegetation screen long distance views to the southeast of the receptor. However, long distance views towards a well vegetated, agricultural landscape are visible beyond Minster to the south of the receptor due to the elevated position of the viewpoint.

Filtered views of infrastructure within Richborough Energy Park are available above Minster, through intervening vegetation in the distance. Tall vertical structures, including a communication mast and the existing OHL and towers, break the wooded skyline to the southeast in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be filtered views to the upper extents of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the HVAC OHL works in the distance, which would include tall construction plant and material. There would also potentially be views of occasional vehicle movement along an access track to the south of the viewpoint in the middle ground, albeit likely to be heavily screened by intervening built form within Minster and vegetation.

Views of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be limited to partially screened views of the upper extents of tall construction plant above intervening vegetation and built form within Minster in the middle ground. Construction activity would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and the scale of change would be reduced due to the screening of activity. The construction activity would be seen in the context of filtered views of energy infrastructure within Richborough Energy Park and existing views of OHL and towers, which reduces the contrast to the existing view. The construction activity would appear to break the skyline; however, this would be within the context of existing vertical infrastructure within the view.

Construction activity associated with the HVAC OHL and towers would appear within the immediate context of the existing towers and OHL in views. Whilst there would be additional towers in view, which would temporarily increase the wirescape apparent, this would not appear dissimilar to features within the existing view and consequently the composition of the view would remain largely unchanged.

Vehicle movement along access tracks to the south of the viewpoint would be heavily screened. Any views would be of occasional movement and would not be dissimilar to existing vehicular movement within agricultural fields, such that the composition of the view would not be altered.

Associated construction lighting would largely be screened by intervening vegetation and would be seen within the context of lighting at Richborough Energy Park.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

The construction compounds associated with the Minster Converter Station, Substation and HVDC cable would likely be screened by intervening vegetation and built form.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially screened views to the upper extents of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL towers in the middle ground and distance above intervening vegetation and built form.

The new permanent infrastructure would be visible across a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Views of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be limited to partially screened views of the upper extents, above intervening vegetation and built form within Minster in the middle ground. The scale of Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be emphasised due to the comparison with small-scale existing built form within Minster. However, Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be viewed in the context of filtered views of existing large-scale energy infrastructure in the distance and vertical features including OHL lines and a communication mast, which reduces the contrast with the existing view. Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would appear on or below the skyline which would not appear dissimilar to the height of infrastructure within Richborough Energy Park.

The new permanent HVAC OHL and towers would be visible within the view; however, this would not appear dissimilar to the existing wirescape of the OHL and towers and consequently the composition of the view would remain largely unchanged.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would largely be screened by intervening vegetation and would be seen within the context of lighting at Richborough Energy Park.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips, which would not be visible from this location due to intervening mature vegetation and landform.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be partially screened views of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent towers and HVAC OHL in the middle ground and distance above intervening vegetation and built form.

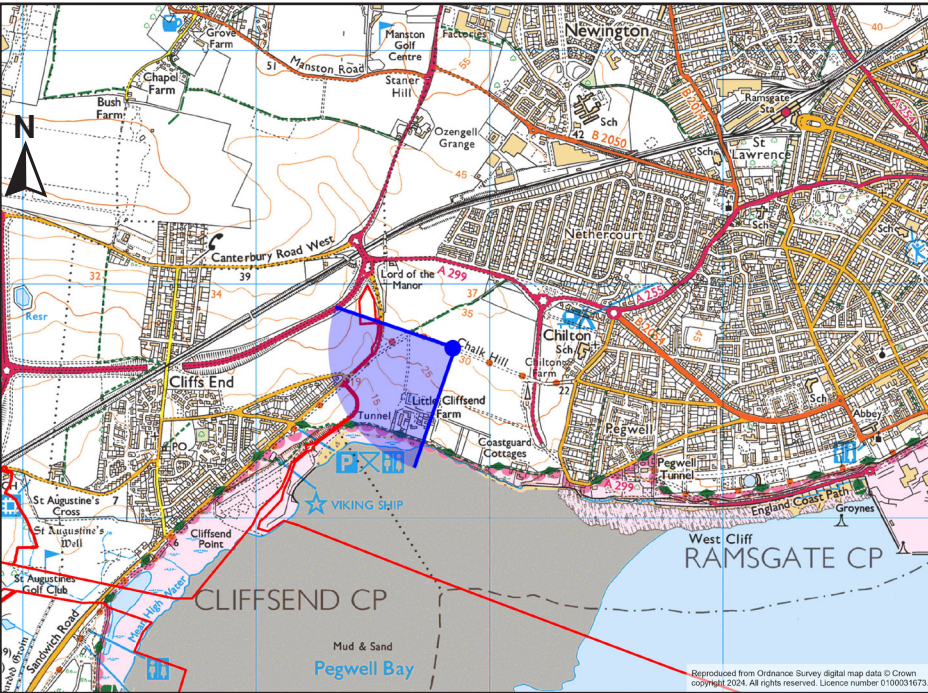
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured, however this is unlikely to be visible from this location due to the intervening mature vegetation and landform. As such, the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station, Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL and towers would still be visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Table 1.13 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 13: Traffic-free cycle route along Chalk Hill (NCN route 15), west of Ramsgate, looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E635874 N164707
Approx. Distance to the Project	3683m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	SOUTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The view comprises typical agricultural land with longer distance views predominantly screened by built form and vegetation, which is likely to be valued by the local community. Pegwell Bay Country Park and the coastline are visible, which exhibits scenic qualities, albeit in the long distance. The eastern settlement edge of Cliffsend is visually detracting and partially erodes the scenic quality of the view. Long distance views of tall, vertical structures also detract from the scenic qualities of Pegwell Bay. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of recreational receptors along NCN route 15 and users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail where attention is focused on the landscape. It is also representative of residential receptors where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents and users of allotments on the southwestern settlement edge of Ramsgate. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along Chalk Hill, NCN route 15 and users of the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail. It is also representative of residential receptors and users of allotments on the southwestern settlement edge of Ramsgate.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises arable and pastoral land, and pastoral land use extends into the middle ground to the southwest of the viewpoint. The pastoral grazing land is divided into small to medium-scale enclosures by post and wire fencing. Small wooden structures for agricultural purposes are located within the field enclosures.

A row of coniferous trees to the south of the viewpoint, on the cliff edge, screen long distance views to the south across Pegwell and Sandwich Bays. Built form within the settlement of Cliffsend, blocks of mature vegetation and the falling landform beyond the settlement limits long distance views to the west.

In the long distance, to the southwest of the receptor, there are framed views to vegetation within Pegwell Bay Country Park and Stonelees and St Augustine's Golf Courses in the gap between coniferous vegetation and the eastern settlement edge of Cliffsend. Existing built form off Sandwich Road is visible in the same part of the view as Pegwell Bay Country Park. As a result of the elevated position of the view, there are very distant and partial views to energy infrastructure along Ramsgate Road and the agricultural landscape beyond.

Tall, vertical structures, such as a communication mast and existing towers and OHL break the skyline to the southwest of Pegwell Bay in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially screened views of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station, Substation and the HVAC OHL works in the distance. There would also be direct and partially screened views of a construction compound within the agricultural field enclosure in the middle ground and a construction access across the former hoverport site also in the middle ground. There may also be potentially glimpsed views of the cable laying barge and other vessels within Pegwell Bay.

Views of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be limited to distant glimpsed views of the upper extents of tall construction plant above intervening vegetation and built form, predominantly within Cliffsend. This would limit the scale of change as the majority of construction works would be screened and the context of existing built form would reduce the degree of contrast.

Construction activity associated with the HVAC OHL works would appear within the immediate context of the existing towers and OHL in views. Whilst there would be additional towers in view temporarily increasing the wirescape apparent within the view this would not appear dissimilar to features within the existing view. The construction activity would be unlikely to break the skyline in the distance and it would be in the context of existing energy infrastructure and tall vertical features at a similar distance. Such activity would comprise a very small proportion of the typically panoramic coastal views.

Views of a construction compound associated with landfall in the middle ground would be directly visible within agricultural land and partially screened by intervening vegetation and landform for the construction access across the former hoverport site. The compound would be set against a mature woodland block off Sandwich Road. The construction activity would introduce additional energy related infrastructure into local views; however, this would be viewed within the context of a wider industrialised coastline. Occasional vehicular movement may also be visible along the proposed access routes between these construction compounds. This would however be viewed in the context of movement along Sandwich Road, such that the composition of the view would remain largely unchanged.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



There may be glimpsed views of the cable laying barge and other vessels present within Pegwell Bay, however views would be largely screened due to intervening coniferous trees. Any views would be seen within the context of the industrialised coastline and the cable laying barge and other vessels would not be dissimilar to the presence of typical marine vessels. As such, they would not detract from the current composition of the view.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across a small part of horizontal extent of the view in the context of the urbanised hinterland.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be partially screened views of the upper extents of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL and towers in the distance. Occasional movement along the permanent monitoring access route in the middle ground would be visible. The land where the construction compounds were located would be full reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated.

The new permanent infrastructure would be visible across a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal views. Distant views of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL and towers would be limited to partially screened views of the upper extents, above intervening vegetation and built form within Cliffsend. The scale of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be emphasised in comparison to the smaller scale residential development within Cliffsend, however the degree of contrast to the existing view is lessens as the new permanent infrastructure would be unlikely to break the skyline and would be viewed in the context of existing energy infrastructure and tall vertical features at a similar distance.

The movement along the permanent monitoring access route in the middle ground would be occasional and viewed within the context of movement along Sandwich Road, such that it would not detract from the composition of the view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would largely be screened by intervening built form and at a distance. Should any occasional lighting be perceptible, this would be within the context of the urbanised hinterland.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the northeast and east of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips. Therefore, at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be partially screened views of the upper extents of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent towers and HVAC OHL above intervening vegetation and built form. Occasional movement along the permanent monitoring access route in the middle ground would continue to be visible.

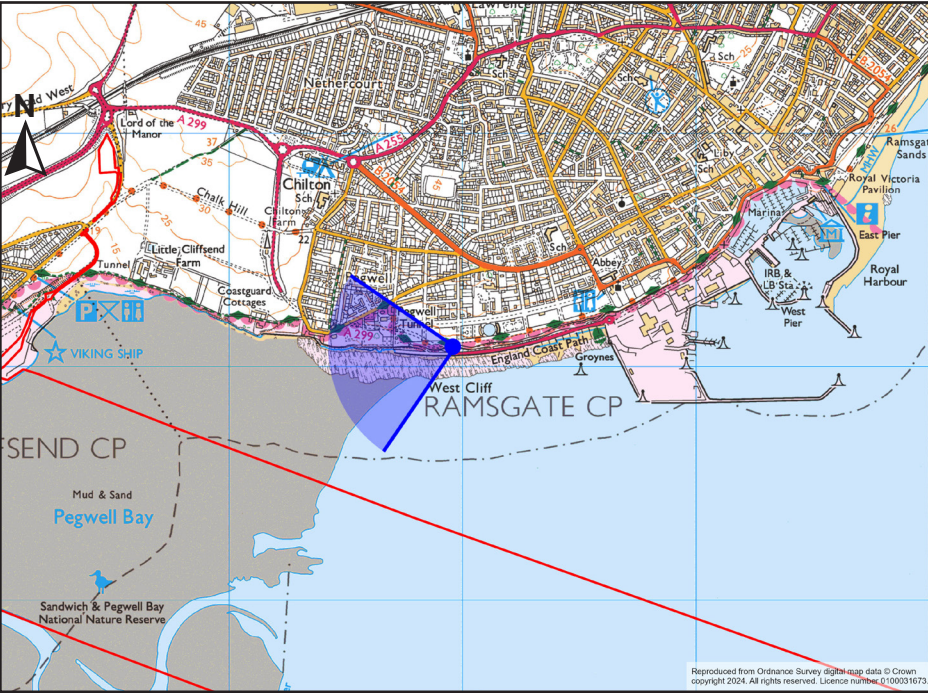
Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) the northeast and east of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured, however this is unlikely to be visible from this location due to the intervening mature vegetation and built form. As such, the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station, Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL and towers would remain to be visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

Table 1.14 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 14: King Charles III England Coast Path, West Cliff, Ramsgate, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E636975 N164082
Approx. Distance to the Project	4543m (distance to Minster Converter Station and Substation)
General Direction of View	WEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. There is scenic quality within the view due to long distance views across the coastline and Pegwell and Sandwich Bays which is likely to be valued by the local community. The scenic quality of the view is somewhat detracted by the metal fencing in the foreground and buildings within Richborough Energy Park and Discovery Park in the long distance. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of recreational receptors of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), NCN route 15 and the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail where attention is focused on the landscape. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

*It should be noted that the viewpoint photography presented within **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations** includes two communication masts and a turbine, however the turbine and one of the communication masts have been removed at the time of writing.*

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), NCN route 15 and the promoted cycling route Viking Coastal Trail, at West Cliff, Ramsgate.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise West Cliff to the south of the receptor, which is covered by vegetation and bound by a metal fence along the cliff edge. To the south, at the base of the cliffs, the promenade along Royal Harbour Approach is visible in the middle ground. To the north of the cliff edge, a footpath denotes the route of the King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail) in the foreground. Westcliff Promenade is visible to the north of the viewpoint, which extends into the middle ground. There are glimpsed views of buildings in the southern settlement edge of Ramsgate through mature vegetation located to the northwest of the viewpoint in the middle ground.

As the viewpoint is located on the cliff edge, there is a dramatic change in height within the view, which creates long distance views to the southeast of the viewpoint, providing panoramic views of the industrialised coastline. Pegwell Bay comprises the middle and long distance to the southwest of the viewpoint. Pegwell Bay Country Park is visible in the context of a wooded skyline on the coast, to the southeast of the viewpoint. Direct and partially screened views of large industrial structures are available across the coastal panorama, including buildings within Richborough Energy Park, buildings and chimneys within Discovery Park, a communication mast and the existing towers OHL, but are barely discernible in the view due to distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels located within Pegwell Bay in the middle ground and potentially direct views of construction compounds and vehicular movement along access tracks associated with the landfall in the distance. There would also be views of the upper extents of construction activity associated with Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the HVAC OHL works in the long distance.

The construction activity would be visible across a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal view. The direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels present within Pegwell Bay would be seen within the context of the industrialised coastline and they would not be dissimilar to the presence of typical marine vessels often seen at sea. As such, they would not detract from the current composition of the view.

The views towards the construction compounds and occasional movement along access tracks associated with landfall would be direct in parts. However, this activity would be viewed from a long distance and in the context of an industrialised coastal panorama, which lessens the contrast in the view and consequently there would be a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view.

The views of the upper extents of tall construction plant associated with the construction of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and HVAC OHL works may break the skyline in the distance. However, this would be viewed in the context of other vertical infrastructure at a similar distance, which would lessen the contrast in the view. This activity would be viewed from a long distance, which would result in a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

Associated construction lighting is expected to be localised which would be seen within the context of the urbanised hinterland.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be views of the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation and partially screened views to the permanent HVAC OHL and towers in the distance. Occasional movement along the permanent monitoring access route off Sandwich Road in the distance may also be visible.

Views of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the new permanent towers and HVAC OHL works would be limited to the upper extents and partially screened views above the intervening vegetation in the distance. The permanent infrastructure would be barely perceptible in the view due to distance, would occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would be seen within the context of other vertical infrastructure at a similar distance and of similar type and scale, which would lessen the contrast in the view.

Views to occasional vehicular movement along the access track route off Sandwich Road would be viewed from a long distance and in the context of an industrialised coastal view. As such this would result in a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

Associated lighting at the Minster Converter Station and Substation site would largely be screened by intervening built form and at a distance. Should any occasional lighting be perceptible, this would be within the context of the urbanised hinterland.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the northeast of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would consist of whips. Therefore, at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be distant and partially screened views of the upper extents of Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent towers and HVAC OHL above intervening vegetation and built form. Occasional movement along the permanent monitoring access route in the distance would continue to be visible.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.2 Figure 1 Minster Converter Station and Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the northeast of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would have matured, however this is unlikely to be visible from this location due to the intervening mature vegetation. As such, the upper extents of the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and the permanent HVAC OHL and towers would still be visible.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



*For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.3.1.8 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.*

1.1 Summary of likely effects on visual receptor groups

1.1.1 With reference to the visual receptor groups set out in **Application Document 6.2.3.1 Part 3 Kent Chapter 1 Landscape and Visual**, the below sets out a summary of the likely change to existing views as a result of the Kent Onshore Scheme for the different types of visual receptors within the landscape and visual study area. The below also refers to judgements made on likely effects for relevant representative viewpoints.

Residential receptors – settlement

Settlements of Cliffsend and Minster in the northern part of the study area

1.1.2 The majority of receptors within such settlements would have screened views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme by intervening built form and vegetation. As the landform where the settlements lie rises, there are likely to be views of the Kent Onshore Scheme from more elevated visual receptors where intervening screening may be limited.

1.1.3 This would include views at construction for receptors within Cliffsend associated with construction compounds, construction access, landfall and cable laying barge and other vessels out at sea and within Pegwell Bay. There would be direct views of the construction compound off Sandwich Road which would temporarily displace views of agricultural land however views would be within the context of the surrounding road infrastructure of the A299 and A256.

1.1.4 There would be filtered views, by intervening mature vegetation, alongside Sandwich Road to the construction access on the former hoverport site. Views at construction would be seen within the context of the industrialised coastline. As such, they would not detract from the current composition of the view. Views of the Kent Onshore Scheme would be unlikely for receptors within Cliffsend at operation due to intervening built form and infrastructure.

1.1.5 Any views of the Kent Onshore Scheme from Minster on rising land would be available at all project stages, primarily associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and permanent towers and HVAC OHL. Such views would be viewed in the context of filtered views of existing large-scale energy infrastructure in the distance and vertical features including existing towers and OHL and a communication mast, which reduces the contrast with the existing view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 12** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Western settlement edge of Ramsgate within the northeastern part of the study area

1.1.6 The majority of receptors within Ramsgate would have screened views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme by intervening built form and vegetation. There are likely to be views from receptors on the western settlement edge in which there would be typically partially screened views to the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages and direct views of a temporary construction compound near to the settlement edge and temporary cable laying barge and other vessels within the sea and Pegwell Bay. Any views would be at a distance and would be within the context of existing energy infrastructure and tall vertical features at a similar distance. Any introduction of movement in the view would typically be within the context of existing movement, including along the local road network (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 13** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Residential receptors – scattered properties

Isolated farmsteads and properties located along Richborough Road within the southern part of the study area

1.1.7 The majority of receptors in isolated farmsteads and properties along Richborough Road would have screened views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme. This would comprise predominantly of intervening vegetation along Richborough Road and within the field enclosures just to the north, which would assist in screening views across the wider, flat marshes to the north. Any views to the Kent Onshore Scheme are likely to be filtered, would be in the distance in the context of the existing towers and OHL and infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park and would be set against rising land in the background, which would lessen the degree of contrast in the view.

1.1.8 Views of the proposed construction access route nearer to the receptors is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the A299 in the distance (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 9** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Isolated properties and small clusters of dwellings between Minster and Cliffsend within the northern part of the study area

1.1.9 Views from isolated properties and small clusters of dwellings between Minster and Cliffsend towards the Kent Onshore Scheme would be varied dependent on intervening vegetation and built form. Where views are available, this would be from elevated land in comparison to the Kent Onshore Scheme, resulting in the change in view set against the layered vegetation network in the wider landscape and within the context of energy related infrastructure in the distance, including Richborough Energy Park and vertical infrastructure including a communication mast and the existing towers and OHL, which reduces the scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view.

1.1.10 The effects on the receptor would be greater in closer proximity to the Kent Onshore Scheme, in which the change in view would extend across a wider horizontal extent of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 5 and 11** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Recreational

The Stour Valley Walk, which runs east to west across the study area within the southern part of the study area and along the coast

1.1.11 There would be heavily filtered views in the distance of the Kent Onshore Scheme from a section of the Stour Valley Walk to the south of Richborough Road in the southwestern part of the study area. Views would be heavily filtered by intervening vegetation, including along Richborough Road, screening views across the wider, flat marshes to the north. Any views would be at a distance and would be in the context of existing energy infrastructure, including the existing towers and OHL.

1.1.12 There would be direct views associated with the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages within a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal view from a section of the Stour Valley Walk along the coastline in the southeastern part of the study area. Such views would typically be at a distance and in the context of an urbanised coastal panorama including movement along Sandwich Road, which lessens the contrast in the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 7** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

The King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), which runs along the coast and around the Great Stonar area within the eastern part of the study area

1.1.13 There would be mixed views from the King Charles III England Coast Path throughout the study area. There would be limited views of the Kent Onshore Scheme within the southern part of the study area primarily due to intervening built form. However, there would be direct and filtered views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme within a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal view from sections of the King Charles III England Coast Path to the east of Richborough Energy Park and along the coastline. Such views would typically be at a distance and in the context of an urbanised coastal panorama including movement along Sandwich Road, which lessens the contrast in the view.

1.1.14 As the King Charles III England Coast Path continues north towards Pegwell Bay and the western settlement edge of Ramsgate, there are likely to be views through sections of the route associated with the Kent Onshore Scheme. Such views are likely to be predominantly associated with the construction phase, including direct views of cable laying barge and other vessels temporarily within Pegwell Bay and out at sea as well as construction compounds and construction access. Such views would be within the context of offshore views of wind farms, recreational vessels within the nearshore waters and the heavily developed coastal hinterland, which lessens the degree of contrast to the existing view.

1.1.15 There would also be views at all project stages, limited to the upper extents, associated with the Minster Converter Station, Minster Substation and HVAC OHL in the distance in a very small proportion of the typically panoramic coastal views (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 2, 7, and 14** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

The Saxon Shore Way, which follows the route of the River Stour through the study area

1.1.16 There would be filtered views of the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages along the majority of the Saxon Shore Way as it passes east to west through the study area along the River Stour. Such views would be filtered in part by intervening vegetation, notably alongside the railway line, and in the context of the existing towers and OHL which are prominent across the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, which lessens the degree of contrast (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 10** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.17 To the east of the railway line, there would be direct views of the Kent Onshore Scheme, primarily associated with the new towers and HVAC OHL, as well as screened views associated with Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation, and the degree of contrast would be greater at construction. Such views would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL and existing energy infrastructure within the view at Richborough Energy Park, which reduces the scale of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 3** with significant adverse effects at construction and no significant adverse effects at Year 1 and Year 15 operation).

1.1.18 As the route continues south, there would be limited views associated with the Kent Onshore Scheme along the Saxon Shore Way due to intervening vegetation and distance and views would be dominated by energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park in closer proximity.

Users of the local PRoW network within the study area, including public footpaths and public bridleways

1.1.19 Effects of the Kent Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Kent Onshore Scheme. The scale of change associated with the introduction of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation for users of the local PRoW network in close proximity to the north would typically be a noticeable change as other energy infrastructure in the view, including at Richborough Energy Park, would appear more distant and therefore less comparable (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 4** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). Receptors in close proximity along the local PRoW network to the east and south of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would be closer to the infrastructure in some places, however there would be more of an influence by existing detracting features, including the A256 corridor, existing towers and OHL and buildings within Richborough Energy Park.

1.1.20 Views from the local PRoW network through the wider marsh landscape to the west of the Kent Onshore Scheme would typically have filtered views due to the effectiveness of any intervening vegetation screening views in the flat landscape. Views of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation would introduce new large-scale energy infrastructure but would typically appear within the same part the view as existing vertical infrastructure and existing energy buildings at Richborough Energy Park, which reduces the degree of contrast. There would be a localised increase in wirescape arising from the addition of new towers and OHL, with the effect dependent on the angle of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 6** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.21 Further from the Kent Onshore Scheme, views would be limited due to intervening vegetation and built form and the context of other energy infrastructure in the view, including the existing towers and OHL and energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 12** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

NCN 1 and 15, which runs west to southeast, following the route of Richborough Road, within the southern part of the study area and runs north to south, following the route of the A256 and Sandwich Road, before reaching the route of the Viking Coastal Trail at the southern edge of Ramsgate

1.1.22 Receptors along the NCN in the southern part of the study area along Richborough Road would have screened views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme. This would comprise predominantly of intervening vegetation along Richborough Road and within the field enclosures just to the north, which would assist in screening views across the wider, flat marshes to the north. Any views to the Kent Onshore Scheme are likely to be filtered, would be in the distance in the context of the existing towers and OHL and infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park and would be set against rising land in the background, which would lessen the degree of contrast in the view.

1.1.23 Views of the proposed construction access route nearer to the receptors is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the A299 in the distance (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 9** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.24 There would be views associated with the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages along sections of the NCN in the eastern part of the study area. The majority of views would be filtered and distant views to the west of the A256, however there would be some direct views of construction activity as the route passes near to Pegwell Bay. Such views would be viewed within the context of a wider industrialised coastline, which lessens the degree of contrast (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 2, 13, and 14** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

The Viking Coastal Trail, promoted cycle route, which runs east to west within the northern part of the study area

1.1.25 There would be direct and partially screened views of the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages from slightly elevated ground along a short section of the Viking Coastal Trail along Grinsell Hill between Minster and Sevenscore. Such views would be within the same part of the view as existing built form associated with Richborough Energy Park, however the new built form would be in closer proximity to the receptor therefore occupying a larger part of the horizontal extent of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 5** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). Further to the west, views would be limited due to intervening built form and vegetation, as well as distance.

1.1.26 Further to the east, the majority of views would be filtered and distant views to the west of the A256, however there would be some direct views of construction activity as the route passes near to Pegwell Bay. Such views would be viewed within the context of a wider industrialised coastline, which lessens the degree of contrast (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 13 and 14** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Users of Pegwell Bay Country Park, which is located within the eastern part of the study area

1.1.27 Receptors within Pegwell Bay Country Park would typically have screened views towards the Kent Onshore Scheme due to intervening vegetation within the Country Park and the local landscape. However, there would be views on the edge of the Country Park, primarily associated with the construction phase of the Kent Onshore Scheme.

1.1.28 Views would include cable laying barge and other vessels temporarily within Pegwell Bay and out at sea and construction compounds and construction access. The majority of the coastal views from the edges of the Country Park would be unaffected and views would be within the context of offshore views of wind farms, recreational vessels within the nearshore waters and the heavily developed coastal hinterland, which lessens the degree of contrast to the existing view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 2** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Users of Prince's Golf Club, which is located within the southeastern part of the study area

1.1.29 There would be views from the northern part of Prince's Golf Club to the Kent Onshore Scheme across a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the panoramic coastal view. Any views would be distant and primarily associated with the construction activity around Pegwell Bay. Such views would be seen within the context of the urbanised hinterland and they would not be dissimilar to the presence of typical marine vessels often seen at sea. As such, they would not detract from the current composition of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 7** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Users of Stoneless Golf Centre and St Augustine's Golf Club, which is located within the central part of the study area

1.1.30 Views from users of Stoneless Golf Centre and St Augustine's Golf Club would be primarily associated with the construction of the Kent Onshore Scheme. Views would be screened in part by intervening vegetation within the golf course and within the local landscape, however there would be views associated with cable laying barge and other vessels located within Pegwell Bay and at sea and other localised construction activity in proximity such as construction compounds and construction

access. The construction activity would be temporarily present in views and set within the context of existing urbanising features, including the A256 corridor.

1.1.31 Following the construction period, views would be limited to distant views of the operational infrastructure, including the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation and new towers and HVAC OHL. Such views would be within the context of existing energy infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park and movement along the A256 corridor, which would reduce the degree of contrast.

Visitors to Richborough Roman Fort, which is located within the southern part of the study area

1.1.32 There would be direct and filtered views of the Kent Onshore Scheme from visitors to Richborough Fort at all project stages. The remaining Fort walls would fully screen views in the direction of the Scheme for some receptors. There would be direct and filtered views available from those receptors on the local PRoW network around the Fort and on the viewing platform from within the Fort. Such views would be at a distance, in the context of the existing towers and OHL and infrastructure at Richborough Energy Park and would be set against rising land in the background, which would lessen the degree of contrast in the view. Views of the proposed construction access route nearer to the receptors is not considered to be dissimilar to existing agricultural activities and would be within the context of existing movement visible associated with the A299 in the distance (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 8** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

Road and railway users

Users of the A256, which runs north to south through the central part of the study area

1.1.33 There would be views associated with the construction phase of the Kent Onshore Scheme in a small section of the road to the west of St Augustine's Golf Club. This would be primarily associated with the construction phase, including views of construction access and construction compounds in close proximity to the road corridor. Such views would be filtered in part by intervening vegetation along the road corridor. Further to the north and south along the A256 in the study area, views would be available towards the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages, however they would be typically at a distance and within the context of existing energy infrastructure including Richborough Energy Park and the existing towers and OHL, which reduces the scale of change and degree of contrast. The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

Users of the A299, which runs east to west, within the northern part of the study area

1.1.34 There would be limited views from receptors along the A299 as the corridor to the south of Manston Airport is mainly in-cutting. There are pockets of views where the cutting becomes more at grade, however such views would be fleeting when travelling at speed along the road corridor, which reduces the scale of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 11** with significant adverse effects at all project stages and refer to **Representative Viewpoint 12** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.35 Further to the east along the A299, there would be views for short sections of the route primarily associated with the construction phase of the Kent Onshore Scheme. This would include views of the cable laying barge and other vessels located within Pegwell Bay and at sea and other localised construction activity in proximity such as construction compounds and construction access. The construction activity would be temporarily present in views and set within the context of existing urbanising features, including road corridor and settlement edges of Cliffsend and Ramsgate, which reduces the degree of change. The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

Users of 'B' roads and the local (unclassified) road network

1.1.36 Effects of the Kent Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Kent Onshore Scheme. Typically, receptors along the network in closer proximity to the Kent Onshore Scheme are likely to experience a greater scale of change in the view with respect to the addition of the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 5 and 11** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). However, the nature of the views also depends on the existing view. For example, for the road network around Richborough Energy Park, existing infrastructure often dominates the view which reduces the degree of contrast to views of the Kent Onshore Scheme (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 1** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.37 Further from the Kent Onshore Scheme, the alteration to the existing view is generally lower due to intervening vegetation and built form reducing the amount of the Kent Onshore Scheme visible, distance and the context of existing energy infrastructure in the surrounding landscape (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 9** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

Passengers on the railway route between Sandwich and Minster and between Ramsgate and Canterbury

1.1.38 Effects of the Kent Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Kent Onshore Scheme. Views from receptors along the railway line within the study area would typically be screened by intervening vegetation alongside the railway line (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 6** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.39 There would be views of the Kent Onshore Scheme at all project stages for a short section of the railway line to the north of the Minster Converter Station and Minster Substation. The new infrastructure would be within the same part of the view as existing built form associated with Richborough Energy Park and Weatherlees Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant, however the new built form would be in closer proximity to the receptor therefore occupying a larger part of the horizontal extent of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 4** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

1.1.40 There may also be views for receptors along a short section of the railway line where the HVAC OHL works are required over the railway line at the construction phase of the Kent Onshore Scheme. Such views would be barely discernible due to the short section of the railway line effected. The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the railway network. Consequently, it's not considered that significant adverse effects would result for users of the railway network.

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