

# Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

## Environmental Statement – Chapter 13 Landscape and visual

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from  
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The Southern Water logo consists of three stylized, wavy blue lines of varying lengths, positioned to the right of the text 'Southern Water'.



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## 13 Landscape and visual

### 13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 This chapter summarises the results of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which addresses the likely significant landscape and visual effects of the construction, operation and maintenance of the Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project (hereafter referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’), which is being progressed by Southern Water Services Limited (‘the Applicant’).
- 13.1.2 There are clear differences between landscape effects and visual effects and the following distinctions have been made:
1. Landscape effects relate to changes to the landscape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and landscape character.
  2. Visual effects relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors (people), from the loss or addition of landscape features within their view due to the Proposed Development.
- 13.1.3 This chapter details the legislation, policy and guidance that is relevant to landscape and visual matters, summarises the engagement and consultation undertaken to date, sets out the scope and methodology of assessment, and describes the baseline environment. Following this, the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors are assessed taking account of embedded primary and tertiary mitigation within the design. Proposals for monitoring and/or enhancement are then considered. The chapter concludes with a summary of residual effects.
- 13.1.4 Whilst this Environmental Statement (ES) presents an assessment of the effects that may occur from decommissioning activities of the Proposed Development, the Applicant is not seeking consent for decommissioning.
- 13.1.5 Landscape and visual topics considered within this chapter for the Proposed Development are:
1. Physical features of the landscape, such as underlying geology, hydrology, trees, woodland and hedgerows.
  2. Perceptual characteristics of the landscape, such as colour, patterns, textures, associations and tranquillity.
  3. Cultural and social aspects of the landscape, such as land use, settlement and time depth.
  4. People’s views of the landscape at various locations, including residents of local communities and people using public rights of way (PRoW) and roads through the area.
- 13.1.6 This chapter should be read in conjunction with ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I, (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) which describes the development parameters against which the effects considered in this chapter have been assessed.

- 13.1.7 In addition, this chapter should be read alongside relevant parts of other chapters in Volume I, which provide information which has informed the LVIA, namely:
1. ES Chapter 7 Archaeology and cultural heritage, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – historical development of the landscape and the location, extent and setting of heritage assets have informed the baseline landscape character and judgements on the value attached to the landscape.
  2. ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – the type and extent of habitats which has informed the design of multifunctional Green Infrastructure for the Proposed Development.
  3. ES Chapter 10 Carbon and climate change, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – likely changes as a result of climate change which may affect the composition and character of the landscape.
  4. ES Chapter 11 Land quality and ground conditions, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – composition of underlying geology and soils.
  5. ES Chapter 12 Land use and agriculture, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – distribution of land uses and the extent and classification of agricultural land and how this would be restored following construction.
  6. ES Chapter 17 Socio-economics, tourism and health, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – type and location of tourist attractions and recreational assets, such as parks and PRow.
  7. ES Chapter 19 Water environment, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – influence of watercourses, waterbodies and flooding on the landscape.
  8. ES Chapter 20, Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) – an assessment of the cumulative effects i.e. effects from the interrelationship between the Proposed Development and other developments, and an assessment of the in-combination effects i.e. effects from the interaction between the individual effects of the Proposed Development
- 13.1.8 This chapter is supported and informed by the following appendices, all contained in ES Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6):
1. ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)
  2. ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)
  3. ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)
  4. ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)
  5. ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)

## 13.2 Legislation, policy and guidance

13.2.1 This section summarises the legislation, policy, guidance and other documentation that has informed the assessment of likely significant effects on the landscape and people’s views of the landscape. This includes relevant duties on Southern Water, hereafter referred to as ‘the Applicant’. Detailed extracts of legislation and policies relevant to the LVIA and how these have informed the assessment and design of the Proposed Development are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

### Legislation

13.2.2 Table 13-1 lists the legislation relevant to the assessment of the likely significant landscape and visual effects.

**Table 13-1 List of relevant legislation**

Legislation description	Relevance to assessment
European Landscape Convention (ELC) [1]	<p>The ELC recognises that landscape is an important part of decision making. It covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding, as well as everyday or degraded landscapes. Landscape connects many other environmental topics, and these are addressed in other chapters of the ES. Those of most relevance to the LVIA are listed in section 13.1 above.</p> <p>The ELC underpins the approach to LVIA set out in the best practice guidance and policy that has informed the methodology for this LVIA, which is summarised in section 13.5 and described in detail in ES Appendix 13.2, Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 [2]	<p>The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act provides the legal definition of National Parks, how they are designated and managed with respect to their purposes. It also sets out the legal duties of statutory undertakers such as the Applicant under Section 11A. The South Downs National Park (SDNP) lies within 5m of the Order Limits at its closest point. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 strengthens the legal duty of ‘relevant authorities’ to seek to further the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes.</p> <p>Additionally, the Act addresses access to open country and also references “<i>proposals relating to the English coastal route</i>”. This includes the King Charles III England Coast Path, which lies in proximity to the Proposed Development and abuts the south-east corner of the Water Recycling Plant (WRP) site.</p> <p>The landscape baseline is described in section 13.7, with the assessment of likely landscape effects, including potential impacts on designated landscapes defined by this legislation, covered in section 13.8.</p>
Planning (Listed Buildings and	The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest and their setting. These features,

Legislation description	Relevance to assessment
Conservation Areas) Act 1990 [3]	which contribute to the heritage of an area and an understanding of historic landscape and the value attached to the landscape, are referred to within the definition of Landscape Character Areas (LCA) and Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) within section 13.7.
Hedgerows Regulations 1997 [4]	<p>The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 provide protection for Important Hedgerows, which are hedgerows that meet certain criteria in respect of their length, location and importance. The draft DCO would authorise any works required.</p> <p>ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), explains that hedgerow surveys were undertaken in 2024, where there is the potential for likely significant effects as a result of the alignment of the Proposed Development across the Order Limits. These surveys have informed the vegetation protection and reinstatement strategy, which is described in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).</p>
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) [5]	<p>The CroW Act sets out the legal basis for the definition of PRoW, users of which may be visual receptors of the Proposed Development. It also provides the legal definition for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and their management. AONBs were renamed National Landscapes in November 2023, although the legal definition remains AONB under the CRoW Act. References to AONB have been retained in this chapter and associated appendices where these relate to legal definitions, planning policy and the titles of published documents. It also sets out the legal duties of statutory undertakers such as the Applicant under Section 85 of the CRoW Act.</p> <p>The Chichester Harbour National Landscape lies approximately 990m to the south-east of the Order Limits at its closest point. The landscape baseline is described in section 13.7, with the assessment of likely landscape effects, including potential impacts on National Landscapes, covered in section 13.8 of this report.</p>
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 [6]	The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 provide powers to local planning authorities to make and administer Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). Existing TPOs have been considered within the design, the landscape baseline and the assessment of landscape effects presented in sections 13.7 and 13.8. More detail is provided in ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

## National policy

- 13.2.3 The primary policy for determining the application for the Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Proposed Development is the National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure (NPSWRI) [7]. This sets out policies to guide how DCO applications for water resources infrastructure should be decided and how the effects of such infrastructure are considered.

13.2.4 Table 13-2 lists the paragraphs from the NPSWRI and other national policy that may be relevant to the LVIA. It also sets out where these policy requirements are addressed within the chapter.

**Table 13-2 List of relevant national policy**

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
<b>National Policy Statement for water resources infrastructure [2025] [7]</b>		
3.1.3	Explains the considerations that the Examining Authority and the Secretary of State (SoS) will make when weighing the potential adverse impacts, including benefits of any proposed development, including its contribution to meeting the need identified in a water company's water resources management plan, environmental improvement, long-term or wider benefits, against any longer-term and cumulative adverse impacts.	The assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects associated with the Proposed Development is set out in section 13.8.  The Case for the Project (Document reference 5.6, DCO Volume 5) sets out the need for the Proposed Development.
3.2.2	States that applicants must consider the effects of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of projects.	The effects of climate change are considered within the future baseline in section 13.7.
3.2.3	States that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process is required to identify, describe and assess effects on human health and population, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them.	The EIA process has been applied in the preparation of this chapter, refer to sections 13.7, 13.8, and 13.9.
3.4.1	Projects should consider and seek to incorporate improvements in natural capital, ecosystem services and the benefits they deliver when planning how to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are summarised in section 13.4. Section 13.9 addresses monitoring and enhancement measures. Additional information can also be found in ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6); the Outline LEMP, (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7), the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), the Biodiversity Gain

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		Plan (Document reference 7.11, DCO Volume 7) and Environmental Net Gain (ENG) Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7).
3.4.2	Water resources infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond BNG, resulting in wider environmental net gains. The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale and location of specific projects.	Mitigation, enhancement and monitoring measures are set out in section 13.9, ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6); the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7), the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), and the ENG Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7).
3.4.3	In addition to delivering BNG, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains. Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into the design, making use of guidance and tools for measuring natural capital assets and ecosystem services.	Mitigation, enhancement and monitoring measures are set out in section 13.9, the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7), the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), and the ENG Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7).
3.6.1	Explains that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places and helps make infrastructure projects acceptable to communities. It states that being clear about design expectations and effective engagement with communities, local planning authorities and other interests is essential for achieving this.	<p>A summary of the engagement carried out to date is provided in section 13.3, with more detail provided in the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).</p> <p>Primary and tertiary mitigation is addressed within section 13.4, including how consultation has informed this LVIA. Mitigation, monitoring and enhancement is detailed in section 13.9.</p> <p>ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), describes the</p>

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		approach that has been taken to embed good design into the Proposed Development, refer also to the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).
3.6.3	There may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of site layout and design measures relative to existing landscape and historical character and function, landscape permeability, landform and vegetation whilst integrating biodiversity and nature conservation interests.	Primary and tertiary mitigation is addressed within section 13.4, with monitoring and enhancement measures addressed in section 13.9. Reference should also be made to the design principles, which are set out in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and includes principles relating to landscape and visual matters.
4.9.1	This paragraph recognises that landscape and visual impacts will vary on a case-by-case basis and could include tranquillity effects, which would affect people's enjoyment of the natural environment and recreational facilities. Where projects are proposed, particularly in sensitive or protected landscape areas, the applicant should consult at the earliest opportunity with the relevant local planning authority, National Park Authority or AONB partnership.	The assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects, including impacts on tranquillity associated with the Proposed Development is set out in section 13.8.  Consultation with local planning authorities, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC) is set out in section 13.3.
4.9.2 to 4.9.6	These paragraphs set out the expectations regarding the scope of the LVIA and how these are to be reported in the ES.	These points are addressed in the methodology for the LVIA, which is set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and summarised in section 13.5.
4.9.5	Any application for development consent within, or to affect land in, a National Park or a National Landscape would need to comply with the respective duties in the National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949 and the CRoW Act 2000 and s245 of the	Legislation, policy and guidance are set out in section 13.2, and baseline conditions are set out in section 13.7. The Order Limits are not located within a National Park or National Landscape, but the LVIA has identified the potential for the Proposed Development to affect land within

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
	Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.	the SDNP, and these effects are assessed in section 13.8.
4.9.6	Where necessary, applicants will need to demonstrate how they have fulfilled the requirements set out in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) 'English National Parks and the Broads: UK government vision and circular 2010' or successor documents, including where infrastructure projects impact on National Landscapes.	Legislation, policy and guidance are set out in section 13.2 and baseline conditions are set out in section 13.7. An assessment of effects on National Parks and National Landscapes is provided in section 13.8.
4.9.7 to 4.9.9	These paragraphs address the mitigation of landscape and visual effects.	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are summarised in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9. More detail is provided in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5), and the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
4.9.10	Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a proposed development on landscape.	These points are addressed in the methodology for the LVIA set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and summarised in section 13.5. Baseline conditions of the landscape are set out in section 13.7.
4.9.10	A proposed development needs to be designed and located carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints, the aim should be to avoid or minimise harm to the landscape, providing appropriate mitigation or enhancement measures where possible.	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9. More detail is provided in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
4.9.11	States that great weight should be given to conservation and enhancement of landscape and scenic beauty in nationally designated landscapes.	The methodology for the LVIA is set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		summarised in section 13.5 and attributes the highest value to nationally designated landscapes. The baseline conditions of the landscape are set out in section 13.7.
4.9.14	Addresses developments outside nationally designated areas which might affect them, including development in their setting. The development should aim to avoid compromising the purposes of designation, and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints.	Parts of the Proposed Development are within the setting of the SDNP and the Chichester Harbour National Landscape. Legislation, policy and guidance are set out in section 13.2. Baseline conditions of the landscape are set out in section 13.7 and the likely effects on these nationally designated areas are summarised in section 13.8. The Planning Policy Statement (Document reference 5.5, DCO Volume 5) includes details of measures which assist in discharging the protected landscapes duty defined in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.
4.9.15 to 4.9.16	Addresses developments in other areas that are outside but would not affect nationally designated areas, acknowledging that outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes and townscapes that are highly valued locally and may be protected by local designation. This paragraph notes that locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves as reasons to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development. The SoS evaluates development designs to ensure they minimise or mitigate harm to the landscape, considering environmental and operational factors.	Baseline conditions of the landscape are set out in section 13.7. Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.
4.9.17	States that the SoS will judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors outweigh the benefits of the development and that coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion.	Visual baseline conditions, including visual receptor groups, are set out in section 13.7.

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		The assessment of likely significant effects is set out in section 13.8.
4.10.7 and 4.10.8	Explains that green and blue infrastructure can enable developments to provide positive environmental, social, health and economic benefits and that where Green Infrastructure is affected, the applicant should aim to ensure the functionality and connectivity of the Green Infrastructure network is maintained and, where appropriate, to improve that network including appropriate access to National Trails and other PRoW.	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.  Opportunities to reinforce and enhance the Green Infrastructure network, including access to the PRoW network, have been considered in the development of the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5). This is explained in more detail in the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
<b>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [2024] [8]</b>		
Paragraph 5	Clarifies that the NPPF does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP). These are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other matters that are relevant (which may include the NPPF). National policy statements form part of the overall framework of national planning policy, and may be a material consideration in preparing plans and making decisions on planning applications.	The LVIA has considered relevant matters in the NPPF, including with reference to paragraph 187(a), which addresses valued landscapes. More detail is provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Paragraph 135	Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short-term but over the lifetime of the development; b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9. More detail is provided in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
	c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities).	
Paragraph 187 (a) and (b)	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan; recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services.	<p>Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.</p> <p>The design of the Proposed Development would limit changes within ‘valued landscapes’ and sensitively locate and design proposals in their setting. More detail is provided in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).</p>
Paragraph 188	Plans should distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites and take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and Green Infrastructure.	<p>Baseline conditions are set out in section 13.7.</p> <p>The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid nationally designated landscapes and has taken a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and Green Infrastructure within the setting and wider landscape through application of the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and the measures set out in the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).</p> <p>Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.</p> <p>Opportunities to reinforce and enhance the Green Infrastructure network, including access to the PRow network, have been considered in the development of</p>

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		<p>the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) and the ENG Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7).</p>
<p>Paragraph 189</p>	<p>Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid nationally designated landscapes and has taken a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and Green Infrastructure within the setting and wider landscape through application of the design principles and the measures set out in the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).</p> <p>Baseline conditions are set out in section 13.7.</p> <p>The assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects is set out in section 13.8.</p> <p>Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.</p>
<p><b>Planning Practice Guidance [2024] [9]</b></p>		
<p>Natural Environment                      Paragraph: 036                      Reference ID: 8-036-20190721</p>	<p>For landscapes with particular local value, policies should identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully.</p>	<p>Baseline conditions, including the value attached to the landscape, are set out in section 13.7 and ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This has been informed by relevant designations and national, county and district published landscape character assessments. Reference should also be made to ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).</p>

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
Natural Environment Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 8-039-20190721 Revision date: 21 July 2019	Relevant authorities “ <i>shall have regard</i> ” to the purposes for which National Parks and AONBs are designated. It applies to all local planning authorities and is relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside the designation, but which might have an impact on its setting or protection.	Baseline conditions are set out in section 13.7. Section 13.8 provides an assessment of likely significant landscape effects which includes potential impacts on nationally designated landscapes and their setting. This includes the statutory duty of the Applicant as a relevant authority to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes introduced through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act, 2023 [10].
Natural Environment Paragraph 040 Reference ID: 8-040-20190721 Revision date: 21 July 2019	Management Plans for National Parks and AONBs, which “... <i>provide evidence of the value and Special Qualities of these areas</i> ” and set out measures that will be applied to deliver the statutory purposes.	Published management plans for designated landscapes, as well as those under consultation, have been considered in establishing the baseline conditions of the SDNPA and the Chichester Harbour National Landscape, including their Special Qualities, in section 13.7. They have also been considered in defining the primary and tertiary mitigation measures set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9.
Natural Environment Paragraph: 037 Reference ID: 8-037-20190721 Revision date: 21 July 2019	The Planning Practice Guidance supports the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding the character referencing Natural England’s (NE) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment.	Published landscape character assessments have been addressed in baseline conditions in section 13.7 and ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Biodiversity net gain Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 74-008-20240214 Revision date: 01 May 2024	Outlines the requirement for new developments to deliver an increase in biodiversity compared to the pre-development baseline. The guidance sets out a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, and enhancement for habitats that may be adversely affected by development, promoting a strategic and measurable approach to nature recovery.	Primary and tertiary mitigation measures are set out in section 13.4. Monitoring and enhancement measures are set out in section 13.9. Reference should also be made to ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), the Biodiversity Gain Plan (Document reference 7.11, DCO Volume 7), the ENG Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7), the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the

Relevant paragraph reference	Summary of policy requirement	Where addressed in chapter
		Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) and the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
Light Pollution Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 31-001-20191101 Revision date: 01 November 2019	Artificial lighting needs to be considered when a development may increase levels of lighting or would be sensitive to prevailing levels of artificial lighting.	Existing lighting has been considered within baseline conditions, as set out in section 13.7, and the potential impacts of lighting are considered within the assessment of likely significant effects in section 13.8.

### Local policy

- 13.2.5 The local policies listed in Table 13-3 are considered relevant to the landscape and visual assessment of the Proposed Development. While the SoS is required to determine an application for development consent in accordance with the NPSWRI, it may be that the SoS considers aspects of local policy to be matters that are important and relevant to the determination. In accordance with the NPSWRI, in the event that there is any conflict between local policy and the NPSWRI, the NPSWRI would prevail for the purposes of decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure.
- 13.2.6 Adopted and emerging development plan policies have been considered. Adopted and emerging planning policy that are relevant is included in Table 13-3. More detail, including policy extracts, is provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.2.7 The Pipelines between the WRP site and Havant Thicket Reservoir option that was included in the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation has been discounted and removed from the Proposed Development. The study area for the LVIA has been adjusted to reflect this and therefore the policies, evidence base and strategies relating to East Hampshire District Council are no longer relevant and have not been included in the LVIA.

**Table 13-3 List of relevant local policy**

Local planning authority	Relevant local policy	Relevance to assessment
Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC)	<p>Eastleigh Borough Local Plan (2016-2036) (Adopted April 2022) [11]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S1: Delivering sustainable development</li> <li>S5: New Development in the Countryside</li> <li>S8: Historic environment</li> </ul>	<p>Policies S5 and S8 provide information relevant to the landscape and visual baseline in section 13.7 and ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), to the extent that the Order Limits relate to this area. These policies, together with S1 and S9 also inform the mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the Design Principles</p>

Local planning authority	Relevant local policy	Relevance to assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S9: Green infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5). Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>
Fareham Borough Council (FBC)	<p>Fareham Local Plan 2037 (Adopted April 2023) [12]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DS1: Development in the countryside</li> <li>DS3: Landscape</li> <li>NE1: Protection of nature conservation, biodiversity, and the local ecological network</li> <li>NE2: Biodiversity Net Gain</li> <li>NE6: Trees, woodland, and hedgerows</li> <li>NE9: Green infrastructure</li> <li>D1: High quality design and place making</li> <li>HE1: Historic environment and heritage assets</li> </ul>	<p>Policies DS1 and DS3 are of particular relevance to the landscape and visual baseline and opportunities and constraints, including the Areas of Special Landscape Quality defined within the Local Plan. These areas have been considered in establishing the value attached to the landscape in section 13.7 and ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p> <p>The natural environment is also addressed by policies NE1, NE2, NE6 and NE9 which detail FBCs expectations regarding nature conservation and networks.</p> <p>These policies and policies D1 and HE1 have informed the design of mitigation and enhancement measures in the southern part of the study area.</p> <p>Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>
Havant Borough Council (HBC)	<p>Havant Borough Core Strategy (Adopted March 2011) [13]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CS11: Protecting and enhancing the special environment and heritage of Havant Borough</li> <li>CS12: Chichester Harbour AONB</li> <li>CS13: Green infrastructure</li> <li>CS16: High quality design</li> </ul> <p>Havant Borough Core Local Plan (Allocations) (Adopted July 2014) [15]</p>	<p>These policies are relevant to the landscape and visual context of the WRP site, Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW), and Bedhampton Springs. These policies, along with the Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment [14], have been considered in establishing the landscape baseline in section 13.7, and informed the LLCAs within the district which have been defined by the Applicant's competent LVIA experts (hereafter referred to as 'by the Applicant') and which are described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>

Local planning authority	Relevant local policy	Relevance to assessment
	<p>Policy BD11 (the site-specific policy for Site 72/Brockhampton West)</p>	<p>Policies CS13 and CS16 in particular have informed the design of mitigation and enhancement measures as shown in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5). No Green Infrastructure sites allocated in the Development Delivery (Allocations) Plan (2014) have been identified which would be affected by the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Regarding Policy CS12, the Chichester Harbour National Landscape lies in the east of the study area, beyond the Order Limits. Although the Proposed Development lies outside of the designated area, there is potential for it to impact on its purposes, special qualities and setting and so it has been considered within the LVIA.</p> <p>Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>
<p>Portsmouth City Council (PCC)</p>	<p>Portsmouth Plan (The Portsmouth Core Strategy) (Adopted January 2012) [16]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC13: A green Portsmouth</li> <li>• PSC23: Design and conservation</li> </ul> <p>Portsmouth Local Plan 2038 'Regulation 18' Consultation Document Draft for consultation (Emerging September 2021) [17]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G1: Biodiversity</li> <li>• G2: Green Infrastructure</li> <li>• D1: Design</li> <li>• D5: Heritage and Archaeology</li> </ul>	<p>These policies are relevant to the design, mitigation and enhancement measures relating to Portsdown Hill.</p> <p>Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>

Local planning authority	Relevant local policy	Relevance to assessment
SDNPA	<p>South Downs Local Plan (Adopted July 2019) [18]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD1: Sustainable development</li> <li>• SD2: Ecosystem services</li> <li>• SD3: Major development</li> <li>• SD4: Landscape character</li> <li>• SD5: Design</li> <li>• SD6: Safeguarding views</li> <li>• SD7: Relative tranquillity</li> <li>• SD8: Dark night skies</li> <li>• SD9: Biodiversity and geodiversity</li> <li>• SD11: Trees, woodland and hedgerows</li> <li>• SD12: Historic environment</li> <li>• SD17: Water environment</li> <li>• SD45: Green infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>South Downs Local Plan Review. First Public Consultation (Regulation 18) (Review January 2025). As this is a review of an existing plan, policy numbers have been kept the same.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development Order Limits are not with the SDNP boundary. However, parts of the study area for landscape assessment coincide with the boundaries of the SDNP.</p> <p>The LVIA has given particular regard to the statutory status, purposes and Special Qualities of the SDNP and the statutory duties introduced by s245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. This is addressed in section 13.7. These policies set out clear expectations on how development within the SDNP and its setting should be designed, and this has informed the scope and approach of the LVIA and the multi-functional mitigation and enhancement measures. More detail is provided in sections 13.4, and 13.8 and 13.10.</p> <p>Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>
Winchester City Council (WCC)	<p>‘Your Place Your Plan Winchester District Local Plan’ 2020 – 2040 [19]</p> <p>NE1: Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity and the Natural Environment in the District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NE3: Open Space, Sport and Recreation.</li> <li>• NE4: Green and Blue Infrastructure</li> <li>• NE5: Biodiversity</li> <li>• NE8: South Downs National Park</li> <li>• NE9: Landscape Character</li> <li>• NE14: Rural Character</li> </ul>	<p>The ‘Your Place Your Plan Winchester District Local Plan’ 2020 – 2040 (adopted March 2026) covers a large part of the study area. Policy NE9 in particular assists in understanding WCCs expectations regarding landscape character and visual amenity.</p> <p>Policies NE4, NE5, NE9, NE14, NE15, NE17 and HE1 have been considered in reviewing opportunities to maximise the benefits of mitigation and enhancement measures, presented in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).</p>

Local planning authority	Relevant local policy	Relevance to assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NE15: Special Trees, Important Hedgerows and Ancient Woodlands.</li> <li>NE17: Rivers, Watercourses and their Setting</li> <li>HE1: Historic Environment</li> </ul>	<p>Policy NE8 assists in understanding the baseline and the relationship between the SDNP and the wider countryside of Winchester to the south.</p> <p>Relevant extracts from these policies are provided in ES Appendix 13.1 Landscape and visual legislation and planning policy, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>

### Guidance, standards and advice

13.2.8 In addition, the LVIA has been undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance and has been compiled in accordance with professional standards. Local supplementary planning guidance and management plans have also informed the methodology, baseline conditions and emerging design of the Proposed Development. The guidance and standards which relate to this assessment are detailed in Table 13-4.

**Table 13-4 List of relevant guidance and standards**

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment', Third edition (GLVIA3), and subsequent statements of clarification [20]	Industry standard best practice guidance for carrying out LVIA, reporting on the likely effects and informing the iterative process of design.	Underpins the methodology for the LVIA summarised in section 13.5 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Landscape Institute (2024) Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition [21]	Clarifies various technical aspects of GLVIA3.	These notes and clarifications have been considered in applying the LVIA methodology summarised in section 13.5 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Landscape Institute (2021) Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations [22]	Sets out the planning context and an approach to assessing the value attached to landscapes which fall outside of national designations.	This guidance has informed the approach and factors applied in determining the value attached to the landscape, which is summarised in section 13.7.

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
Landscape Institute (2020) Technical Guidance Note 04/20: Infrastructure [23]	Provides guidance on the assessment and design of infrastructure projects, including water related infrastructure.	This guidance has informed the environment-led design approach summarised in section 13.4, underpinned by the character of the landscape, and technical aspects such as landscape integration and planting.
Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals [24]	Defines the different types of visualisations that may be prepared to support the assessment and design and technical requirements for each type.	The standards set out in this guidance have been applied in the preparation and presentation of visualisations used to inform the assessment of visual effects in section 13.8.
Landscape Institute (2017) Technical Information Note 05/17: Townscape Character Assessment [25]	Provides information on the technical considerations relating to the assessment of townscape character.	The definition and description of the LLCAs which cover urban areas, summarised in section 13.7 and described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), have been informed by this Technical Information Note.
Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment [26]	Sets out the industry standard approach to the assessment of landscape character.	The definition and description of the LLCAs, summarised in section 13.7 and described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), have been informed by this Technical Information Note.
Natural England (2012) An approach to Seascape Character Assessment [27]	Sets out the industry standard approach to the assessment of seascape character.	This guidance has informed the definition of LLCAs, summarised in section 13.7 and described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), which cover the inter-tidal harbours in the southern part of the study area.
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2024) Guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes [28]	Provides guidance on how the Protected Landscapes duty is intended to operate and provides broad principles to guide relevant authorities in complying with it.	This guidance has informed the approach to the assessment of likely effects on the SDNP and its setting as described in section 13.8 and detailed within ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6); and on the design of the Proposed Development with

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
		respect to opportunities to further its statutory purposes.
Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design [29]	Sets out advice on securing good design in nationally significant infrastructure projects.	This advice has been considered in finalising the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and the embedded, multi-functional landscape and visual mitigation measures, as described in section 13.4.
Planning Inspectorate (2024) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents [30]	Describes the approach for the preparation and submission of application documents.	This advice note has informed the preparation of the LVIA, the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Eastleigh Borough Council (2009) Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) [31]	Provides additional information to support policies in the Local Plan on biodiversity.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Eastleigh Borough Council (2022) Trees and Development SPD [32]	Provides additional information to support policies in the Local Plan on trees in relation to development.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation summarised in section 13.4.
Fareham Borough Council (2004) Biodiversity by Design [33]	Provides guidance on enhancing the biodiversity of the borough through the design of development.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Fareham Borough Council (2014) Green Infrastructure Strategy [34]	Sets out the Green Infrastructure Strategy for East Hampshire.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
		Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Havant Borough Council (2017) Local Green Spaces in Havant Borough [35]	Describes the distribution of local green spaces in Havant.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Winchester City Council (2007) Green Infrastructure Technical Report [36]	Provides information on Green Infrastructure in Winchester.	Considered in defining the Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Winchester City Council (2010) The Green Infrastructure Study [37]	Provides information on Green Infrastructure in Winchester.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
Winchester City Council (1998) Winchester City and its Setting [38]	Describes the character the City of Winchester and its setting.	Considered in determining the value attached to the landscape for the relevant LLCAs within the district which have been defined by the Applicant, and which are described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
South Downs National Park Authority, Technical Advice Note: Dark Night Skies (2021) [39]	Provides technical advice on the conservation of dark night skies within the SDNP.	Informed the description of the night-time baseline of the landscape summarised in section 13.7 and the assessment of night-time impacts on the landscape and views summarised in section 13.8.
South Downs National Park Authority, Partnership Management Plan 2026 to 2031 [40]	Sets out the vision, special qualities and priorities and outcomes of the SDNP.	Informed the baseline description of the SDNP set out in section 13.7 and the assessment of effects in section 13.8.
South Downs National Park Authority (2017) Landscape background paper (TLL01) [41]	Explains why the policies of the Local Plan are necessary to ensure that the	Informed the baseline description of the SDNP set out in section 13.7 and the assessment of effects in section 13.8.

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
	purposes and duty of the SDNP are met.	
South Downs National Park Authority (2017) Tranquillity Study [42]	Provides evidence regarding the tranquillity of the landscape within the SDNP.	Informed the baseline description of the SDNP set out in section 13.7 and the assessment of effects in section 13.8.
South Downs National Park Authority (2018) Ecosystem Services background paper (Core05) [43]	Explains the ecosystem services approach has influenced the formulation of the SDNP Local Plan.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
South Downs National Park Authority (2018) Biodiversity background paper (TLL11) [44]	Outlines the basis upon which relevant policies of the SDNP Local Plan have been formulated and why these policies are necessary to ensure that the purposes and duty of the National Park are met.	Considered in defining the landscape mitigation, Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
South Downs National Park Authority Landscape Character Assessment (2020) [45]	Sets out a detailed landscape character assessment for the SDNP.	Informed the landscape baseline and the definition of LLCA, which are summarised in section 13.7 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape and baseline effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (2017) South Hampshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017-2034) [46]	Sets out the vision and framework for the delivery of an integrated and multifunctional network of strategic scale Green Infrastructure across the South Hampshire sub-region.	Considered in defining the Green Infrastructure focus areas and opportunities shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).
<b>Evidence base studies</b>		
Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment (2010) [47]	Sets out a detailed landscape character assessment for Hampshire.	Informed the landscape baseline and the definition of LLCA, which are summarised in section 13.7 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

Guidance	Description	Relevance to assessment
East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment (2006) [48]	Sets out a detailed landscape character assessment for East Hampshire.	Informed the landscape baseline and the definition of LLCA, which are summarised in section 13.7 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
Landscape Character Assessment for Eastleigh Borough (2007) [49]	Incorporates a landscape character assessment for Eastleigh.	
Fareham Landscape Assessment (2017) [50]	Sets out a detailed landscape assessment for Fareham.	
Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment (2007) [14]	Sets out a detailed townscape and landscape character assessment for Havant.	
Portsmouth Urban Characterisation Study (2011) [51]	Sets out a detailed character study of the urban areas of Portsmouth.	
South Downs National Park Authority Landscape Character Assessment (2020) [45]	Sets out a detailed landscape character assessment for the SDNP.	
Winchester City Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment SPD [52]	Sets out a detailed landscape character assessment for Winchester.	

## 13.3 Consultation, scoping and engagement

### Consultation

13.3.1 Feedback received from stakeholders for each consultation relevant to the LVIA is summarised within the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5), including how the Proposed Development has had regard to the feedback. This covers the consultation responses received for the following consultations:

1. Summer 2022 Consultation
2. Summer 2024 Consultation
3. Spring 2025 Consultation
4. Autumn 2025 Consultation
5. Spring 2026 Consultation

### Environmental Impact Assessment scoping

13.3.2 An EIA Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the SoS on 31 August 2023. A full list of the EIA Scoping

Opinion comments made by the Inspectorate and a response to those comments are provided in ES Appendix 5.3 Response to the EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

13.3.3 Comments received in relation to landscape and visual matters are set out in Table 13-5 describing how and where these are addressed in the ES:

**Table 13-5 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Opinion - Planning Inspectorate comments**

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
ID 3.8.1	The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the assessment of night-time lighting effects in the ES should be informed by baseline night-time photography. Effort should be made to agree the location and number of viewpoint locations with relevant consultation bodies.	<p>The location of viewpoints for night-time photography and assessment has been agreed with relevant stakeholders and provided in the ES.</p> <p>The location of viewpoints was circulated to stakeholders by email on the 1 June 2023, ahead of discussion at the third EIA Working Group on 7 June 2023. Feedback received either at the meeting or by email, informed subsequent fieldwork photography. An update to the viewpoint locations, including those proposed for night-time photography, was presented at the fourth EIA Working Group on 31 October 2023, and subsequently circulated by email on the 6 December 2023. Agreement on the viewpoints, including those proposed for night-time photography was confirmed individually by stakeholders by email throughout the month.</p>	<p>ES Figure 13.10 Night-time baseline, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), represents the night-time baseline.</p> <p>ES Figure 13.23 Viewpoint photography, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), shows night-time photography for the agreed viewpoints.</p>
ID 3.8.2	The EIA Scoping Opinion agreed that there would be no changes to the landscape or visual baseline during construction from installation of	This is scoped out of the assessment.	<p>No additional information is provided in the ES, regarding effects of the pipeline within the tunnel.</p> <p>The 'launch sites' (trenchless crossing construction</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	<p>pipeline within tunnel aside from at launch sites and intermediate shaft sites (which is assessed in the ES) and agreed the matter can be scoped out.</p>		<p>compounds) have been assessed in section 13.8, and their visibility has been considered in determining the extent of potential views of the Proposed Development during construction, as illustrated on the ZTVs (Figures 13.18 and 13.19 Zone of Theoretical Visibility - Construction, Volume III (Document Reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6)).</p>
<p>ID 3.8.3</p>	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that there was not sufficient information to exclude the possibility of likely significant effects during construction from activities at Havant Thicket Reservoir.</p>	<p>This matter is not considered within this chapter.</p> <p>The Proposed Development considered in the EIA Scoping Report included potential physical changes at Havant Thicket Reservoir during construction. The PEI Report assessed two options for enabling the transfer between the WRP site and Havant Thicket Reservoir: Option 1 did not propose physical changes to Havant Thicket Reservoir, while Option 2 did. Option 2 has since been removed from the Proposed Development, as described in ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).</p> <p>The Proposed Development includes only Option 1, which involves no physical changes to Havant Thicket. This meant that several landscape receptors assessed in the PEI Report would no longer be affected by the</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
		<p>Proposed Development, the list of landscape and visual receptors to be removed from the scope of the LVIA were presented and agreed with stakeholders at the ninth EIA Working Group session on 9 June 2025. As such, this matter is not considered more within this chapter.</p>	
ID 3.8.4	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the ES should include an assessment of impacts to LLCAs where significant effects are likely, supported by a description of their baseline character, it acknowledges that the assessment may form part of a wider district-level analysis, but effects at the more local scale should be clearly set out, along with any agreed approach with relevant consultees.</p>	<p>The ES includes detailed descriptions of each LLCA and the likely impacts and effects of construction, operation, along with details of agreement on the assessment approach with relevant consultation bodies.</p>	<p>ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), includes LLCA details. The baseline character is provided in section 13.7, including the definition of LLCAs defined by the Applicant to address the local scale, and the impacts and effects are described in section 13.8.</p> <p>A summary of engagement with the Joint Officers Group (JOG) and EIA Working Groups is summarised in section 13.3.</p>
ID 3.8.5	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion agreed that operational effects of the below-ground tunnelled pipeline could be scoped out, as no changes to the landscape or visual baseline are anticipated. However, the ES should confirm that no above-ground easements for maintenance would</p>	<p>The ES explains that protective strips of land either side of the pipeline alignment are required only where the Pipeline is constructed using open-cut methods, to enable access for maintenance and protect pipeline integrity.</p> <p>The ES does not identify a requirement for protective strips in relation to sections of the Pipeline</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), and Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	<p>be required of these pipeline sections that would affect above-ground landscaping.</p>	<p>constructed using trenchless or tunnelling techniques, where the pipeline is below-ground and access for operation and maintenance is via shafts.</p> <p>Accordingly, the ES assumes that no above-ground easements affecting existing vegetation are required for sections of the Pipeline constructed via tunnelling, and operational landscape and visual effects for these sections are scoped out.</p> <p>Regarding sections of the Pipeline constructed via open-cut excavation, the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) sets out restrictions on planting including limitations on plant size and species in proximity to the Pipeline.</p>	
ID 3.8.6	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the Eastney Long Sea Outfall (LSO) could be scoped out of further assessment, as no physical works are anticipated. This matter should be revisited if physical works are subsequently found to be required.</p>	<p>No physical works to the Eastney LSO are required and this is scoped out of the LVIA.</p>	<p>No additional information provided in the ES.</p>
ID 3.8.7	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that Havant Thicket Reservoir could be scoped out of further assessment</p>	<p>No physical works to Havant Thicket Reservoir are required and this is scoped out of the LVIA.</p>	<p>No additional information provided in the ES.</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	<p>during operation, as no changes to the landscape or visual baseline are anticipated given the works relate only to the storage of recycled water. This should be revisited if physical works are subsequently proposed.</p>		
ID 3.8.8	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that operational effects on Havant Borough townscape areas Townscape Character Area (TCA) 2b, 2c, 7d, 7e, and 7g could be scoped out, as the tunnel shafts would be capped and no changes to the baseline are expected. However, the ES should confirm that no above-ground easements for maintenance would be required.</p>	<p>This matter is not considered within this LVIA. The Proposed Development considered in the EIA Scoping Report included potential physical changes to Havant Thicket Reservoir during construction. This option has been removed from the Proposed Development. The list of landscape and visual receptors to be removed from the scope of the LVIA were presented and agreed with stakeholders at the ninth EIA Working Group session on 9 June 2025.</p> <p>As such, this matter is not considered more within this chapter.</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).</p>
ID 3.8.9	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the ES should assess the impacts on the views of motorists on the A27/M27, B2177 and local road networks during construction and operation.</p>	<p>The preliminary desk study, including a series of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, and fieldwork indicate that there would be views from the B2177 but no effects on users of the A27 and M27. The LVIA has identified and assessed the impacts and effects on road users with reference</p>	<p>Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development during construction and operation is presented in ES Figures 13.18 to 13.21, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).</p> <p>Detailed impacts and effects on road users are presented in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
		<p>to viewpoints along the B2177.</p> <p>The list of receptors and location of viewpoints for LVIA was circulated to stakeholders by email on 1 June 2023, ahead of discussion at the third EIA Working Group on 7 June 2023. Feedback, received either at the meeting or by email, informed the fieldwork. An update to receptors was presented at the fourth EIA Working Group on 31 October 2023, and subsequently circulated by email on 6 December 2023. Agreement was confirmed individually by stakeholders by email throughout the month.</p>	
ID 3.8.10	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion noted discrepancies between the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) listed in Table 13-12 in Volume III of the EIA Scoping Report that are not addressed in Table 13-23, noting that the ES should include an assessment of impacts to all LCAs where significant effects are likely to occur, unless otherwise agreed with relevant consultees.</p>	<p>The ES assesses the effects on LCAs defined at the national and county level with reference to published studies, and at the local level with reference to LLCA defined by the Applicant.</p>	<p>Table 13-8 in this chapter presents which LCAs have been scoped in or out of the LVIA.</p> <p>ES Figures 13.13 National Character Areas, 13.14 Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, and 13.17 Local Landscape Character Areas, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), show the location of all landscape and townscape character areas considered in the assessment and these are cross-referenced in related tables and text.</p>
ID 3.8.11	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that Historic England's</p>	<p>The LVIA has identified viewpoints which are representative of kinetic</p>	<p>These are detailed within ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	(HE) published setting advice is of relevance and that the Applicant should consider the production of dynamic and kinetic assessments that engage with movement through the landscape.	views along roads and promoted PRow and views from heritage assets which take in their landscape setting.	(Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and their location is shown in ES Figure 13.22 Representative viewpoints, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
ID 3.8.12	The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the ES should include reference to soils, water and historic landscape character where these features contribute towards the landscape character.	The LVIA references these features and characteristics by citing published studies and map evidence and by cross-reference to information within other chapters of the ES to inform the assessment.	Section 13.8.
ID 3.8.13	The EIA should provide evidence of any agreement (or lack thereof) with the relevant planning authorities regarding the final selection of the 107 viewpoints shown in Figure 13.4 Soils, Volume III of the EIA Scoping Report.	The location of viewpoints for assessment has been agreed with relevant stakeholders and provided in the ES.	Section 13.3  The final selection of viewpoints is shown on ES Figure 13.22 Representative viewpoints, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). Refer also to ES Chapter 7 Archaeology and cultural heritage, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
ID 3.8.14	The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the removal of trees with TPOs, veteran or ancient trees or protected hedgerows would amount to a permanent change.	This is assessed as such within the assessment.	Section 13.8.
ID 3.8.15	The EIA Scoping Opinion requested that the ES should include evidence of any agreement reached with SDNPA.	The LVIA methodology was discussed with the SDNPA and set out in the ES how the assessment has taken account of the setting and Special Qualities of the SDNP,	Sections 13.3, 13.7 and 13.9.

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
		<p>including tranquillity, and potential in-combination effects between landscape and noise and vibration.</p> <p>The ES describes engagement and evidences the agreements reached with stakeholders, including the SDNP.</p>	
ID 3.8.16	The EIA Scoping Opinion requested that the ES justifies the value and sensitivity assigned to receptors, including individual elements, and provides evidence of agreement with consultation bodies.	<p>The LVIA explains how judgements relating to the value attached to the landscape and views have been reached.</p> <p>The ES describes engagement and evidences the agreements reached with stakeholders.</p>	<p>ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).</p> <p>Sections 13.3, 13.7 and 13.9.</p>
ID 3.8.17	The EIA Scoping Opinion required that photographs and photomontages follow Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (TGN 06/19) and that the number and location of Type 4 photomontages be agreed with consultation bodies.	The Applicant agreed the location of viewpoints for photomontages (LI Type 4) with relevant local planning authorities, including the SDNPA and Hampshire County Council (HCC). Photographs and photomontages (LI Type 4) have been prepared in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (TGN 06/19).	A summary of engagement on viewpoints is presented in this section of the ES.
ID 3.8.18	The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the ES must set out any compensation strategy and justify any loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats such as ancient woodland, in line with the NPSWRI, where	The Proposed Development would not result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats. The ES sets out how the design principles and mitigation measures have been considered in the LVIA, including the	Section 13.4. Design Principles Document, (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	loss cannot be avoided.	avoidance of sensitive areas.	
ID 3.8.19	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion stated that the ES should set out what opportunities have been considered for advanced planting and confirm which are proposed to be taken forward and which have been discounted, together with the reasons.</p> <p>The ES should include a management plan demonstrating how mitigation planting will be maintained to ensure it reaches the extent and quality assumed in the assessment of residual effects.</p>	<p>Opportunities for advanced planting within the Environmental Mitigation and Enhancement Areas (EMEAs) are identified in section 13.4. The exact locations are a matter for post-consent, have not been identified at this stage and have not been relied upon in the ES for mitigation. The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7) includes a requirement to consider opportunities for early/advanced planting, as this relates to construction programming and does not influence the final design.</p> <p>The Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) sets out how mitigation planting will be implemented and maintained to reach its mitigation objectives by Year 15 of operation.</p>	<p>The EMEAs are presented in the Works Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2), the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).</p>
ID 3.8.20	<p>The EIA Scoping Opinion requested that a clear benchmark should be established within the ES as the basis for implementation of design mitigation.</p>	<p>The ES sets out the design objectives that have guided scheme development, including the approach to avoiding likely significant effects and developing primary mitigation. It also describes mitigation and enhancement opportunities through the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO</p>	<p>ES Chapter 3, Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).</p> <p>Design Principles Document, (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).</p> <p>Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12,</p>

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
		Volume 7), while the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) illustrates their spatial extent and anticipated types.	DCO Volume 5) and Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
ID 3.8.21	The EIA Scoping Opinion states that surveys should be undertaken to establish the baseline condition for existing landscape features and that effort should be made to agree the survey scope with relevant consultation bodies.	The ES includes information about the outcomes of habitat and arboricultural surveys and how they have informed the LVIA and the efforts that the Applicant has made to agree the survey scope with relevant consultation bodies.	ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).  Section 13.7  ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).  ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
ID 3.8.22	The EIA Scoping Opinion notes that the EIA Scoping Report makes limited reference to seascape character and the potential for impacts to it.  The ES should set out any specific seascape guidance used to inform the assessment and describe the baseline conditions of seascape areas that could be affected.	The ES indicates that there would be limited impacts on seascape due to the location and context of the WRP site and topography which prevents intervisibility between the rest of the Proposed Development and the coast. This ES sets out specific seascape guidance that has been used to inform the assessment and describes the baseline conditions of seascape character and the extent to which they are likely to be affected within.	Sections 13.2, 13.7, and 13.8.
ID 3.8.23	The EIA Scoping Opinion states that the ES should clearly explain how	The ES explains how the assessment has considered individual landscape features of	Section 13.7.  ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II

Scoping Opinion ID	Summary of Scoping Opinion comment	How the ES addresses the Scoping Opinion comment	Where addressed in the ES
	the assessment has considered individual landscape features of relevance, such as woodlands, rivers, drainage, fields, roads, and settlements.	relevance, e.g. woodlands, rivers, drainage, fields, roads and settlements and how these combine to inform the character of the landscape within the study area.	(Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
ID 3.8.24	The EIA Scoping Opinion notes some inconsistencies between the LCAs shown on Figure 13.2 Published Landscape Character Assessments and those described in Tables 13-12 and 13-23 of the EIA Scoping Report.	A suite of figures is included in ES Volume III (Document Reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), addressing the inconsistencies noted in the EIA Scoping Opinion. These show the location of all landscape and townscape character areas considered in the assessment, clearly cross-referenced in related tables and text.	Published Landscape Character Assessments and relevant landscape receptors are listed in Table 13-5.  ES Figure 13.13 National Character Areas, Figure 13.14 Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, and Figure 13.17 Local Landscape Character Areas, Volume III. (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
ID 3.6.2	Also of relevance are comments regarding maintenance activities in the operational phase.	The LVIA has assessed the likely impacts and effects of maintenance activities relating to the WRP site and Above Ground Plant (AGP) at year 1 and year 15 of operation. Maintenance of the Pipelines is not considered likely to give rise to significant landscape or visual effects due to the short duration and low frequency.	Operational effects are dealt with in sections 13.8 and 13.10.

## Engagement

- 13.3.4 This section provides details of the ongoing technical engagement that has been undertaken with stakeholders in relation to the LVIA, including where this has been requested by the Inspectorate in the EIA Scoping Opinion.
- 13.3.5 The following stakeholders have been engaged on matters relevant to the LVIA, as part of the EIA process, due to their statutory roles or specific interests in landscape and visual issues:
1. Chichester Harbour Conservancy
  2. East Hampshire District Council (EHDC)

3. Eastleigh Borough Council
4. Fareham Borough Council
5. Hampshire County Council
6. Havant Borough Council
7. Historic England
8. Natural England
9. Portsmouth City Council
10. South Downs National Park Authority
11. Winchester City Council

#### Environmental Impact Assessment Working Groups

- 13.3.6 Five EIA Working Groups have been established as forums for ongoing engagement with statutory bodies regarding the Proposed Development. These Working Groups when combined cover all of the assessment topics considered by the EIA. A full description of each of the EIA Working Groups, the key stakeholders, and an overview of the topics presented can be found in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). This section presents a summary of the topics covered in the EIA Working Groups which are of relevance to the LVIA assessment. Removal of the backup tunnel option means that EHDC falls outside of the study area for the LVIA and landscape and visual receptors in this area have therefore been excluded from the assessment. Additional information is provided in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.3.7 The Historic Environment and Landscape EIA Working Group, which includes Archaeology and cultural heritage and LVIA, has been the main forum for engagement for landscape and visual matters. There have been 12 Historic Environment and Landscape EIA Working Group meetings between Summer 2022 and the DCO application. Technical officers from the following local planning authorities attended the EIA Working Group meetings: EHDC, EBC, FBC, HCC, HBC, PCC, SDNP, WCC, as well as officers from the following regulatory bodies: HE and NE. Officers of CHC were invited but did not attend any of the working group meetings.
- 13.3.8 The following overarching themes were covered across the EIA Working Group meetings:
1. Introduction and background to the Proposed Development.
  2. Overview of the baseline environment.
  3. EIA scoping which included setting out the approach to EIA scoping, providing an overview of the EIA Scoping Report (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and seeking feedback on the EIA Scoping Opinion (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
  4. An overview of the PEI Report, including setting out the baseline and approach to mitigation, as well as providing an overview of the PEI Report findings.
  5. Updates on the approach to development of the design of the Proposed Development.

6. Briefings on the materials to be consulted on, including design and environmental assessment related matters, ahead of the Summer 2022, Summer 2024 and Spring 2025 Consultations.
  7. Approach to mitigation, Commitments Register (ES Appendix 5.5 Commitments Register, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)) and associated management plans are provided with the DCO application.
  8. Consultation feedback and updates on scheme development, and design principles following Summer 2024 Consultation and PEI Report.
  9. Updates on EIA progress and development of mitigation, including management plans and the Commitments Register.
  10. An overview of the ES, including setting out the baseline and any updates from the PEI Report, as well as providing an overview of the findings of the EIA.
- 13.3.9 Discussions and agreements reached through the EIA Working Groups in relation to LVIA include:
1. Landscape and visual receptors. Updated figures illustrating the proposed extent of LLCA and viewpoint locations along with accompanying schedules of landscape and visual receptors, were presented and distributed to stakeholders.
  2. The proposed scope and methodology for the LVIA was presented, with additional iterations of receptor schedules and mapping issued for comment. A copy of the proposed methodology relating to the assessment of effects on the SDNP was also provided to the SDNPA for comment. Comments received informed the final selection of receptors considered in the ES.
  3. The five Green Infrastructure focus areas that define the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) were presented, discussed and agreed with stakeholders.

#### Bilateral meetings

- 13.3.10 The host authorities for the Proposed Development, as described in section 2.3 of ES Chapter 2 Planning legislation and policy, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), have been consulted on a regular basis through bilateral meetings. These meetings allowed for the regular communication of progress on key elements such as LVIA receptors and design development.
- 13.3.11 A series of bilateral meetings were held between 27 June and 15 August 2023 with officers from EBC, FBC, HCC PCC, HBC, SDNP, WCC. An interactive map (MOATA) showing landscape and visual receptors was made available to stakeholders. Additional bilateral meetings were held in December 2023 and January 2024, which provided stakeholders with updates on specific components of the Proposed Development. Landscape architects representing the Applicant attended these meetings and provided information on how the preliminary findings of the LVIA have informed the design. A third series of bilateral meetings was held between June and December 2025 to support preparation of the ES. All issues and concerns raised throughout the ES process were revisited to confirm agreement, and progress on the design principles and Indicative Environmental

Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) were shared with stakeholders.

*Eastleigh Borough Council*

- 13.3.12 Eastleigh Borough Council confirmed agreement with the LVIA methodology, landscape, and visual receptors in feedback received 6 June 2023.

*Fareham Borough Council*

- 13.3.13 Inclusion of a viewpoint on Kiln Road was positively received by FBC. In feedback received on 28 June 2023, FBC also stated that, until the exact route and permanent above-ground works had been defined, they would not be in a position to agree the location of viewpoints. Additional feedback was received in January 2024 on viewpoints related to the Welborne Garden Village development. Four new viewpoints were suggested by FBC for consideration, along with the relocation of an existing viewpoint from Knowle Road to Wickham Road. Fieldwork conducted in February and March 2024 confirmed the exact locations of these four new viewpoints. The final selection and location of viewpoints within FBC's administrative area reflects the engagement and feedback provided throughout the EIA Working Groups.

*Portsmouth City Council*

- 13.3.14 Portsmouth City Council provided feedback regarding both landscape and visual receptors; PCC agreed with the Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) proposed by the Applicant in feedback received on 15 June 2023. Regarding visual receptors, PCC reiterated the importance of having a viewpoint within the car park and open space immediately south of the Portsdown Hill Road looking north (VP021) and suggested moving VP017 (longer distance views from Farlington Marshes to the south-west) from Eastern Road to Farlington Marshes, which was addressed in the PEI Report for Summer 2024 Consultation. Additional feedback was received in December 2023 including inputs into LLCA13: Farlington Marshes and coastal path; LLCA14: Portsmouth; and LLCA15: Portsdown Hill ridge. PCC suggested breaking down LLCA14: Portsmouth into smaller areas. The Applicant considers it preferable to maintain the size of LLCA14 for consistency of scale across the study area and explained the rationale for this at the EIA Working Group meeting on 31 January 2024. As a consequence, no additional changes were made to the boundaries of LLCA14 and PCC confirmed agreement with approach to LLCAs at the online bilateral meeting held on 22 July 2025.
- 13.3.15 Portsmouth City Council requested that a viewpoint should be included on Eastern Road (VP129) Portsmouth, to represent views across Langstone Harbour towards the WRP site. However, PCC acknowledged that there are access issues due to ongoing construction work along the coastline. The Applicant revisited this viewpoint and provided an alternative location during fieldwork undertaken in February and March 2024. An additional alternative option was identified during fieldwork undertaken in February 2025 (VP132), by which time access to the public along the coastline was no longer obstructed. An additional viewpoint (VP133) was also added along the eastern edge of Farlington Marshes. This was presented at the ninth EIA Working Group on 9 June 2025. The final selection and location of

viewpoints within the PCC administrative area reflects ongoing engagement and feedback provided throughout the EIA Working Groups.

#### *Winchester City Council*

- 13.3.16 Winchester City Council requested clarification that viewpoint photography would include summer and winter photography, and this was confirmed by the Applicant. An additional 15 viewpoints were also requested by WCC for consideration in feedback received on 14 June 2023.
- 13.3.17 Five of the suggested viewpoints became redundant as a consequence of design development. The ten remaining viewpoints proposed by WCC were mapped and visited during the winter fieldwork undertaken in February to March 2024. In feedback received in December 2023, WCC confirmed agreement with the proposed viewpoint locations, including those to be developed as Type 4 visualisations (i.e. photomontages that combine photography with accurately rendered images of the Proposed Development) and night-time photography.
- 13.3.18 Additional fieldwork was undertaken in February 2025. As a consequence, the locations of two viewpoints were updated, and two new viewpoints were added. VP084, within WCC's administrative area, was moved approximately 100 metres to the north-east to provide better views towards Break Pressure Tank K (BPT-K). This was presented at the ninth EIA Working Group on 9 June 2025. The final selection and location of viewpoints within WCC administrative area reflects the engagement and feedback provided throughout the EIA Working Groups.

#### *South Downs National Park Authority*

- 13.3.19 The Applicant held meetings with the SDNPA to resolve concerns raised in their response to the EIA Scoping Report (ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)) and subsequent engagement, additional detail of which is provided below. Ahead of preparing the PEI Report, design updates and ES progress were presented at the fourth EIA Working Group meeting on 31 October 2023. Following this, the Applicant shared the proposed LVIA methodology with SDNPA via email on 18 December 2024, outlining the approach to assessing likely impacts and effects on the SDNP and its setting. Comments received from SDNPA on 12 January 2024 were subsequently discussed during an in-person meeting held on 12 February 2024. The LVIA has set out a proportionate approach to the assessment, which addresses the likely impacts and effects on the landscape at the national, county and local scales. Detailed fieldwork to support the LVIA, including habitat and arboricultural surveys were undertaken in summer 2024 and so were not available to inform the EIA Scoping Report (ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)) or PEI Report. The PEI Report prepared as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation provided initial analysis of the elements which inform the character, and the value attached to the landscape in line with best practice. Additional detail is now provided in this chapter, considering the results of these surveys.
- 13.3.20 SDNPA advocates sensitively locating and designing proposals in the setting of the SDNP and expects an active response to this with links to setting and value. The LVIA has considered this with respect to relevant legislation and national

planning policy and has informed the design of the Proposed Development from the outset.

- 13.3.21 Reference was also made by the SDNPA to policies of the South Downs Local Plan Adopted 2 July 2019 [18], the Partnership Management Plan [40], Tranquillity Mapping [53] and the SDNP: View Characterisation and Analysis report [54] of the National Park. These documents have been reviewed and are referred to in the relevant sections of this chapter, including in defining the value attached to the landscape.
- 13.3.22 Regarding the visual baseline, the SDNPA expects the character of views as set out in the SDNP View Characterisation and Analysis report to be considered. ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), sets out detailed baseline descriptions of the character and nature of views at each viewpoint identified within the LVIA. No views set out within the SDNP Viewshed Study Report have been identified which are relevant to the LVIA because of the distance from the Order Limits and the extent of mature intervening vegetation and built development.
- 13.3.23 The SDNPA also requested additional clarity with regards to the disruption to the landscape pattern and tranquillity. This is addressed in section 13.7, including a summary of baseline tranquillity, with reference to ES Figure 13.9 Tranquillity baseline, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). This includes the SDNPAs own tranquillity mapping. Tranquillity has been considered in the assessment of landscape effects summarised in section 13.8 and set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.3.24 The SDNPA made comments in the Summer 2024 Consultation stating that landscape receptors should not be whole LCAs or Special Qualities, unless the scale of change is so significant to warrant it, which SDNPA states it is not in this case. This was discussed at an online meeting with representatives of the SDNPA on 3 December 2024. The Applicant has scoped and defined the scale of landscape receptors in accordance with best practice and with reference to the key matters set out in paragraph 3.11 of GLVIA3 [20] and the subsequent notes and clarifications published the Landscape Institute in August 2024 [21], which confirmed that landscape designations should be treated as receptors (point 5(12)). These include the extent of the study area, the sources of relevant information, the nature of possible effects, the main receptors that need to be addressed and the appropriate level of detail for the baseline. This approach is also consistent with the European Landscape Convention, which recognises that the landscape is experienced at scale and defines landscape as an “*area as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors*”. Whilst the SDNPA requested that the SDNP should not be treated as a single receptor and nor should its special qualities, the Landscape Institute’s recent GLVIA3 clarifications stated landscape designations should be treated as a landscape receptor, and the assessor should report on how the special qualities (i.e. the components of natural beauty) and/or purposes of designation of a designated landscape would be affected.
- 13.3.25 The SDNPA notes that the setting of the SDNP needs to be scoped in and defined upfront and a method for establishing the extent agreed. The SDNPA has stated that it would expect this to be included as part of the LVIA. The setting of the SDNP

is addressed within section 13.7 with additional detail provided in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The approach to assessing the value attached to the landscape outside of nationally designated areas has been informed by best practice set out in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 [22]. Additional feedback provided by the SDNPA in December 2023, January 2024 and within a one-to-one meeting held on 12 February 2024 has informed this approach and has been taken into account in the LVIA set out in this ES.

- 13.3.26 Additional fieldwork was undertaken in February 2025. As a consequence, the locations of two viewpoints were updated, and two new viewpoints were added. Viewpoint 082, within the SDNP administrative area, was moved approximately 80m to the north-west to better reflect the most open views towards BPT-K, and this was proposed as a Type 4 visualisation. This was presented at the ninth EIA Working Group on 9 June 2025 and agreed through a bilateral meeting. Visual effects at VP082, including work-in-progress visualisations, were shared during a bilateral meeting held on 15 September 2025, ahead of the EIA Working Group meeting on 18 September 2025. The final selection and location of viewpoints within the SDNP administrative area reflects the engagement and feedback provided throughout the EIA Working Groups.

## 13.4 Primary and tertiary mitigation

### Primary measures

- 13.4.1 As described in ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) a range of primary and tertiary measures have been embedded into design of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce environmental effects. These measures therefore form part of the design that has been assessed in the LVIA. Additional detail on the methodology for how this mitigation has been informed by the LVIA is provided in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.4.2 Landscape connects people, place and nature. A positive response to the place where the Proposed Development would be located is crucial in achieving good design, as advised by the Inspectorate in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design, published in October 2024. The Inspectorate and other bodies including the Landscape Institute recognise that the impact of infrastructure projects can be extensive and wide ranging. Addressing these impacts means looking beyond the narrow corridor or immediate context of the Proposed Development to identify the wider opportunities, for example to enhance natural capital and ecosystem services to deliver net gain. This is echoed by the National Infrastructure Commission's (now the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority) Design Principles for National Infrastructure, which states that "*projects shape the landscape for decades, even centuries. Generations of people will see them, use them and be affected by them every day*" and that well-designed infrastructure "*makes a positive contribution to local landscapes within and beyond the project boundary*" [55]. Therefore, a positive response to the landscape is crucial in achieving good design. The NPSWRI

includes several policies that are relevant in this context, and which have informed the design of multi-functional mitigation in the design of the Proposed Development. Additional detail on these policies is provided in Table 13-2.

- 13.4.3 The LVIA has informed the iterative design through the scheme development process described in ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) and the Scheme Development Report (Document reference 5.10, DCO Volume 5), from the outset. The team of landscape architects leading the LVIA have also informed the project level design principles, which are set out in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5). These project level design principles have been defined with reference to the National Infrastructure Commission's Project Level Design Principles guidance. The design principles address the National Infrastructure Commission's Design Principles for National Infrastructure [55], which explains that organisations should develop their own vision that embraces the national principles of climate, people, places and value, which are all strongly linked to how the landscape is valued and perceived. A landscape-led approach to design is also advocated by local stakeholders, including the SDNPA and Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Hampshire.
- 13.4.4 Landscape architects have facilitated multi-disciplinary workshops with the Applicant and environmental, engineering and planning teams to identify strategic environmental opportunities. Workshops were held to establish scope, discuss the landscape integration of the AGP and WRP site, and discuss the multi-functional environmental mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 13.4.5 A range of primary measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce landscape or visual effects or deliver environmental benefits. These measures therefore form part of the design to be assessed. These measures have been defined through the assessment process and in response to design triages for specific parts of the Proposed Development.
- 13.4.6 The design principles and primary mitigation measures that the Applicant has developed respond to the policy requirements, published landscape character assessments, consultation responses and fieldwork analysis, to avoid or mitigate the likely adverse effects of the Proposed Development and to introduce enhancements where desirable, reasonably practicable and subject to securing agreements with landowners. This has included:
1. Defining the Order Limits to avoid physical impacts on the nationally designated landscapes of the SDNP and the Chichester Harbour National Landscape.
  2. Carefully siting the Proposed Development in the landscape to avoid or reduce the loss of existing vegetation and siting permanent AGP to relate to existing landform and vegetation patterns to maximise landscape integration. For example, moving the Intermediate Pumping Station (IPS) G (IPS-G) further away from the SDNP and locating the Break Pressure Tank and Intermediate Pumping Station E (BPT/IPS-E) adjacent to existing infrastructure and woodland to reduce impacts on Portsdown Hill.
  3. Conserving and responding positively to landscape, ecology and historic features of value, including below-ground features, across the Order Limits. For example, reinforcing the character of the landscape through locally distinctive planting and earthworks.

4. Reducing the working width for open-cut sections from the typical 40m when intersecting sensitive constraints, including vegetation, roads and other features where required.
  5. Using trenchless construction methods for crossings chosen to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment, communities, or key transport infrastructure.
  6. Reinstating the existing landscape pattern following construction in line with the design principles.
  7. Identifying Green Infrastructure focus areas where there are opportunities to enhance the wider network.
- 13.4.7 Trees removed to facilitate construction will be reinstated. Where ash trees have been removed these will be replaced with a mixture of broadleaved species to increase resilience, maintain landscape character and biodiversity value. In addition, as shown in the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), and secured through the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7), new trees will be planted to mitigate tree loss, enhance and reinforce the existing landscape structure, and assist with visual screening. The proposed planting ratio is as follows:
1. For each high-quality (Category A) tree removed, three new trees will be planted.
  2. For each moderate-quality (Category B) tree removed, two new trees will be planted.
  3. For each low-quality (Category C) tree removed, one new tree will be planted. This includes woodland planting, tree planting within hedgerows, scattered tree planting, and visual screening tree belts.
- 13.4.8 To provide visual mitigation and restore and enhance ecological connectivity, new hedgerows will be created, existing hedgerows will be enhanced with infill planting and sections of hedgerow removed to facilitate construction will be reinstated.
- 13.4.9 The Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), which has been prepared by landscape architects, places the multi-functional environmental mitigation and enhancement measures within the framework of the landscape design. This comprises a series of indicative drawings, including a Strategic Green Infrastructure plan and a series of plans for each of the AGP sites, which provide an example of how the measures secured through the design principles could be delivered. It has been developed through inter-disciplinary and stakeholder engagement workshops and has been informed by the results of habitat and arboricultural surveys. It builds on the Illustrative Outline Environmental Masterplan presented at the Summer 2024 Consultation, defining broader opportunities for potential landscape enhancements and environmental net gain. This is explained more in section 13.9.
- 13.4.10 Opportunities for advanced planting within the Order Limits have been considered. No firm commitment to the location and extent of advanced planting can be made at this stage to retain flexibility. This will be determined by the Contractor post-consent. Therefore, this LVIA has not assumed that advanced planting would be carried out in order to assess the worst case scenario. The following locations (see

Works plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2)) are considered most appropriate for advanced planting:

1. IPS-G
2. EMEA-F-3
3. EMEA-J-5
4. EMEA-K-1
5. EMEA-K-2
6. EMEA-K-3
7. EMEA-L-3
8. EMEA-L-4
9. EMEA-L-5

Tertiary measures

13.4.11 Good construction practices are set out in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7) which is secured by a requirement in the draft DCO (Document reference 3.1, DCO Volume 3) and will manage the effects of construction. The measures of particular relevance to landscape and visual matters are:

1. Minimising the duration and footprint of construction activity where reasonably practicable.
2. Maintaining well-managed and tidy construction working areas and site compounds to reduce their visual impact and appearance in the landscape.
3. Keeping construction lighting to the minimum luminosity necessary for safe working within temporary construction compounds and working areas and where possible, fitting it with motion sensors to reduce the duration of potential light spill in night-time views.
4. Prior to construction, the Contractor will update the AIA to reflect all areas affected by the Proposed Development, to ensure precise location of trees and Root protection Areas (RPAs) extents, with the aim of retaining existing landscape features and protecting RPAs where reasonably practicable.

13.4.12 The Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) sets out the design objectives, functions, prescriptions and the inter-relationships between different environmental elements which form part of the Proposed Development. This document is provided in support of the general and site-specific design principles. The Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) describes how the Green Infrastructure strategy will help deliver the design principles. Together, the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) provide the securing mechanism for the landscape mitigation for the Proposed Development within the DCO. It sets out the actions that will be implemented to achieve the successful establishment of planting and the management of existing and proposed habitats within the Proposed Development. It explains how these elements will be designed post-consent to integrate with the wider nature network and how they will be maintained and monitored. This includes consideration of existing landscape and historical character and function, landscape permeability, landform and vegetation

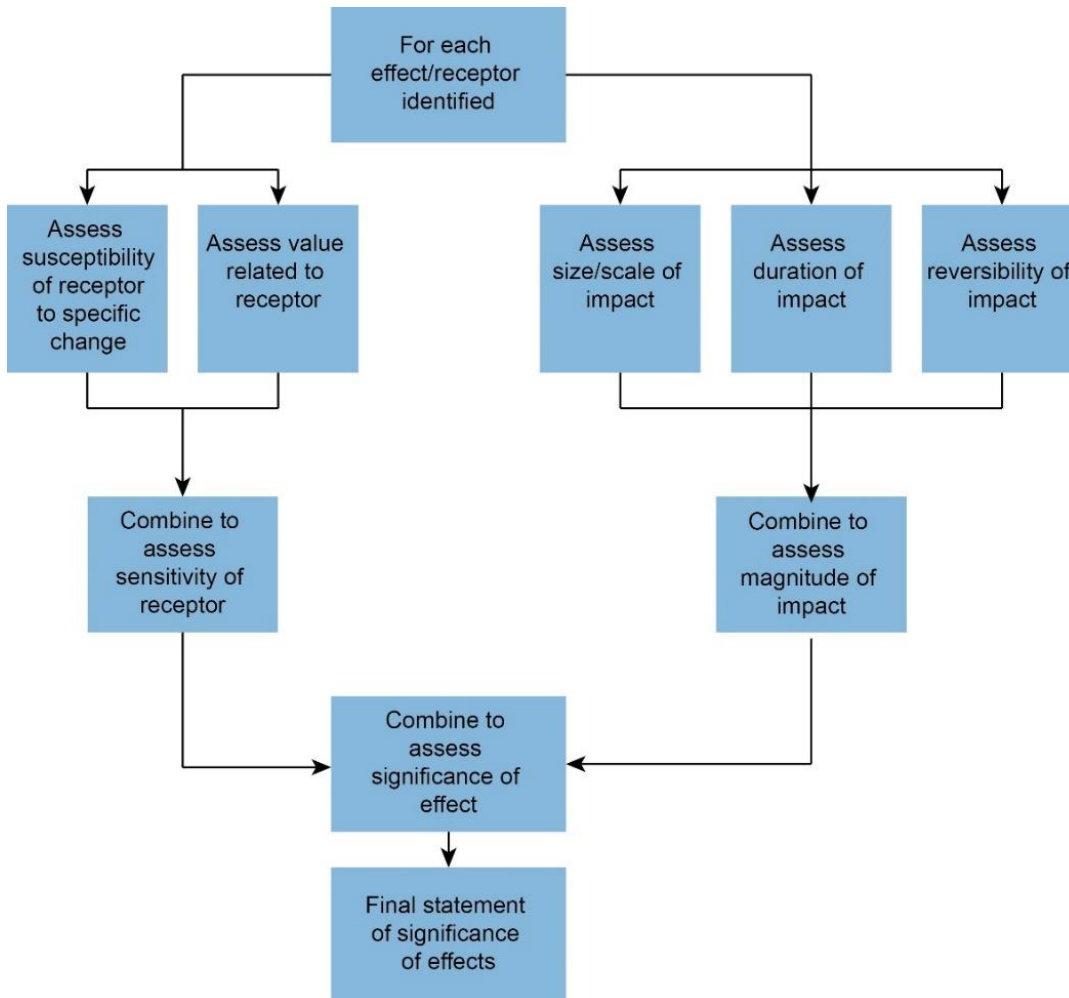
whilst integrating biodiversity and nature conservation interests, as set out in paragraph 3.6.3 of the NPSWRI [7]. The Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) will be developed into detailed LEMPs post-consent for approval.

- 13.4.13 Decommissioning will be subject to the appropriate permits, consents and regulatory environment at the relevant time. Decommissioning activities are expected to follow good industry practice in place at the time, anticipated to be similar in nature to measures contained in the Outline CEMP (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7).

## **13.5 Assessment methodology**

- 13.5.1 This section summarises the methodology followed to assess the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to landscape and visual amenity. The approach to assessment is set out in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). This has informed the approach used in this LVIA, which is set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This includes the criteria against which conclusions have been drawn, informed by professional judgement in line with paragraphs 2.23 to 2.26 of GLVIA3 [20]. The LVIA has followed the approach set out in Figure 3.5 of GLVIA3, reproduced in Graphic 13-1 below, to determine the sensitivity of receptors, the magnitude of impact and the significance of effects.

Graphic 13-1 Assessing the significance of effects



### 13.5.2 The LVIA involved the following stages:

1. Review published landscape character assessments, studies, relevant supporting evidence base documents, aerial photography and mapping, and undertake fieldwork to define the baseline and to define the extent of the study area within which there is potential for landscape and visual effects.
2. Define the landscape and visual receptors and describe the landscape and visual baseline.
3. Embed mitigation measures into the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce adverse landscape and visual effects and maximise opportunities for landscape integration and enhancement.
4. Determine the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, by considering the value attached to the landscape or views and susceptibility to change of the receptor.
5. Assess the magnitude of impact of the Proposed Development in relation to size or scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility.
6. Assess the significance of effect by considering the relationship between the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact and proposed mitigation to determine which effects are significant in EIA terms.

13.5.3 Table 13-6 has been used to guide judgements on the relationship between the sensitivity of a visual receptor, the magnitude of impact and the resulting significance of effect. Where conclusions differ from this guide and based on the professional judgement of the Applicant’s appointed qualified LVIA experts, a reasoned explanation is provided in the assessment text.

**Table 13-6 Significance of landscape and visual effects**

		Magnitude of impact				
		Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Sensitivity	Very high	Major	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Minor
	High	Major	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor
	Medium	Major or Moderate	Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Minor or Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Minor or Negligible	Negligible
	Very low	Moderate or Minor	Minor	Minor or Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

13.5.4 An effect in this LVIA is considered ‘likely significant’ in EIA terms if it is of major or moderate significance. All other effects are categorised as ‘not likely significant’. The identification of the likely significant effects on landscape and visual receptors is supported by detailed analysis and the professional judgement of competent experts, and consultation with stakeholders. In cases where this table provides two potential categories of significance, a reasoned justification is provided to explain which category has been applied and why effects are considered significant or not significant. Table 13-7 defines what the significance of effect terms means in terms of beneficial and adverse effects.

**Table 13-7 Descriptions of landscape and visual effects**

Significance of effect	Landscape effects	Visual effects
Major beneficial	Effects that result in a considerable improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be restored or reintroduced as part of the development.	Effects that result in a substantial improvement in the existing view.
Moderate beneficial	Effects that result in a partial improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely restored or reintroduced.	Effects that result in a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
Minor beneficial	Effects that result in a slight improvement of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially restored.	Effects that result in a limited improvement in the existing view.
Negligible beneficial	Effects that result in a very slight improvement to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.	Effects that result in a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.

Significance of effect	Landscape effects	Visual effects
Neutral	Effects which are a balance between adverse and beneficial effects and are neutral in their consequences for the landscape.	Effects that are a balance between adverse and beneficial effects and are neutral in their consequences for the view of visual receptors.
Negligible adverse	Effects that result in a very slight deterioration to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.	Effects that result in a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.
Minor adverse	Effects that result in a slight deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially lost.	Effects that result in a limited deterioration in the existing view.
Moderate adverse	Effects that result in a partial deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely lost.	Effects that result in a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.
Major adverse	Effects that result in a considerable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be wholly lost.	Effects that result in a substantial deterioration in the existing view.

- 13.5.5 Where the assessment concludes that there would be no impacts on a receptor, this is reported as no effect.
- 13.5.6 For full detail of the methodology applied in this chapter, please refer to ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

### Scope of assessment

- 13.5.7 Likely significant effects requiring assessment may be temporary or permanent, direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, in-combination, beneficial or adverse and may occur during construction, operation or decommissioning. The scope of the LVIA has responded to feedback received as detailed in section 13.3 and is summarised in Table 13-8.
- 13.5.8 Landscape and visual effects from the decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered to be no greater than those identified during the construction phase and are therefore assessed to be of the same significance as those assessed for construction, (refer to section 3.7 of ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) for additional information on decommissioning.)
- 13.5.9 Cumulative effects are those resulting from the interrelationship between the Proposed Development and other developments (inter-project). These are reported within ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.10 In-combination effects are those that result from the interaction of individual effects combined together on a single receptor or resource at a single point in time. Where the in-combination effects for landscape and visual receptors are inherently

assessed, these are reported within section 13.8. For example, where the noise of construction activity could result in impacts on the tranquillity of the landscape. However, where a receptor is affected by multiple topics and there is the potential for significant in-combination effects to occur, these aggregated effects are reported within ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).

- 13.5.11 Section 5.3 of ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) explains that permanent existence effects as a result of the physical presence of the Proposed Development should be assessed as part of the construction phase. However, it is standard practice in LVIA to assess effects relating to the physical presence of development as part of the operational stage, and this is the approach adopted in this chapter. GLVIA3 paragraph 4.18 lists aspects of the operational stage which may be most relevant to the LVIA, including the location, scale and design of buildings, structures, and other features, including choice and colour of materials. These effects have been assessed at year 1 and year 15 of operation in line with best practice.
- 13.5.12 To avoid double counting of effects, the assessment of landscape and visual construction effects identifies and assesses only temporary effects which arise because of activities and elements that are unique to the construction phase. Sources of likely significant temporary construction impacts (the construction activities and processes) on landscape and visual receptors include:
1. Site clearance and removal of vegetation cover and field boundaries where such cover forms a key characteristic of a particular landscape.
  2. Temporary loss of vegetation where replanting and regrowth would be anticipated.
  3. The activities relating to the removal of trees with TPO, veteran or ancient trees or protected hedgerows.
  4. Disturbance of natural landform through excavation.
  5. The presence of plant and temporary construction compounds including welfare facilities, and increased movement of vehicles and workers.
  6. Temporary storage of soils.
  7. Haul routes and associated movement of plant along them.
  8. Excavation required for the open-cut trenching method for underground Pipeline installation.
  9. Presence of launch shaft sites and intermediate tunnel shafts associated with the trenchless methods for pipe installation including tunnelling and horizontal directional drilling. The effects of tunnel construction would be limited to the tunnel drilling sites, and intermediate tunnel shaft sites.
  10. Activities relating to construction of the permanent and temporary intermediate tunnel shafts and the presence of associated compounds.
  11. Activities relating to construction of the WRP site, IPSs, BPTs and Invasive Non-Native Species Treatment at Otterbourne Water Supply Works (WSW).
  12. Intensification of vehicular movements into and out of the construction sites.
  13. Lighting of the works and temporary construction compounds for safety and security.

14. Disruption to the landscape pattern.
  15. Disruption to tranquillity.
  16. Temporary diversions to PRoW.
- 13.5.13 Sources of likely significant temporary and permanent operational effects (e.g. the loss or changes to existing landscape features or characteristics, or the addition of new infrastructure or features within the landscape or view) on landscape and visual receptors include:
1. Loss of vegetation including veteran or ancient trees, parkland trees, mature woodland and pasture.
  2. Permanent changes to existing field patterns including relocation or provision of new field boundaries. New permanent boundary treatments to demarcate new land ownership boundaries.
  3. Permanent changes to natural landform.
  4. Presence of the WRP site, and associated AGP.
  5. Presence of BPTs and IPSs and associated AGP.
  6. Presence of Invasive Non-Native Species Treatment at Otterbourne WSW.
  7. Permanent lighting causing light spill or sky glow.
  8. Changes in access arrangements.
  9. Presence of easements that prevent existing vegetation being replaced or mitigation planting.
  10. Presence of maintenance hatches, bell mouths and tracks.
- 13.5.14 Table 13-8 sets out the summary of the scope for the assessment in this chapter. All scoped out elements as agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion are confirmed in ES Appendix 5.3 Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.15 The list of receptors summarised in Table 13-8 has been reviewed and refined following fieldwork carried out between February 2023 and February 2025 and reflects design changes and feedback from stakeholder engagement since the EIA Scoping Report and PEI Report were published.
- 13.5.16 The Underground Pipelines between the WRP site and Havant Thicket Reservoir that were included in the PEI Report as part of the Summer 2024 Consultation have been discounted and removed from the Proposed Development. The study area for the LVIA has been adjusted to reflect this and the landscape and visual receptors that had been identified and assessed in the PEI Report that would have been affected by this option have been scoped out of further assessment within this chapter. However, assessment of the Havant Thicket Reservoir and Portsmouth Water pipeline projects are presented in ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). These receptors have been marked with an asterisk in Table 13-8 below.

**Table 13-8 Summary of the scope for the landscape and visual assessment**

Component/receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
<b>Components that could give rise to landscape of visual effects</b>			
Below-ground pipeline not in tunnel	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped out
Below-ground pipeline in tunnel	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Tunnel shafts	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
AGP, including the WRP site	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Eastney LSO, Eastney Pumping Station (PS)	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Havant Thicket Reservoir and related connection works*	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Night-time lighting	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
<b>Landscape receptors</b>			
SDNP designated landscape and its setting Special Qualities: Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breath-taking views Tranquil and unspoilt places Opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences Distinctive towns and villages	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Chichester Harbour National Landscape	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
National Character Area (NCA) 128: South Hampshire Lowlands	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
SDNP LCA E4: Itchen Valley	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
SDNP LCA D1: South Winchester Downland Mosaic	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Hampshire LCA 2d: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 3c: Itchen Valley	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 3e: Meon Valley	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 7f: West Winchester Downs	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 7g: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 7h: South East Hampshire Downlands	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Hampshire LCA 8g: Winchester Open Downs	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Hampshire LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
LCA 9f: Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out

Component/receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
Hampshire LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 10a: Langstone and Chichester Harbours	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Hampshire LCA 10b: Portsmouth Harbour	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out
Eastleigh LCA 7: Bishopstoke – Fair Oak Woodland and Farmland Eastleigh LCA 7a: Stroudwood Levels Eastleigh LCA 8: Knowle Hill Farmland and Woodland	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Fareham LCA 9: North Fareham Downs Fareham LCA 11: Portsdown Fareham LCA 10: Forest of Bere	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Winchester LCA 13: Lower Itchen valley Winchester LCA 18: Forest of Bere Lowlands Winchester LCA 19: Portsdown Hill Winchester LCA 20: Lower Meon Valley Winchester LCA 21: Whiteley Woodlands Winchester LCA 22: Shedfield Heathlands Winchester LCA 23: Durley Claylands	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
East Hampshire LCA 10a: Havant Thicket and Southleigh Forest*	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Havant LCA 12: Portsdown Hill Havant LCA 41: South Moor and Broadmarsh Coastal Park	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Havant Borough townscape character areas: TCA 2b: Bedhampton and Brockhampton suburbs TCA 2c: Bedhampton historic core TCA 7d: Leigh Park west TCA 7e: Leigh Park	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
<b>Visual receptor groups – people travelling along PRow which are promoted routes</b>			
People travelling along the Allan King Way	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the E9 European long distance trail*	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
People travelling along the Hayling Billy Coastal Path	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Itchen Way	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Meon Valley Trail	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Way	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Solent Way	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Staunton Way*	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in

Component/receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
People travelling along the Sussex Border Path	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the Wayfarer's Walk	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
<b>Visual receptor groups - people travelling along PRow which are not promoted routes</b>			
Users of local PRow	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
<b>Visual receptor groups – residents of local communities</b>			
Residents of Leigh Park, Havant*	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Residents of Bedhampton	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Portsdown Hill Road (B2177)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Widley (western edge)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Wickham	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Funtley, North Fareham and surrounding scattered properties north of M27	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Knowle	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Residents of Waltham Chase	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Bishop's Waltham	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Lower Upham	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Crowdhill and Fisher's Pond	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Durley	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Colden Common	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Otterbourne	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Fair Oak and Bishopstoke	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Residents of Shedfield	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Residents of Shirrel Heath	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Residents of Southwick	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Residents of Purbrook Heath and Crookhorn	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
<b>Visual receptor groups – Tourists</b>			
Visitors of Staunton Country Park*	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Visitors of Fort Nelson	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
<b>Visual receptor groups - people using public open spaces</b>			
People using Bidbury Mead Recreation Ground	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
People using Broadmarsh Coastal Park	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in

Component/receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
People visiting Portsdown Hill Viewpoint and associated public open space	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People using the open space north of Fort Widley	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People using the recreation ground north of Funtley	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
People using Oakwood Park Recreation Ground	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People using Bambridge Park	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
Recreational users of Langstone Harbour	Scoped in (receptor amended)	Scoped in (receptor amended)	Scoped in (receptor amended)
Visitors to Fort Widley, Fort Southwick and Fort Nelson	Scoped in (receptor amended)	Scoped in (receptor amended)	Scoped in (receptor amended)
<b>Visual receptors - people travelling through the area on main roads</b>			
People travelling along A32	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along B2177	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along B3035	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along B3354 (Winchester Road)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along the A27/M27	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
<b>Visual receptors - people travelling through the area on local roads</b>			
People travelling along Alma Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Ashley Down Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Baybridge Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Belnet Lane/Pigeon House Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Bishopstoke Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Crooked Walk Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Cudridge Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Curdrige Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Forest Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Frith Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Harts Farm Way	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Kiln Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Kiln Road	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Mayles Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Mayles Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Nine Elms Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in

Component/receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning
People travelling along Pricketts Hill	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Sandy Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Scivier's Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Sheepwash Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Titchfield Lane	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in
People travelling along Winters Hill	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in

13.5.17 After the fieldwork and considering design modifications the following receptors have either been excluded from the assessment or have undergone amendments:

1. Residents of Fair Oak and Bishopstoke – Initial fieldwork conducted between February and April 2023, confirmed that there was no visibility of the Proposed Development from these locations. A comprehensive schedule of landscape and visual receptors, including location of viewpoints was circulated to stakeholders by email on 1 June 2023, ahead of discussion at the third EIA Working Group on 7 June 2023. Feedback received either at the meeting or by email, informed subsequent fieldwork photography. An update to receptors and viewpoint locations, was presented at the fourth EIA Working Group on 31 October 2023 and subsequently shared by email on 6 December 2023. Agreement on receptors and representative viewpoints was confirmed individually by stakeholders by email throughout the month.
2. Residents of Shedfield - Removed due to there being limited visibility of the Proposed Development within the village. The ZTV in ES Figures 13.18 to 13.21, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), shows no visibility during operation and very limited visibility during construction. Desk-based review and fieldwork confirmed that built form and intervening vegetation would obstruct views from within the village towards the construction of the Proposed Development, including from Church Road. Where views of construction would be possible, is from the north of the village, this has been assessed with reference to 'people travelling along footpath 207/3/2', and 'people travelling along St Annes Lane.'
3. Residents of Southwick - There are no views of the Order Limits from within the village itself and therefore no views of the Proposed Development. Views from the southern edge of the village are assessed under 'people travelling along footpath 218/3/1.'
4. Residents of Purbrook Heath, and Crookhorn - Removed as these receptors related to a previous route alignment and these receptors would not experience views of the Proposed Development.
5. Residents of Knowle - Removed as these receptors related to a previous route alignment and these receptors would not experience views of the Proposed Development.

13.5.18 The following visual receptors relating to users of public open spaces have either been excluded from the assessment or have undergone amendments:

1. Recreational users of Langstone Harbour - The assessment of the likely impacts on people using Langstone Harbour for recreation has been made with

reference to the following representative viewpoints located around the edge of the harbour: VP004, VP011, VP016, VP017, VP129, VP132 and VP133.

2. Visitors to Fort Widley, Fort Southwick and Fort Nelson – This receptor group has been narrowed to ‘visitors of Fort Nelson’ as this is the only Fort with public access. It has been restored as a tourist attraction where views and visual amenity are part of the experience of visiting the place.
3. People using the recreation ground north of Funtley - Removed as these receptors related to a previous route alignment and these receptors would not experience views of the Proposed Development.

- 13.5.19 The sections of the below-ground pipeline which would be in a tunnel would not result in changes to the landscape or visual baseline. These effects have therefore been scoped out of the assessment for construction, operation and decommissioning as agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion Report (refer to ES Appendix 5.2 EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)).
- 13.5.20 No changes are proposed to the Eastney LSO in operation that would change the landscape and visual baseline. These effects have therefore been scoped out of the assessment as agreed in the EIA Scoping Opinion.
- 13.5.21 As noted in paragraph 13.7.9 of the EIA Scoping Report (refer to ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)), the scale of district level LCAs varies substantially across the study area. The district level LCAs are included in the baseline and have informed the definition of LLCAs defined by the Applicant but have been scoped out of further assessment. A hierarchical approach to the assessment of landscape effects has therefore been taken, which has been carried out at the national, county and local level as explained in paragraph 13.7.102. The effects can be more reasonably assessed at these three scales, which consistently represent more the way the landscape is experienced. This approach has been discussed and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities through the Historic Environment and Landscape EIA Working Group.
- 13.5.22 The preliminary LVIA set out in the PEI Report identified landscape receptors which do not require further assessment. This relates to Hampshire LCA 7h South East Hampshire Downlands and Hampshire LCA 8g Winchester Open Downs. Desk study and fieldwork have determined that there would be no or limited intervisibility between these LCAs and the Proposed Development and there would be no perceptible change to character in construction or operation. This is also the case for townscape character areas defined by HBC for operation, where there would be no permanent changes above-ground. The study area for the landscape assessment was agreed with stakeholders.
- 13.5.23 With respect to visual receptors, analysis of the ZTVs presented in ES Figures 13.18 to 13.21, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), and fieldwork carried out in 2023 and 2024 indicate that there would be no views or very short, oblique views of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development from the A27 or M27. Given the low sensitivity of these visual receptors, it is therefore unlikely that there would be significant effects on the views of people travelling along these routes. The approach to identifying and scoping visual receptors was discussed with relevant stakeholders during the EIA Working Groups and

supporting material, including receptor schedules, were shared for comment, as detailed within section 13.3. No concerns were raised regarding the exclusion of users of the A27 or M27, and as such, they have not been assessed further.

### Study area

- 13.5.24 This section describes the spatial scope (the area which may be impacted) for the assessment as it applies to the LVIA.
- 13.5.25 The study area for the LVIA includes all land within the Order Limits and the area within which the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development may give rise to significant landscape and visual effects, as illustrated on ES Figure 13.1 Landscape and visual impact assessment study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.26 The EIA Scoping Report identified a study area based upon a 3km buffer for landscape and up to 5km (refer to paragraph 13.4.4 of ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)) for views measured from the edge of the Scoping Area. This study area has been retained in the ES. The extent of the study area based on buffers of the Order Limits is shown on ES Figures 13.1 to 13.22, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.27 ZTV analysis has been undertaken based on the maximum parameters for construction facilities and plant and the maximum parameters of each AGP in the operational phase of the Proposed Development. This is explained more in section 13.7. The methodology for the preparation of the ZTVs is set out in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The following ZTVs have been prepared:
1. ES Figure 13.18 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, bare earth – whole Proposed Development, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6)). The ZTVs for the operational phase are based on the maximum parameters for each AGP. ES Figure 13.19 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, with screening – Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
  2. ES Figure 13.20 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (operation, bare earth – Proposed Development, differentiating each Above Ground Plant), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
  3. ES Figure 13.21 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (operation, with screening – Proposed Development, differentiating each Above Ground Plant), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.28 Portsdown Hill rises steeply from the south which means that there is no intervisibility across large parts of the settlements which line the coastal plain, including Fareham and Portchester. Land to the west of the M3 in the west is also separated from the Proposed Development by dense urban development and vegetation. This is clearly demonstrated by the bare earth ZTV for the whole Proposed Development during construction presented in ES Figure 13.18 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, bare earth – whole Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). Some landscape and visual receptors which were identified in the EIA Scoping Report were subsequently

discussed with local planning authorities and it was agreed that further assessment of these landscape and visual effects was not required. Where this is the case, a detailed explanation is provided in the tables presented in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

13.5.29 The final study area presented in the ES has been defined through analysis of ZTVs and winter and summer fieldwork carried out in 2024, and winter fieldwork carried out in early 2025. As noted above, this has been reduced to reflect the removal of the proposed Underground Pipelines between the proposed Water Recycling Plant site and Havant Thicket Reservoir option compared to the study area presented in the PEI Report. Other information sources referenced during the refinement of the study area included 1:25,000 and 1:1,250 scale Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, 3D topographical data, aerial and Google Street View photography. The following factors were considered in the refinement of the study area:

1. The extent of the Order Limits and construction activity, including the potential location of temporary construction compounds and temporary land take.
2. The wider landscape setting within which the construction, operation and decommissioning effects may be experienced.
3. The proximity of landscape receptors which contribute strongly to the value attached to the landscape and people's views of the landscape, e.g. nationally or locally designated landscapes or conservation areas and their setting, which could be affected by the Proposed Development.
4. The likely extent and nature of views and the visual receptor groups which would be likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.
5. Landscape, heritage and habitat designations where these contribute to the value attached to the landscape.
6. LCAs identified in published landscape character assessments.
7. The extents of ZTVs based on the design of the Proposed Development for the construction and operational phases.
8. Fieldwork observations, including the influence of distance, existing landform, vegetation and settlement.
9. Elements of construction likely to be most visible, comprising temporary construction compounds and plant, such as cranes, haul routes, excavation and materials storage.
10. The scale, massing and visual appearance of the AGP.

#### **Assessment scenarios**

13.5.30 ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) provides an overview of the Proposed Development's approach to the temporal scope (the time scales over which impacts may occur) of the EIA. This section describes the temporal scope for the assessment as it applies to the LVIA. In this assessment, the effects of the existence (i.e. the physical presence) of the Proposed Development in the landscape and views has been considered as part of the assessment of operational effects. This is consistent with paragraph

4.18 of GLVIA3, which includes, inter alia, the location, scale and design of buildings, structures, mineral processing plant and other features, including choice and colour of materials.

- 13.5.31 The assessment of likely effects compares a scenario with the Proposed Development against one without the Proposed Development over time.
- 13.5.32 The duration of landscape and visual impacts is different to that set out in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) and is assessed as follows:
1. Short-term – weeks
  2. Medium-term – months
  3. Long-term – years
- 13.5.33 The following assessment years and scenarios have been defined and are adopted within the LVIA:
1. Future baseline (winter and summer, year 1 of construction) – reflective of the conditions that would be experienced in the future, immediately prior to construction of the Proposed Development.
  2. Construction (winter) – reflective of the conditions that would be experienced during the whole period over which construction of the Proposed Development is planned to take place. The Proposed Development is anticipated to be constructed over approximately a five-year period. It is currently expected that construction would commence in 2028 however this will be dependent on various elements including the DCO programme.
  3. Year 1 of operation (winter) – reflective of the conditions that would be experienced in the year when the Proposed Development becomes operational.
  4. Year 15 of operation (summer) – reflective of the conditions that would be experienced at a point 15 years after the year of opening of the Proposed Development.
  5. Decommissioning – as presented within ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.5.34 Construction of the Proposed Development would span winter and summer seasons. The assessment of landscape and visual effects of construction and decommissioning considers the whole period of these activities but assumes a winter scenario as this represents the worst case scenario, where existing deciduous vegetation would not be in leaf. These effects are reported in section 13.8.
- 13.5.35 The assessment of landscape and visual effects in winter in year 1 of operation represents the worst case scenario, where existing deciduous vegetation would not be in leaf and proposed planting would be low in height and not established. These effects are reported in section 13.8.
- 13.5.36 The residual effects of construction and decommissioning are those which would remain even after secondary mitigation has been applied and which cannot be mitigated by design or other measures. There is no secondary mitigation proposed for construction and decommissioning effects as part of the LVIA. Therefore, the

residual landscape and visual effects of construction and decommissioning are the same as those reported in section 13.8.

- 13.5.37 The residual effects of operation are those which would persist at year 15 of operation, assuming that proposed planting would have successfully established, and deciduous vegetation would be in leaf. It is assumed that these effects cannot be mitigated by design or other measures during this period. These effects are reported in section 13.10.

### **Baseline methodology**

- 13.5.38 Baseline data collection has been undertaken to obtain information across the study area. This section provides the approach to collecting baseline data.

#### Desk study

- 13.5.39 Reference has been made to the prevailing policy framework, OS mapping, three-dimensional topographical and hydrogeological data, site photographs and aerial photography. Various sources of Geographic Information System (GIS) data have been combined and analysed. This included landscape designations (refer to ES Figure 13.11 Landscape designations, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6)) and other relevant environmental designations, such as nature conservation sites and heritage assets (refer to ES Figure 13.12 Other relevant designations, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6)). Historical mapping assisted in describing the evolution of the landscape. This has been used to develop an understanding of the landscape across the study area.
- 13.5.40 Establishing the landscape baseline has involved the identification of existing physical features of the landscape and its character with reference to the information presented in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Published landscape character assessments have been reviewed to identify existing Landscape Character Types (LCT) and LCAs at the national, regional and district scales. This information has been used to inform the identification of LLCAs, including their boundaries, elements, qualities and key characteristics, and the value attached to the landscape at different scales.
- 13.5.41 Zones of Theoretical Visibility have been used to assist in the identification of visual receptors and representative viewpoints, listed in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), upon which the assessment of visual effects is based. These ZTVs are presented on ES Figure 13.18 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, bare earth – whole Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) to ES Figure 13.21 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (operation, with screening–Proposed Development, differentiating AGP), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) and are based on the maximum parameters for the construction works and AGP in the operational phase of the Proposed Development.
- 13.5.42 The following data sources have been accessed to inform the baseline with respect to the LVIA (refer to Table 13-9). In addition to these data sources, the LVIA draws on environmental baseline data collated for other topics, specifically, baseline data presented in ES Chapter 7 Archaeology and cultural heritage, Volume I (Document

reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) and ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-9 Data sources used to inform the landscape and visual impact assessment**

Source of data	Baseline data
Environment Agency (EA)	LiDAR Digital Terrain Map – 1m resolution (accessed May 2025)
SDNPA [40]	SDNP Special Qualities, taken from their Management Plan (accessed May 2025)
SDNPA [45]	South Downs Landscape character assessment 2020 (accessed May 2025)
SDNPA [56]	South Downs International Dark Skies mapping (accessed May 2025)
SDNPA [39]	South Downs Dark Night Sky Adoption mapping (accessed May 2025)
SDNP [53]	South Downs Tranquillity mapping, taken from their Tranquillity Study (last accessed May 2025)
NE, OS Data and Local Planning Authorities Definitive Maps	PRoW, including National Trails and long-distance footpaths (last accessed May 2025)
OS Data, Sustrans [57]	National Cycle Network (NCN) and cycle routes (last accessed May 2025)
NE National Character Areas [58]	National Character Areas (NCAs) (last accessed May 2025)
HCC [59]	Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment 2012 (last accessed May 2025)
EBC [49]	Landscape Character Assessment for Eastleigh Borough 2011 (last accessed May 2025)
FBC [50]	Fareham Landscape Character Assessment 2017 (last accessed May 2025)
WCC [52]	Landscape Character Assessment SPD, 2022 (last accessed May 2025)
HBC [14]	Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment 2007 (last accessed May 2025)
EBC, FBC, HBC, WCC	Tree Preservation Orders (last accessed May 2025)
HE [60]	Registered Parks and Gardens (last accessed May 2025)
OS	OS 1:25k mapping (last accessed May 2025)
NE	Ancient woodland (last accessed June 2025) [61]
National Library of Scotland	Historic OS mapping (last accessed May 2025)
Google	Google Earth Map Data and Street View (last accessed May 2025)
CPRE [62]	England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies Map (last accessed May 2025)
CPRE [63]	Tranquillity Map: England (last accessed May 2025)

### Fieldwork

- 13.5.1 Initial winter fieldwork was undertaken by a team of landscape architects between February and April 2023. Predefined field survey forms in ESRI FieldMaps were used to capture information about the landscape and views across the landscape within the study area. Draft photographs were also captured. This information was used to help refine the study area for the LVIA and the locations of representative viewpoints, which were issued to local planning authorities for comment.
- 13.5.2 Additional, detailed winter fieldwork was carried out during February to March 2024 and in February 2025 and summer fieldwork during July to September 2024 and in September 2025. The purpose of this fieldwork was to finalise the baseline description for views based on the final selection of viewpoints, and the boundaries and key characteristics of LLCAs and to identify, record and map features and characteristics of the landscape. This included perceptual qualities including tranquillity and night-time lighting.
- 13.5.3 Fixed viewpoint, panoramic photographs were captured to illustrate the LVIA and for the preparation of photomontages. Summer photography has been used to assist in describing the seasonal screening functions of existing deciduous vegetation and the effectiveness of the proposed planting as mitigation.

## 13.6 Assumptions and limitations

- 13.6.1 This section provides a description of the assumptions and limitations to the LVIA.
- 13.6.2 The assessment has been based on the information presented in ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), including the design principles set out the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5), and the Works Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2).
- 13.6.3 The LVIA has been undertaken with reference to the baseline conditions recorded at the time of undertaking fieldwork surveys between February 2023 and February 2025. These surveys were carried out from publicly accessible locations, which is in line with the best practice set out in GLVIA3. In most cases they are considered to also be representative of the conditions that would exist at the point of commencing construction as the nature of the landscape is such that no material changes to its character or views are predicted to occur during this time. Where construction of new major development is ongoing, for example with respect to the Welbourne development, this is considered as part of the future baseline scenario.
- 13.6.4 It is not possible to identify and assess every location within the ZTV extents. This limitation is acknowledged in paragraph 6.21 of GLVIA3. This has been addressed by grouping visual receptors, where appropriate, and then identifying and assessing the greatest level of effect within the group with reference to representative viewpoints. In adopting this proportionate approach, this assessment considers the most likely worst case outcome for the receptors within the group and reports this as a single effect in the LVIA.
- 13.6.5 The Landscape Institute's Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 [21] notes that "*views from houses and individual properties are a matter of private amenity, noting that it is an established planning principle that there is no right to a view.*" As views from within private properties have not been included,

professional judgement has been used to assess the likely effects on the views of local communities and commercial visual receptors. This has been aided by aerial and Google Street View photography and fieldwork observations.

- 13.6.6 The assessment of temporary construction effects considers the worst case, for example when taller plant and equipment such as cranes would be visible and in use. While it assumes that construction activity would be present across the whole of the Order Limits during the construction period, the visibility would depend on a variety of compounds and plant equipment, and the effects are reflected through the different receptor groups. As a worst case scenario, the visual assessment assumes that PRoW would be accessible during the construction phase, with an assessment of the likely change to people's views from these routes.
- 13.6.7 It is assumed that vegetation loss would be temporary and within a maximum corridor of 40m width where open-cut is used and that it would be reinstated following construction. In line with the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5), where the removal of vegetation (over land that would not contain above-ground buildings, structures or other infrastructure) during construction cannot be avoided, reinstatement planting will be undertaken. Loss of landscape features will be mitigated with replacement planting undertaken as close to the location of the existing vegetation as practicable.
- 13.6.8 The assessment of effects at year 1 of operation assumes that all temporary land used for construction would be returned to its previous use and condition. This includes all temporary tunnel shafts. Where vegetation would be removed to facilitate construction, this would be reinstated but would be generally below 1m in height and would not have established to mitigate landscape and visual effects. The effectiveness of screening provided by existing vegetation and planting incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development would be limited during winter, when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf.
- 13.6.9 The identification and evaluation of likely effects at year 15 of operation assumes that all mitigation planting incorporated into the Proposed Development would have been appropriately managed over the period and would have successfully established and would be in full leaf. Native trees and shrubs would have grown to a height of between 3.5m and 6m depending on species and specification. These measures are secured in the DCO through the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).

## 13.7 Baseline conditions

### Current baseline - overview

- 13.7.1 To provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development (in terms of landscape and visual effects), it is necessary to identify and understand the baseline conditions in the study area. This provides a reference point against which changes to the landscape and people's views of the landscape can be assessed.
- 13.7.2 This section first provides an overview of the different topics which inform the landscape character and visual context within the study area. This includes baseline information on relevant landscape designations at the national and local

level. It then provides a summary of the landscape character baseline, with reference to published studies and LLCAs defined by the Applicant, and the visual receptor groups and representative viewpoints which have informed the assessment of effects. This section considers the baseline conditions for the Proposed Development as a whole, rather than for each individual component of the Proposed Development.

#### Topography and hydrology

- 13.7.3 The topography and hydrology within the study area is illustrated in ES Figure 13.2 Topography and hydrology, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). This shows that the elevation varies substantially between the low-lying coastal plain in the south and the downlands of the SDNP in the north. Much of the land in the central section of the study area is gently sloping or undulating and is strongly influenced by the chalk rivers and streams that flow south and gradually widen as they approach the Solent.
- 13.7.4 The Solent is a narrow straight with busy shipping lanes, which forms part of the English Channel and separates the mainland from the Isle of Wight to the south. The coastline includes a complex mixture of shallow marine basins, tidal estuaries and the three principal harbours of Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester. These harbours are indented into the coastline and stretch approximately 6km inland. They separate Hayling Island and Portsea Island; the latter coincides with Portsmouth.
- 13.7.5 The land rises gently inland to the north to form a narrow and substantially developed coastal plain with the string of settlements of Havant, Portsmouth and Fareham lying between sea level and approximately 10m above ordnance datum (AOD).
- 13.7.6 The prominent Portsdown Hill forms a dramatic, narrow and very steep, south facing chalk escarpment rising to above 100m AOD. This distinctive feature is visible in the backdrop of views across the landscape from the coast. The dip slope on the northern side Portsdown Hill is more gently sloping, falling towards a lower lying landscape with shallow undulations where the elevation varies between 25m and 65m AOD.
- 13.7.7 The north-western part of the study area lies within the SDNP and is characterised by large scale rolling landform with dry valleys and an escarpment. This higher ground stretches between Twyford and Droxford reaching approximately 100m AOD at its highest point within the study area.
- 13.7.8 The principal watercourses that cross the study area are predominantly narrow and meandering, forming a series of distinctive river valleys which strongly influence the structure and character of the landscape. They comprise:
1. Hermitage Stream which runs through Havant in the east of the study area and discharges into Langstone Harbour. It defines the eastern boundary of the WRP site.
  2. Wallington River which meanders gently eastward from Waterlooville across the landscape and then south through Fareham where it discharges into Portsmouth Harbour.

3. River Meon which flows southward from the SDNP, passing through the settlement of Wickham, forming a narrow valley which cuts across the centre of the study area. It discharges into the Solent via Titchfield Haven to the west of Stubbington.
4. River Hamble which runs in a south-westerly direction from the SDNP, passing through the settlement of Bishop's Waltham. It broadens out south of Botley to form an increasingly wide tidal channel which is lined by marinas and some industry where it opens out into Southampton Water.
5. Solent and the Itchen Navigation, meanders from Winchester and through the western part of the SDNP to Southampton, where it forms a confluence with the River Test to form Southampton Water.

13.7.9 In summary, the topography of the study area is a blend of rolling hills, river valleys, chalk escarpment, and coastline along the Solent.

#### Geology and soils

13.7.10 The bedrock which underlies the landscape of the study area is complex, forming a series of bands which stretch from east to west, as shown in ES Figure 13.3 Geology, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). The coastline in the south is predominately defined by Wittering Formation, a sedimentary bedrock of sand, silt and clay. A band of London Clay, transitioning to a narrow band of Lambeth Group separates the coast from the upper parts of Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour and Chichester Harbour. Here the bedrock is chalk, including a narrow band of the locally distinctive Portsdown Chalk Formation, which pushes steeply up to form a narrow ridge. North of Portsdown Hill the bedrock is predominantly London Clay, with outcrops of Wittering Formation and Whitecliff Sand Member. Wittering Formation consolidates to form a wider band, interspersed with Earnley Sand Formation, between Wickham and Eastleigh. In the north, successive bands of chalk define the distinctive landscape of the SDNP, separated from the landscape to the south by a narrow band of Lambeth Group.

13.7.11 The soils across the study area are strongly defined by the underlying bedrock, as shown in ES Figure 13.2 Topography and hydrology, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). The coastline includes loamy soils with naturally high groundwater (Soilscape 22) in the east and freely draining slightly acid loamy soils in the west (Soilscape 6). Portsdown Hill is overlaid by shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (Soilscape 3) which are freely draining and are rare in England (7%). The majority of the central part of the study area comprises slow permeable seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 18). There are patches of mostly freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils (Soilscape 14), slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Soilscape 10). These soil types have informed the design and specification of the proposed habitats as secured though Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).

#### Landcover and vegetation patterns

13.7.12 Landcover and vegetation across the study area is strongly influenced by the underlying geology, topography, soils and land use, as illustrated on ES Figure 13.5 Landcover and vegetation patterns, Volume III (Document reference 6.3,

DCO Volume 6). Features of value for natural and cultural heritage that contribute to landscape character and visual amenity are described in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

- 13.7.13 The southern part of the study area is heavily urbanised with landcover strongly influenced by patterns of development and infrastructure corridors. There is a relatively narrow strip of undeveloped land which comprises coastal habitats including wetlands and grazing marshes designated for their ecological value, including along the edges of Chichester and Langstone Harbours and Farlington Marshes. The harbours include extensive areas of inter-tidal habitat including mudflats and marshes.
- 13.7.14 The predominant landcover across the centre of the study area is arable farmland with an often-strong hedgerow pattern and mature trees. Field size varies but is generally smaller in the west and closer to the SDNP to the north. The area contains a relatively high proportion of woodland characterised by oak, ash, hawthorn, hazel, and field maple. This woodland is often ancient and associated with the former Royal Forest of Bere, a medieval hunting reserve that retains some open commons, assart fields and woodland patterns.
- 13.7.15 Larger blocks of woodland are more prevalent within the central part of the study area, including West Walk to the north-east of Wickham and within the SDNP. There are several interconnected woodlands between Wickham and Swanwick to the south-west relating to the Forest of Bere, Place Wood, and several copses and coppices between Boarhunt and the settlement of Waterlooville.
- 13.7.16 Riparian vegetation along rivers also forms important features, particularly along the River Meon within the centre of the study area. Here the chalk river flows within a narrow floodplain which is characterised by small permanent pastures divided by hedgerows, wet woodland, water meadows and open water, all of which are of great ecological value. Further to the north-west the varied habitats along the River Hamble include grassland, reed beds and salt marshes.
- 13.7.17 To the north-west of the River Meon, the varied geology of the area provides a mixture of habitats including woodland, heathland, grassland and wetland sites.
- 13.7.18 The River Itchen in the western part of the study area, is considered to be one of the best examples of a chalk river habitat in Europe. Landcover comprises a mosaic of woodland, pasture, parkland and arable fields, with numerous streams, ponds and springs, including the Bourne stream at Otterbourne.
- 13.7.19 The landcover and vegetation patterns within the SDNP in the north are strongly influenced by the underlying chalk and comprise a mixture of native woodland, much of which is ancient divided by arable fields and grassland.

#### Land use and settlement

- 13.7.20 Land use and the distribution of settlement within the study area is illustrated in ES Figure 13.6 Land use and settlement, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.21 The majority of settlement within the study area is focused within the low-lying plain that extends along the coastline in the south and in the west. The city of Portsmouth lies at the centre of the conurbation in the south, which includes

Havant to the east and Fareham to the west. Settlement also extends north along the western side of the corridor of the A3(M), including Widley, Purbrook and Waterlooville. These settlements are characterised by urban centres and large areas of post war residential development. Building styles vary considerably with mostly low-rise housing estates with some tower blocks and tall buildings in the centre of Portsmouth. Large scale industrial buildings are also common, particularly associated with the docks. The western side of the study area is also dominated by settlement, including Eastleigh and the suburbs of Bishopstoke and Chandlers Ford.

- 13.7.22 The south-eastern part of the study area includes parts of Chichester, Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours, with coastal and maritime uses including several marinas and facilities for water sports. These coastal and recreational uses stand in contrast to the industrial uses within Brockhampton industrial area, which is characterised by predominantly large scale industrial and office buildings, with the settlement Bedhampton extending to the north beyond the A27.
- 13.7.23 Portsdown Hill serves as a natural boundary separating urban areas to the south from the predominantly rural landscape to the north. The predominant land use is arable agriculture with occasional pasture and managed woodland. The area also encompasses several larger villages, notably Wickham and Bishop's Waltham, Knowle, and Waltham Chase. The area between Portsdown Hill and the B2177 and the western half of the study area up to the River Itchen generally exhibit lower density development, including scattered farmsteads, linear and dispersed development along rural lanes.
- 13.7.24 Land use within the SDNP in the northern part of the study area is strongly rural with a general lack of settlement and mixture of arable farmland and woodland predominating.

#### *Movement and connectivity*

- 13.7.25 There is an extensive network of roads, railways, waterways and PRoW within the study area as illustrated in ES Figure 13.7 Movement and connectivity, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.26 Motorways and trunk roads have strongly defined the pattern of settlement, with the A3(M) in the east, the M27 in the south and the M3 in the west forming the principal routes. Within the study area the A3(M) runs south between Purbrook and Havant, connecting with the A27 dual-carriageway at a large and complex junction north of Langstone Harbour. The A27 continues to the west, becoming the M27 north of Portsmouth and is up to four lanes wide in each direction. West of Portsmouth the M27 creates a clear divide between the urban areas to the south and the rural landscape to the north until it reaches the suburbs of Southampton.
- 13.7.27 The M3 originates at a junction with the M27 between Southampton and Eastleigh in the western part of the study area, leading north towards Winchester. It creates a strong line of severance between the suburbs of Eastleigh and smaller settlements in the north including Otterbourne and Shawford.
- 13.7.28 The rural landscape to the north of the M27 is crossed by a network of mostly B roads, which are single carriageway and link various settlements. This includes the B2177, which extends from Bedhampton in the east, along the top of Portsdown Hill to Colden Common in the west via Wickham, Waltham Chase and Bishop's

Waltham. There are a smaller number of A roads, which generally link the coast and the SDNP, including the A32 between Fareham and Droxford outside the study area to the north. The A334 is another important route, crossing the western part of the study area from Wickham to Hedge End. Rural lanes connect these routes and smaller settlements. The network formed by these roads tends to be denser in the north, towards the SDNP, and sparser in the lower lying areas north of the M27.

- 13.7.29 Railway lines are limited to the eastern, southern and western extremities of the study area, connecting centres of population and industry. In the east, the Portsmouth Direct line passes through mostly urban areas connecting with the Havant station on the Southern West Coast Line. This line extends through urban areas to the west with stations at Cosham, Portchester and Fareham. The Eastleigh to Fareham line crosses the southern part of the study area, passing through the rural landscape mostly in cutting, with stations at Botley and Hedge End. The South West Main Line extends north from Eastleigh, broadly following the valley of the River Itchen and connecting with stations at Shawford and onward to Winchester beyond the study area. There are no railway lines across the majority of the study area, although there are some remnants of earthworks associated with disused railway lines which lead north along the valleys of the River Hamble and River Meon.
- 13.7.30 The main ports of Southampton and Portsmouth are to the south and outside the study area. However, activity related to these ports and other boating related activity exert a wide influence over the large areas of open water within Portsmouth Harbour, Langstone Harbour and Chichester Harbour. This includes the many marinas which line the coast.
- 13.7.31 Southampton Airport lies to the south of Eastleigh, immediately to the south of the study area. It provides international and domestic services and has a single runway which is orientated broadly south-west to north-east. In 2023 it had over 22,000 aircraft movements [64]. This means that the sight and noise of low-flying aircraft which regularly overfly the western part of the study area is common. An extension to the runway was opened in September 2023, to allow the airport to serve 50% more passengers by supporting more of the larger aircraft currently in use to serve the airport.

#### *Tourism and recreation*

- 13.7.32 Tourism is an important industry for the local economy and is associated particularly with the coast in the south and the SDNP in the north. There are relatively few tourist attractions within the southern part of the study area, but the proximity to the coast is a draw and there are many marinas, hotels and holiday parks within urban areas. North of Portsmouth, Fort Purbrook, Fort Widley and Fort Nelson provide a range of activities, the latter housing the popular Royal Armouries museum. These prominent heritage structures occupy prominent positions on Portsdown Hill with wide ranging views from the outside areas associated with them.
- 13.7.33 The SDNP is promoted for recreation, which is associated with its statutory purpose as a nationally designated area. Marwell Zoo is a key attraction within the study area, located to the east of Colden Common. It attracts over 500,000 visitors per year and occupies a large rural site.

- 13.7.34 With reference to ES Figure 13.8 Tourism and leisure, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), the study area is crossed by an extensive network of PRowS. This network includes several long-distance routes, comprising:
1. Monarch's Way which stretches over 1,000km across southern England between Worcester and Shoreham-by-Sea in West Sussex. It is based on the route which King Charles II took during his escape after defeat by Cromwell in the final battle of the English Civil Wars in 1651. It is confined to parts of the study area in the north within the SDNP.
  2. Solent Way follows the edge of Langstone Harbour. The 95km route passes along the southern edge of Farlington Marshes and Broadmarsh Coastal Park and the eastern side of the site of the WRP site. This route forms part of the King Charles III England Coast path.
  3. Shipwrights Way is an 80km route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders which links towns and villages in East Hampshire. Within the study area it follows the western coastline of Hayling Island heading north through Havant and Bedhampton.
  4. Hayling Billy Coastal Path is a 4.3km route which broadly follows the dismantled Hayling Billy railway line, which also coincides with the Shipwrights Way and is promoted for cycling.
  5. Wayfarer's Walk is promoted for walking and extends north from Havant through the rural landscape in the eastern part of the study area. It follows the western edge of Widley, close to the location of the BPT/IPS-E on Portsdown Hill.
  6. Pilgrims' Way is a 255km route which links Winchester to the north of the study area with Mont Saint-Michel in Normandy in northern France. It passes through Bishop's Waltham in the northern part of the study area, before turning south-east and crossing the rural landscape via the woodland of West Walk, past Southmoor and traversing the slopes of Portsdown Hill north of Wymering where it enters Portsmouth.
  7. Allan King Way is named after one of the early members of the Hampshire Area Ramblers Association. This 69km route connects Winchester to the north with Portchester to the south, crossing the central part of the study area. It passes through Bishop's Waltham, the Forest of Bere and south across the M27 after passing Fort Nelson.
  8. Meon Valley Trail follows a disused railway line along the narrow valley of the River Meon for approximately 18km, between Knowle in the south and the SDNP in the northern part of the study area.
  9. Itchen Way is a 50km route through the western part of the study area, between Southampton in the south and Hinton Ampner within the SDNP in the north. It follows the narrow valley of the Itchen Navigation and the River Itchen and passes in proximity to several settlements, including Otterbourne and Shawford.
  10. E9 European Long-Distance Route is the longest coastal trail in the world with a distance of over 10,000km. Within England it follows the south coast, using various existing routes including the Solent Way.

- 13.7.35 The study area is also crossed by several cycling routes which form part of the NCN. These are predominantly located in the eastern and southern parts of the study area and comprise:
1. NCN Route 22 in the east, which links London and Portsmouth via Havant within the study area.
  2. NCN Route 222 in the east, which links Guildford to the north and Shoreham-by-Sea to the south via Cowplain and Purbrook within the study area.
  3. NCN Route 236 in the south, which links Cosham and Portchester within the study area.
  4. NCN Route 224 between Wickham and Fareham along the eastern side of the valley of the River Meon.
  5. NCN Route 23 in the west, which links Reading to the north and Southampton to the south via Otterbourne and Chandler's Ford within the study area.
- 13.7.36 Sequential views of users of long-distance routes and the NCN are addressed in paragraph 13.7.37 onwards.

#### Tranquillity

- 13.7.37 Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 01/17 [65] explains the difficulties in reaching a firm definition for tranquillity. In paragraph 2.10 it states that it is, *“in effect, an umbrella term used to refer to the effect of a range of environmental factors on our senses and our perception of a place”*. Paragraph 2.11 goes on to state that *“a distinction is made between absolute tranquillity and relative tranquillity. When we refer to tranquillity in the UK, it is therefore almost always relative tranquillity that we are referring to, but in differing degrees”*. It goes on to explain that the commonality is the achievable state of mind rather than the environmental setting.
- 13.7.38 The SDNPA Tranquillity Study (2017) [53] defines tranquillity as *“a state of calm and quietude associated with a feeling of peace. It relates to quality of life, and there is good scientific evidence that it also helps to promote health and well-being. It is a perceptual quality of the landscape, and is influenced by things that people can both see and hear in the landscape around them.”*
- 13.7.39 The tranquillity map of England published by CPRE: The Countryside Charity (Campaign to Protect Rural England, 2007) has been reproduced in ES Figure 13.9 Tranquillity baseline, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). These composite maps take account of a range of positive factors, as set out in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). ES Figure 13.9 Tranquillity baseline, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) shows that the majority of the eastern, southern and western parts of the study area fall within the least tranquil parts of England. This coincides with the major urban areas along the south coast including Portsmouth and Fareham and those extending along the A3(M) and M3. Relative tranquillity within the northern part of the study area is progressively higher, as the negative factors diminish and positive factors, such as the openness and perceived naturalness of the landscape increase.
- 13.7.40 The SDNPA tranquillity map provides a finer level of detail in the northern part of the study area and is reproduced in ES Figure 13.9 Tranquillity baseline, Volume

III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). It indicates that there are areas in and to the immediate south of the SDNP which have higher levels of relative tranquillity, particularly around West Walk and east of Colden Common and the landscape in between. This includes the site of the BPT-K, which is the closest AGP to the SDNPA boundary. Embedded design measures summarised in section 13.4 include using the natural topography so that the majority of the structure would be below-ground and tree and hedgerow planting to assist with visual screening. The SDNPA states in paragraph 1.5 of the Tranquillity Study that the tranquillity defined in the document is relative to the National Park area only. Additional details on these measures are provided in section 13.8 and in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).

#### Night-time lighting

- 13.7.41 CPRE: The Countryside Charity provides an online interactive map of England's light pollution and dark skies, which has been reproduced in ES Figure 13.10 Night-time baseline, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). This shows very clearly that there is a distinct contrast in the night-time baseline between the heavily developed coastline in the south and settlement extending north along the M3 corridor in the west and the rural landscape to the north of the M27 corridor. Sources of night-time lighting include street lighting along main roads and residential streets, urban centres and industry. The brightest areas coincide with Portsmouth, Havant, Fareham and Southampton, where the radiance shining up into the night sky exceeds 32 nano watts/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr (the highest category). Waterlooville in the east and Eastleigh in the west are slightly less bright, falling into the 16-32 nano watts/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr band. The influence of night-time lighting in these areas and along transport corridors extends north, becoming progressively darker.
- 13.7.42 In contrast to the urban areas, the majority of the SDNP, which includes the Moore's International Dark Skies reserve, is in the lowest category, measuring less than 0.25 nano watts/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr. Large parts of the intervening landscape fall within the second lowest category, defined by the 0.25 to 0.5 nano watts/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr band. Notable exceptions include the settlements of Waltham, Shedfield and Bishop's Waltham, where radiance extends between two and four nano watts/cm<sup>2</sup>/sr.
- 13.7.43 The Moore's Reserve, which takes in the entire SDNP boundary, has International Dark Sky Reserve status. This is in official recognition of its naturally dark character at night and its lack of light pollution. The designation is largely defined by a critical core, which is outside the study area. identified as intrinsically dark (E1). The Lightscape Management Plan notes that the E0 category, which is limited to UNESCO Starlight Reserves and International Dark Skies Association Dark Sky Parks is not attainable for the SDNP as this implies banning lights which is not possible or lawful for a National Park to enforce. It also notes that there are occasional areas which fall within the Rural (E2) and Suburban (E3) categories. Surrounding the main core, are buffer areas defined as E1b Transition Zones and E1a Intrinsic Rural Darkness zones, which lie on the northern edge of the study area. The SDNP website includes a map which identifies ten locations which are promoted for stargazing. None of these locations fall within the study area, the closest being at Old Winchester Hill more than 10km from the Order Limits [56]. It is acknowledged that there may be other locations which are important for stargazing, particularly in the east which may coincide with the study area. Fieldwork was carried out between February 2024 and February 2025 to expand

the night-time baseline description of these areas and to understand the likelihood of likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

### Landscape features

- 13.7.44 Detailed surveys of habitats and trees have been carried out to inform the ES and the design of the Proposed Development. The arboricultural survey information is provided in ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This has informed the description of the landscape character baseline set out later in this section and the assessment of landscape and visual effects in section 13.8.

### Trees

- 13.7.45 The AIA has identified all trees with a stem diameter  $\geq 75\text{mm}$  at 1.5m above-ground level, within and in close proximity to the Statutory Summer 2024 Consultation draft Order Limits. Tree categories have been defined in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations as follows:

1. **Category A:** Trees of high quality and value. In such condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution to the site for a minimum of 40 years. As per standard arboricultural guidance, these are shown in green within the AIA plans.
2. **Category B:** Trees of moderate quality and value. In such condition as to make a significant contribution to the site, normally for a minimum of 20 years. As per standard arboricultural guidance, these are shown in blue within the AIA plans.
3. **Category C:** Trees of low quality and value but in adequate condition to provide contribution to the site for more than ten years. As per standard arboricultural guidance, these are shown in grey within the AIA plans.
4. **Category U:** Trees with serious structural defects, dead, dying, seriously diseased or in very poor condition with a likely remaining life span of less than ten years. As per standard arboricultural guidance, these are shown in red within the AIA plans.

- 13.7.46 The trees recorded are predominantly a mixture of broadleaf species, mainly comprising oak (*Quercus robur*) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*).

- 13.7.47 The extent of the areas directly surveyed for arboricultural purposes is shown on the Tree Constraints Plan (TCP) appended to the AIA. The tree survey information underpinning the AIA was undertaken between March 2023 and March 2025 alongside the iterative development of the Proposed Development. During this period, the design evolved having regard to consultation feedback and engagement with statutory consultees and additional survey findings relating in particular to avoidance of veteran trees.

- 13.7.48 For the purposes of this chapter, the directly surveyed areas that inform the AIA have been reviewed to identify those trees which remain within the LLCAs set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This provides a breakdown of landscape features (trees and hedgerows) by LLCA. On this basis, the dataset used for the LVIA

comprises 1,245 individual trees, 266 tree groups, and 25 woodlands reported by LLCA. Tree features recorded in the AIA which are associated with earlier route option alignments have been excluded from the LVIA baseline. This ensures that the assessment of landscape effects is proportionate and aligned with the Application Order Limits.

- 13.7.49 Arboricultural information will be reviewed and updated post-consent, informed by topographical survey and site access at that time. Any updates would relate to design refinement and due to the LLCAs based assessment and use of direct survey (primary) and secondary data, are not anticipated to result in changes of a nature or scale that would alter the landscape character or visual effects assessed in this LVIA.

#### Hedgerows

- 13.7.50 Habitat surveys were completed between April 2022 and April 2025. Hedgerows were categorised using the “*Wildlife and Landscape criteria*” in the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 [66].
- 13.7.51 There are 276 hedgerows within the field survey area, and 101 hedgerows crossed by the Pipeline. The field study area relates to the Order Limits plus an additional search area of up to 200m, as defined in Table 8-7 of ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.52 Hedgerows were recorded particularly bordering agricultural fields; they were predominantly native and species-rich, with several containing trees. A total of 58 hedgerows were classified as ‘important’ under the Wildlife and Landscape Criteria of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, of which 44 were recorded within the Order Limits.
- 13.7.53 The native hedgerows were mostly characterised by hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*). Non-native and ornamental hedgerows were most often dominated by Leyland cypress (*Cupressus x leylandii*) or cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).
- 13.7.54 A schedule of hedgerows, including the results of the Hedgerows Regulations surveys is found in Table 2-1 within ES Appendix 8.2 Habitats, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and the locations of all hedgerows including those that met the criteria for Important are shown in ES Figure 8.9 UK Habitat Classification for linear features including important hedgerows within the field survey area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).

#### Landscape designations

- 13.7.55 This section summarises the nationally and locally designated landscapes which coincide with the study area, which could be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Landscape designations are defined as areas requiring protection for landscape quality and value in law or policy. However, this assessment recognises that the character of these areas, and the extent to which their special qualities apply to different parts varies. This is informed by the patterns of elements that contribute positively to the designation, its character and its setting. This section cross-refers to the assessment of landscape character at the national, county and local scales to draw out these

variations and has informed the design of the Proposed Development, as described in section 13.4. The assessment of landscape effects in section 13.8 then addresses how impacts on the ground could lead to an effect on the designation or its setting.

- 13.7.56 As shown in ES Figure 13.11 Landscape designations, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), the majority of the study area is not covered by landscape designations.

#### *National landscape designations*

- 13.7.57 Nationally important landscapes in the UK are given statutory status and a high level of policy protection. Section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and section 85 of the CRoW Act 2000 were amended by Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to state that relevant authorities must seek to further the purposes for which these areas are designated, including with respect to proposals that are situated outside National Park or National Landscape boundaries, but which might have impacts on them.
- 13.7.58 There are two nationally designated landscapes which cover parts of the study area. These are the SDNP and the Chichester Harbour National Landscape. No part of these nationally designated landscapes coincides with the Order Limits. However, in both cases the Proposed Development has the potential to affect their statutory purposes, special qualities and setting.
- 13.7.59 This section provides a summary of the baseline conditions, which have informed a detailed assessment of the likely effects on nationally designated landscapes set out in section 13.8. Additional, more detailed information is provided in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

#### *South Downs National Park*

- 13.7.60 The SDNP was officially designated on 31 March 2010 and is the newest and most populous National Park in England with over 117,000 residents. It therefore presents unique challenges and opportunities which balance its statutory purposes. It covers an area of approximately 1,600km<sup>2</sup> extending from Eastbourne in the east to Winchester in the west. It lies in proximity to the coastline of the English Channel in the east and moves progressively inland in the west, broadening out between Chichester and Liphook and stretching nearly as far north as Farnham in Surrey.
- 13.7.61 The northern edge of the study area takes in parts of the south-western corner of the SDNP between Rowlands Castle, Bishop's Waltham and Colden Common where the land begins to rise. It also includes West Walk and parts of the valley of the River Meon within the Forest of Bere.

#### *Purposes of the South Downs National Park*

- 13.7.62 The SDNP Partnership Management Plan 2020 – 2025 [40] sets out the purposes of National Parks in England in Figure 1.3 and these are summarised as follows:
1. Purpose 1: to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.

2. Purpose 2: to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of the National Park by the public.
- 13.7.63 The statutory duty of the SDNP is to “*seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.*” Section 245 of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 amended the duty on relevant authorities (which includes the Applicant) in respect of their functions which affect land in National Parks and National Landscapes. They must now “*seek to further*” the statutory purposes of the Protected Landscape.
- 13.7.64 Paragraph 1.6 of the Partnership Management Plan states that “*public bodies, and statutory undertakers such as utility companies, when undertaking any activity which may have an impact on the designated area, have a duty to have regard to these purposes*”. The government published guidance for relevant authorities on seeking to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes in December 2024, which has informed the Applicant’s approach to the design. Additional information on this is provided in section 13.4 and the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5).
- 13.7.65 The statutory duty and purposes of the SDNP are underpinned by a vision set out in the bullet points below that states that, by 2050:
1. “*The iconic English lowland landscapes and heritage will have been conserved and greatly enhanced. These inspirational and distinctive places, where people live, work, farm and relax, are adapting well to the impacts of climate change and other pressures.*”
  2. *People will understand, value, and look after the vital natural services that the National Park provides. Large areas of high quality and well-managed habitat will form a network supporting wildlife throughout the landscape.*
  3. *Opportunities will exist for everyone to discover, enjoy, understand and value the National Park and its Special Qualities. The relationship between people and landscape will enhance their lives and inspire them to become actively involved in caring for it and using its resources more responsibly.*
  4. *Its Special Qualities will underpin the economic and social wellbeing of the communities in and around it, which will be more self-sustaining and empowered to shape their own future. Its villages and market towns will be thriving centres for residents, visitors and businesses and supporting the wider rural community.*
  5. *Successful farming, forestry, tourism and other business activities within the National Park will actively contribute to, and derive economic benefit from, its unique identity and Special Qualities.*”
- 13.7.66 Delivery of the vision is supported by a series of outcomes and priorities which cover the five-year period of the Partnership Management Plan.

#### *Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park*

- 13.7.67 As noted above, the Special Qualities relate to the second purpose of the designation of the SDNP. Figure 1.2 of the Partnership Management Plan 2020 to 2025 defines the seven Special Qualities of the SDNP, which are expressed as follows:
1. “*Distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area.*”

2. *Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences.*
3. *Well-connected historical features and rich cultural heritage.*
4. *Tranquil and unspoilt places.*
5. *A rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species.*
6. *An environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise.*
7. *Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views.”*

13.7.68 These Special Qualities relate closely to the character of the landscape and are promoted by the SDNPA to the public in pursuance of its duties. As noted above, the duty of relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of the SDNP extends to its setting, which includes parts of the Order Limits as described below. Therefore, there is potential for the Proposed Development to affect the Special Qualities and purposes of the SDNP and this is considered more in section 13.8.

13.7.69 This assessment considers the physical features and landscape patterns that inform its character at the local, county and national scale and which contribute positively to the setting of the SDNP. To support this, a detailed assessment of the Special Qualities which may be affected by the Proposed Development is set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This has informed the primary and tertiary mitigation outlined in section 13.4 above.

#### *Setting of the South Downs National Park*

13.7.70 As noted in point 5(13) of LI TGN 01/24, [21]the geographical extent of the setting of the SDNP is not defined on any plan or in law or policy.

13.7.71 The LVIA has identified that the LLCAs within the study area contribute to varying extents to its setting. These are:

1. LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes
2. LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland
3. LLCA 24: North Boarhunt
4. LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham
5. LLCA 29: Shedfield heathlands
6. LLCA 30: Durley claylands
7. LLCA 32: Bishop’s Waltham
8. LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street
9. LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland
10. LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen valley
11. LLCA 38: Colden Common

13.7.72 The baseline description of these LLCAs set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), explains where and to what extent each LLCA contributes to the setting of the SDNP. This appendix also identifies where there are likely to be effects on the setting as a consequence of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

- 13.7.73 Viewpoints which are located within these LLCAs are identified in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The assessment defines whether there is a visual connection between these viewpoints and the SDNP.
- 13.7.74 With respect to the study area and the Proposed Development, the setting of the SDNP comprises land which is generally close to the boundary of the designated area where there is similar landscape character or functional links. This includes the upper reaches of river valleys which extend south from the SDNP, comprising the Wallington River, River Meon, River Hamble and the River Itchen and the Itchen Navigation.
- 13.7.75 West of Waterlooville through to the River Wallington the setting is more extensive. It reaches south across the Forest of Bere to the ridgeline formed by Portsdown Hill where there is intervisibility with the SDNP and where the Order Limits are located. The extent to which the intervening landscape contributes to the setting is influenced by the abundance of large blocks of woodland.
- 13.7.76 Around Wickham, where the SDNP extends further south, the setting is substantially more limited by landform either side of the River Meon and dense areas of woodland.
- 13.7.77 To the west of Wickham, a low ridge incised by rivers, woodland and a smaller field pattern between Shirrel Heath and Bishopstoke defines the setting to the south as far as the River Itchen.
- 13.7.78 The land rises steeply to the west of the River Itchen floodplain to form a ridge, constraining the setting.
- 13.7.79 The part of the nationally designated area which falls within the study area and the setting described above, form part for the assessment of likely effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP summarised in section 13.8.
- 13.7.80 In conclusion, the SDNP is a nationally designated landscape with statutory status. The value attached to the landscape is very high and it is valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a).

#### *Ecosystem services*

- 13.7.81 The SDNP has published a series of web-based ecosystem services maps [43], which correspond with nine themes and express the spatial form, relative capacity and demand for the following services:
1. Accessible nature
  2. Air purification
  3. Carbon storage
  4. Education
  5. Green travel
  6. Local climate regulation
  7. Noise regulation
  8. Pollination
  9. Water purification

13.7.82 These maps have informed the preparation of the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5), as described in section 13.4. This addresses paragraph 2.6 of the Partnership Management Plan 2020 to 2025 [40], which states that *“infrastructure providers will be encouraged to identify the potential for harm to the National Park through an evidence-based approach and to following the mitigation hierarchy in the development and evolution of their proposals. The Defra Environmental metrics to achieve environmental net gain will be applied, where possible, to any proposals for new infrastructure and major development within the setting of and in the National Park.”*

*Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*

13.7.83 A small part of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape extends into the eastern side of the study area, to the west of Langstone and approximately 800m from the closest part of the Order Limits at Budds Farm WTW. It was designated in 1964 and extends to approximately 3,700ha across the harbour and its associated wetland habitats to the edges of West Wittering on the coast and Chichester inland to the west. It is managed by the CHC, which was established by the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Act in August 1971.

13.7.84 The Chichester Harbour Management Plan 2024 - 2025 [67] explains that the primary purpose of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty in line with relevant legislation [67]. However, it also notes on page 15 that the CHC is a unique organisation, being the only Statutory Harbour Authority with responsibility for a National Landscape and its purposes extend beyond that of other National Landscapes, to include leisure, recreation and the conservation of nature.

*Special Qualities of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape*

13.7.85 The CHC lists ten Special Qualities, which in-combination are considered to collectively define what is distinctive and significant about Chichester Harbour compared with other parts of the countryside. These special qualities were subject to public consultation in 2024 and are listed as follows: [68]

1. *“The unique blend of land and sea - especially the combination of large open water areas, narrow inlets and intimate creeks. Threatened by climate change, rising sea levels and inappropriate development.*
2. *The frequently wooded shoreline. These are narrow fringes sandwiched between rising sea levels and intensively farmed land; many roots already immersed in salt water have only a limited life left.*
3. *The flatness of the landform, unusual among National Landscapes, accentuates the significance of sea and tide and of distant landmarks across land and water. Inappropriate development can be seen from long distances and intrudes into the landscape, detracting from the historical features of interest.*
4. *The open water of the central area of the Harbour. A microcosm of the open sea beyond the harbour mouth, reflecting the clouds and sky, the wind and rain.*

5. *The overall sense of wilderness within the seascape. The naturalness that creates this sense is very dependent on maintaining natural processes and avoiding the dominance of man-made influences and structures.*
6. *The particularly strong historic character and associations. These links with our cultural heritage are not always properly understood and could be used to highlight the importance of protecting the landscape which provides their setting.*
7. *The picturesque harbourside settlements. Careful control of development is required if these harbourside villages are to retain their character. The trend towards large extensions and rebuilds creates a more urban feel to the landscape.*
8. *The wealth of flora and fauna, notably the vast flocks of wading birds, adds to the richness and diversity of the landscape. Chichester Harbour is internationally important for its many species and habitats and these must be given priority for protection. The health of the landscape can be measured by the biodiversity the Harbour offers. Surveys and monitoring of species and habitats form a vital part of ensuring the continued well-being of the National Landscape.*
9. *The unspoilt character and unobtrusive beauty. It is important that visitors to the Harbour understand and value its special qualities. The promotion of these special qualities should concentrate on raising visitors' awareness rather than attracting greater numbers.*
10. *The Harbour offers a very special sense of peace and tranquillity, largely engendered by the gentle way it is used and the closeness to nature that is experienced. People pressure, inappropriate development and pollution, particularly light and noise, can easily destroy this fragile value as can inappropriate activities".*

#### *Setting of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape*

- 13.7.86 The geographical extent of the setting of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape is not defined on any plan or in law or policy. The part of the setting which relates to the study area coincides broadly with the northern parts of LLCA 10: Hayling Island and LLCA 11: Langstone Harbour. The dense townscape of LLCA 08: Bedhampton creates a hard edge in the north.
- 13.7.87 The area is separated from the Order Limits by settlement in Langstone and in the wider context of settlement to the north and west. However, due to its openness, there are views from the coastal marshes and parkland towards the site of the WRP site and Budds Farm WTW. The parts of the Order Limits north and west of Portsmouth are screened by the prominent ridge of Portsdown Hill. None of the views identified in the Chichester Harbour Priority Views Study, 2020 [69] are orientated towards the Order Limits and are therefore not considered further in this LVIA.
- 13.7.88 In conclusion, the Chichester Harbour National Landscape is a nationally designated landscape with statutory status. The value attached to the landscape is very high and it is a valued landscape in the context of the NPPF paragraph 187(a).

Local landscape designations

- 13.7.89 The only local planning authority to have defined local landscape designations is FBC. These designations, which are referred to as Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQ), were originally defined in the 2000 Local Plan [70] and remain within its Fareham Local Plan 2037 [12].
- 13.7.90 The ASLQ are described within the Technical Review of Areas of Special Landscape Quality and Strategic Gaps [71]. The purpose of the study was to re-evaluate these to test whether they still merit the designation. This document was prepared by HCC on behalf of FBC and is a supporting document for Fareham Local Plan. This document pre-dates the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Paragraph 2 of Chapter 3 of the document states that *"The purpose of identifying Areas of Special Landscape Quality arose from the identified need to address the 'valued landscapes' of Fareham and directly links to Strategic Policy DS3: Landscape."* Paragraph 3 explains that each LCA and sub-area within the borough was tested against the GLVIA3 'valued landscape' (Box 5.1) criteria as described in Chapter 1 of that document:
1. Landscape quality (condition)
  2. Scenic quality
  3. Rarity
  4. Representativeness
  5. Conservation interests
  6. Recreational value
  7. Perceptual aspects
  8. Associations
- 13.7.91 The Applicant has used this information to inform the value attached to the landscape as set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), applying expanded criteria derived from TGN 02/21.
- 13.7.92 The four ASLQ are confined to small parts of the study area in the east. Extracts from the Technical Review of Areas of Special Landscape Quality and Strategic Gaps document are provided in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and are summarised below.
- 13.7.93 ASLQ 4: Meon Valley stretches from the coast in the south to the district boundary north of the M27 to the west of Funtley. The northern half of the designation falls within the study area, but no part coincides with the Order Limits. The high scenic quality and topographic and visual unity are noted as particularly applying to the lower reaches, outside of the study area. Exceptionally high levels of nature conservation interests and heritage are also important. Major road and rail corridors are identified as detracting influences in the upper section.
- 13.7.94 ASLQ 5: Forest of Bere and North Fareham Downs falls entirely within the study area and coincides with the Order Limits. It is also noted for its high scenic quality, topographic and visual unity and high tranquillity. The open, rural chalkland landscape with good nature conservation interest including woodland and riverside

habitats are emphasised. Pylons and powerlines are not considered to detract from the rural character.

- 13.7.95 ASLQ 6: Portsdown Hill covers the western part of Portsdown Hill, up to the boundary with Portsmouth to the north of Portchester. The whole of this designation falls within the study area and the northern part coincides with the Order Limits. It covers the western slopes and the narrow south facing chalk scarp directly above the M27. It is noted for its high scenic quality, good condition and distinctive chalk landform and downland habitats. Towering pylons and the influence of the M27 on tranquillity are noted as intrusive influences.
- 13.7.96 ASLQ 8: Cams to Portchester Coast lies in the southern part of the study area. It follows the coast between Fareham town centre and Portchester Castle, with the A27 and urban edge of Portchester forming its northern boundary. The area is noted for its lack of development, high scenic quality, comprising parklands and the enclosed Fareham Creek with high recreational value and an exceptional range of natural and historic conservation interests. It does not coincide with any part of the Order Limits and is visually separated by the elevated landform of Portsdown Hill to the north. It is not therefore considered further in this assessment.
- 13.7.97 It is important to note that the absence of local landscape designations in other local planning authority areas does not mean that other parts of the study area lack landscapes with value or that these landscapes could not be considered valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a). This is supported by Landscape Institute TGN 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations, [22] which recognises that local landscape designations have been inconsistently applied due to past changes of emphasis in national planning guidance. TGN 02/21 includes a range of factors that can be considered when identifying landscape value and these have been considered in developing and applying the methodology set out in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) for all LCAs across the study area.
- 13.7.98 In conclusion, the local landscapes designated within the Fareham Local Plan 2037 are supported by detailed evidence set out within the Technical Review of Areas of Special Landscape Quality and Strategic Gaps document. The value attached to ASLQ 4, ASLQ 5 and ASLQ 6, which are considered further in the assessment of effects on LLCAs, is high and they are considered valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a). Additional evidence to justify this assessment and the value attached to the landscape of these areas is set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

#### Other relevant designations

- 13.7.99 Natural and cultural heritage designations that contribute to landscape character and visual amenity are shown in ES Figure 13.12 Other relevant designations, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). These designations are referred to in the descriptions of LLCAs set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). They have informed the assessment of the value attached to the landscape and people's views of the landscape relating to specific features of the landscape and factors such as cultural heritage and associations.

- 13.7.100 Key designations within the study area include ancient woodland, which is particularly prevalent across the centre within the area defined by the Forest of Bere. Open access land and country parks are designated for public recreation and are also found mostly at the centre of the study area.
- 13.7.101 Reference has also been made to ES Figure 8.1 Statutory designated sites within the desk study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) and ES Figure 8.2 Internationally designated sites within the desk study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), of ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), which show the distribution of nature conservation sites.

### Current landscape character baseline

- 13.7.102 This section summarises the information gathered and assessed to describe the landscape character across the study area at the national, county, district and local scales. It defines which landscape receptors form the basis of the assessment and summarises the value attached to these receptors, with reference to the criteria set out in Table 1-5 of ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.103 Landscape character is defined by GLVIA3 [20] as “*a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.*” In accordance with the ELC, this definition includes the rural landscape, townscape and seascape. Landscape character assessment is defined within the glossary of GLVIA3 as the “*process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive.*”
- 13.7.104 The study area is large and diverse and has been studied at various scales by different bodies including NE, HCC and local planning authorities. This LVIA has assessed the likely impact and effects on landscape character according to the following hierarchy:
1. National, with reference to National Character Area profiles.
  2. County, with reference to LCAs defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment.
  3. Local, with reference to LLCA defined by competent experts acting on behalf the Applicant which have been informed by published landscape character assessments at the national, county and local planning authority scale.
- 13.7.105 Detailed descriptions of each LCA, its key characteristics, the value attached to the landscape and the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Development are reported in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This identifies the position of each LCA in the hierarchy and its relationship with other LCAs at each scale with a summary provided at the end of this section.

Published landscape character assessments

13.7.106 Relevant national, county and district scale published landscape character assessments have been reviewed to identify the key features and characteristics across the study area.

*National Character Areas*

- 13.7.107 Natural England has divided the country into 159 NCAs. Paragraph 5.14 of GLVIA3 states that “*broad-scale assessments at national or regional level can be helpful in setting the landscape context, but are unlikely to be helpful on their own as the basis for LVIA – they may be too generalised to be appropriate for the particular purpose*”. These profiles were updated by NE and published on a new website in 2024 [72].
- 13.7.108 As shown in ES Figure 13.13 National Character Areas, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), the Order Limits are of such a scale that the majority of the study area lies within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. This NCA has therefore been scoped into the assessment of landscape effects.
- 13.7.109 NCA 128 stretches west from Havant to Romsey and Totton outside of the study area. The NCA profile summarises the character as a low-lying plain between the chalk hills of Hampshire and the South Downs and Southampton Water with its highest point being the outlying chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill. The NCA is described as being dominated by the city and port of Southampton and its adjoining towns and suburbs, much of which lie outside of the study area. Overall, 29% of the area is urban and in the more rural areas, it is described as a mixture of farmland, particularly pasture, and woodland. Of particular relevance to the study area is the reference to the NCA landscape being drained by several rivers, including the lower reaches of the River Itchen, the source and headwaters of the River Hamble and the middle section of the River Meon. Development pressure is noted as a driver of change and that this would need to be implemented sensitively, including safeguarding important adjacent sites including the SDNP.
- 13.7.110 NCA 128 lies largely outside of the SDNP but within its setting to the north. Small parts of the area are covered by ASLQ 4: Meon Valley, ASLQ 5: Forest of Bere and North Fareham Downs and ASLQ 6: Portsdown Hill, defined in the Fareham Local Plan 2037. These areas, and several of the LLCAs that fall within NCA 128 are identified as valued landscape. There are also several indicators of value, including extensive areas of ancient woodland, heritage assets and recreational areas. However, major transport routes, large urban areas and industrial activity which extend to areas of the NCA outside of the study area weigh on the value attached to the landscape at this scale. This includes the busy M27, M3 and A3(M) and the conurbation of Southampton and Eastleigh. Overall, the value attached to the landscape within NCA 128 is assessed as medium and the landscape is not considered to meet the threshold of valued landscape in the context of NPPF paragraph 187.
- 13.7.111 Each NCA profile includes Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO). These are intended to help guide development and positive land management practices within the NCA and have been considered in developing the design principles and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) for the Proposed

Development. The Statements of Environmental Opportunity for NCA 128 are summarised in the document as follows:

1. SEO 1: Promote creative and effective sustainable development – including a well-connected network of high-quality greenspace in and around Southampton, Romsey, Eastleigh and Havant – which benefits local businesses and communities, protects local distinctiveness, encourages public understanding and enjoyment of the natural environment, and helps to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
2. SEO 2: Conserve, manage and enhance the semi-natural habitats of the river valleys, their estuaries and intertidal areas along the coast, to maintain water availability and flow, reduce flooding downstream, improve water quality, and enhance their biodiversity and landscape benefits.
3. SEO 3: Protect, manage and enhance the area's historic well-wooded character – including its ancient semi-natural woodlands, wood pasture and hedgerows – to increase biomass provision, link and strengthen habitats for wildlife, and improve recreational opportunities.
4. SEO 4: Conserve, manage, link and enhance the traditional mosaic of seminatural grassland habitats – including chalk grassland, water meadows and unimproved grassland – for the benefits they provide in protecting and regulating soils and water, climate change adaptation as well as recreational opportunities and improved biodiversity.

13.7.112 In addition to NCA 128, small parts of the following NCAs also extend into the study area:

1. National Character Area 125: South Downs lies across the north-western corner and extends north and east across the SDNP. No part of the Proposed Development falls within NCA 125.
2. National Character Area 126: South Coast Plain extends across the southern part of the study area and further south to the English Channel, encompassing the urban areas, coastline of Fareham, Gosport, Portsmouth, Havant and Hayling Island and seascape. The only part of the Proposed Development within NCA 126 is the WRP site and Budds Farm WTW.
3. National Character Area 130: Hampshire Downs occupies a small part of the study area in the north-west, including part of Order Limits where the Otterbourne WTW is located. It extends substantially further north, taking in Andover and Basingstoke and the intervening countryside.

13.7.113 There would be no likely significant effects on NCA 125, NCA 126 or NCA 130 as a result of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development. This is due to their large scale and the small proportion of these NCAs which coincide with the study area and the Order Limits. They have not therefore been considered further within this LVIA, but effects on the landscape within these parts of the study area have been assessed with reference to county LCAs and LLCAs in the subsequent sections.

#### *County landscape character assessment*

13.7.114 The Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, which was published in 2010, provides consistent baseline information across the study area. It has been used

in this LVIA to form the basis of an assessment of landscape effects at the county scale.

- 13.7.115 The methodology for the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment is set out in the Summary Method Statement. This references guidance published by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2002, which was subsequently superseded by NEs *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*, which was published in 2014.
- 13.7.116 Section 1.4 of the Summary Method Statement states that “*each of the Boroughs and Districts of Hampshire have undertaken landscape character assessments, but a County assessment is valuable because:*
1. *Local assessments do cover the County, but have been undertaken at different scales and grains, using slightly different methodologies.*
  2. *The County assessment gives a consistent approach to characterisation across Hampshire. This is important for large scale and strategic place shaping work.*
  3. *For projects which cross administrative boundaries within Hampshire the assessment provides a consistent reporting framework and style.”*
- 13.7.117 The Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment defines a series of LCTs and LCAs and draft townscape assessments for 23 of the larger settlements in Hampshire. The LCAs which coincide with the study area are shown in ES Figure 13.14 Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.118 The information within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment has been reviewed and has updated and expanded the baseline to determine the value attached to the landscape at this scale in line with current best practice. This information is set out in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Table 13-10 summarises the value attached to the landscape for each of the 12 LCAs which coincide with the study area.

**Table 13-10 County Landscape Character Areas**

County LCA reference and name	Value attached to the landscape
LCA 2d: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic	High
LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West	High
LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East	High
LCA 3c: Itchen Valley	Very high
LCA 3e: Meon Valley	Very high
LCA 7f: West Winchester Downs	High
LCA 7g: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs	Very high
LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs	High
LCA 9f: Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain	Medium
LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain	High
LCA 10a: Langstone and Chichester Harbours	Very high
LCA 10b: Portsmouth Harbour	Medium

13.7.119 HCC published the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment in 1999. This provides a detailed evidence base, describing how the landscape has evolved for use in future strategic planning. Whilst it is approaching 25 years old, it remains relevant because it draws upon documentary evidence which has not changed. It has been used to inform the definition of LLCAs, described in detail in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

*Local planning authority landscape character assessments*

13.7.120 Each of the seven local planning authorities which cover the study area have published a landscape character assessment. These studies are listed below:

1. East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment, 2006 [48]
2. East Hampshire District Landscape Character Assessment Update, 2024 [23]
3. Havant Borough Townscape, Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment, 2007 [14]
4. Portsmouth Urban Characterisation Study, 2011 [51]
5. Fareham Landscape Assessment, 2017 [50]
6. Winchester Landscape Character Assessment SPD, 2022 [52]
7. Landscape Character Assessment for Eastleigh Borough, 2011 [49]
8. SDNP Landscape Character Assessment, 2020 [45]

13.7.121 The LCAs defined within these published studies which fall within the study area are listed within ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

13.7.122 As noted above, with reference to the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment [47], these studies differ in age and the level of detail they provide. ES Figure 13.16 District Landscape Character Assessments, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), shows that the scale of the LCAs defined in these studies also vary substantially and the boundaries are not consistent with the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment. For example, the character areas defined within the Havant assessment are very small, whereas the character areas defined by Winchester are large and do not follow the boundaries of the Hampshire assessment. Furthermore, the assessment for Havant pre-date the current Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment. The landscape character assessment for East Hampshire was updated in 2024 and replaces the previous version published in 2006. This assessment covers the area of the district outside the SDNP only.

13.7.123 It is necessary to define a consistent scale and level of detail in the definition of LCAs across the study area to form the basis of the assessment of likely impacts and effects. Therefore, whilst these published studies have informed the definition of the LLCAs described above, and the value attached to the landscape at all scales, impacts and effects on the LCAs defined within local planning authority landscape character assessments have not been assessed.

*Local Landscape Character Areas*

- 13.7.124 Whilst LCAs defined at the county level are relatively consistent in scale, they are broad and are not sufficiently detailed to draw distinctions at the local level. The study area has been sub-divided into LLCAs to provide a finer grain and more proportionate scale to the Proposed Development. They are generally subdivisions of the county LCAs and have also been informed where relevant by the boundaries of LCAs defined at the district level and through fieldwork. The LLCAs defined cover the whole study area, including areas of townscape and seascape.
- 13.7.125 The finer grain of the LLCAs also means that they provide detail which has informed the emerging design of the Proposed Development, including the design principles, environmental mitigation and enhancement opportunities.
- 13.7.126 The EIA Scoping Report (ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)) referred to 44 LLCAs, but LLCA 41 was not defined due to an error. Therefore, LLCA 44: Lower Itchen Valley has been re-numbered within this ES as LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley.
- 13.7.127 The removal of the option comprising proposed Underground Pipelines between the WRP site and Havant Thicket Reservoir means that the following LLCAs will no longer be affected by the Proposed Development and consequently they have been removed from the scope of the LVIA:
1. LLCA 01: Stansted Wooded Estate Downland edge
  2. LLCA 02: Rowlands Castle and Redhill
  3. LLCA 03: Havant Thicket forest
  4. LLCA 04: Havant Thicket Reservoir
  5. LLCA 05: Hollybank Woods and paddocks
  6. LLCA 06: Staunton Country Park
  7. LLCA 07: Southleigh
- 13.7.128 The numbering of all remaining LLCAs has been retained because they have been used extensively in consultation with stakeholders and to assist with comparisons against the assessment set out in the PEI Report. Therefore, there are a total of 36 LLCAs within the study area and the location and extents of these are illustrated on ES Figure 13.17 Local Landscape Character Areas, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.129 The key characteristics, value, susceptibility to change, and sensitivity of each LLCA and how they relate to the LCAs defined in published landscape character assessments are provided in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and summarised in Table 13-11 below. This shows that the value attached to the landscape varies across the study area. It is generally lower within the urban areas across the southern and western parts and higher in the east and north where there are nationally and locally designated landscapes.

**Table 13-11 Local Landscape Character Areas**

Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)	Value attached to the landscape
LLCA 08: Bedhampton	Medium
LLCA 09: Chichester Harbour	Very high
LLCA 10: Hayling Island	Medium
LLCA 11: Langstone Harbour	High
LLCA 12: Brockhampton industrial area	Very low
LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks	Medium
LLCA 14: Portsmouth	Low
LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge	High
LLCA 16: A3(M) corridor	Medium
LLCA 17: Purbrook and Waterlooville	Low
LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes	High
LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland	High
LLCA 20: Southwick and Southwick House	High
LLCA 21: Portchester	Medium
LLCA 22: Fareham	Low
LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open downs west	Medium
LLCA 24: North Boarhunt	High
LLCA 25: Forest of Bere Rookesbury	Very high
LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham	High
LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley	Very high
LLCA 28: Whiteley Woodlands	High
LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands	High
LLCA 30: Durley Claylands	Medium
LLCA 31: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs southern edge	Very high
LLCA 32: Bishop's Waltham	Medium
LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street	Medium
LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland	Medium
LLCA 35: Hornton Heath	Low
LLCA 36: Bishopstoke	Low
LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley	High
LLCA 38: Colden Common	Low
LLCA 39: Eastleigh	Low
LLCA 40: Chandler's Ford	Medium
LLCA 41: Cranbury Woodlands	High
LLCA 42 Hursley Scarplands	Medium
LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley (was LLCA 44 in the EIA Scoping Report)	Very high

Summary of the landscape baseline

- 13.7.130 The landscape within the study area varies between the coastal plain in the south, where the majority of settlement is located, and the uplands of the South Downs in the north.
- 13.7.131 The study area includes parts of the SDNP and Chichester Harbour National Landscape. The value attached to these receptors is very high owing to their national designation. Small parts of the study area in the south are covered by ASLQ designations defined in the Fareham Local Plan 2037 (2023) [12]. The value attached to the landscape covered by these designations has been assessed as high. These national and local designations have informed the value attached to the LCAs identified in published studies and LLCAs. They are also considered to be valued landscapes in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a).
- 13.7.132 At the national level, most of the study area is covered by NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. This is a large area which includes substantial areas of settlement, infrastructure and industry and the value attached to the landscape at this level has been assessed as medium.
- 13.7.133 There are 12 LCAs identified at the county level in the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment which cover the study area. The value attached to the landscape of these LCAs ranges between medium and very high.
- 13.7.134 At the local level the study area has been broken down more into 36 LLCA, which include areas of townscape and seascape. The value attached to the landscape of these receptors ranges from low to very high, influenced by factors including designation and the extent and type of existing development. The LLCAs with very high and high value are generally associated with designated landscapes, but also include areas within local planning authorities which do not have landscapes designations.
- 13.7.135 The results of the AIA and hedgerow surveys have been reviewed to inform the baseline for the LLCAs described in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and summarised in this chapter.

**Current visual baseline**

- 13.7.136 This section describes the visual baseline with reference to the visual receptors and representative viewpoints identified within the study area through a review of ZTVs and fieldwork surveys.

Zones of Theoretical Visibility

- 13.7.137 A ZTV is a computer-generated image which analyses the relationship between the existing topography and the maximum parameters of the Proposed Development to map the theoretical extent of views. In line with GLVIA3, 'bare earth' ZTVs do not take account of potential screening by vegetation or buildings and have been constructed using multiple-point analysis. All ZTVs have assumed an observer height of 1.6m above-ground level, based on the midpoint of average heights for men and women. ZTVs do not take account of the acuity of the eye, which is the ability to resolve details in the distance. This is addressed in the

definition of the study area and selection of representative viewpoints, refined through desk study and fieldwork.

- 13.7.138 Paragraph 6.10 of GLVIA3 states that “*other landscape components that may affect visibility, for example buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows, woodland and banks, can in theory be added to digital models that are based on terrain but this is difficult to achieve accurately, especially for a large study area.*” The height of surface features can now be modelled from modern mapping data. The ZTVs with screening include building heights derived from OS Master Map data and woodland over 0.5ha from the National Forest Inventory, the average height of which has been calculated from the EA digital surface map (DSM) data. These ZTVs have helped to refine the study area and target fieldwork, which has recorded the location, size and extent, and their effect in screening visibility at key points.
- 13.7.139 The bare earth ZTV of construction shown in ES Figure 13.18 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, bare earth – whole Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), indicates the potential for wide ranging views across large parts of the study area. This is because the land is generally flat or gently undulating. High ground associated with the SDNP to the north and Portsdown Hill to the south is effective in limiting the extent of more distant views.
- 13.7.140 The screening provided by buildings and woodland limits the theoretical extent of views of construction, as shown in ES Figure 13.19 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, with screening – Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). This is particularly evident in the central part of the study area associated with the Forest of Bere, where there are many blocks of ancient woodland. Visibility still extends into some urban areas, although this is generally more limited to glimpses between buildings, particularly on urban edges.
- 13.7.141 The ZTV with screening for operation shown in ES Figure 13.21 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (operation, with screening – Proposed Development, differentiating Above Ground Plant), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), indicates that the theoretical extent of visibility is substantially reduced compared to the bare earth ZTV by existing buildings and vegetation and limited to the local area in the case of most AGP.
- 13.7.142 The ZTVs have been used to help identify sensitive visual receptor groups and locate representative viewpoints. Fieldwork surveys have shown that other vegetation not modelled into the ZTV, for example along field boundaries and in private gardens, reduces the extent of visibility. This is recorded in the baseline sections of ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

#### Visual receptors

- 13.7.143 People (visual receptors) likely to experience views of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development were identified through interrogation of the ZTVs and fieldwork, and subsequently categorised into the following types:
1. People travelling along PRowS which are promoted routes
  2. People travelling along PRowS which are not promoted routes
  3. Residents
  4. Tourists

5. People using public open spaces
6. People travelling through the area on main roads

13.7.144 A description of the baseline view experienced by each visual receptor group is provided in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Where a collection of visual receptors in the same category are likely to experience similar views, these have been grouped.

13.7.145 The value attached to views varies across the study area and is specific to each location. It has been established at the baseline stage, independent of the nature or activity of the receptor and of the Proposed Development. There is some relationship between the value attached to the landscape and people's views of the landscape, and this is explained on a case-by-case basis in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The susceptibility of visual receptors to change, which together with the value attached to views informs their sensitivity, is defined in the assessment of visual effects in section 13.8.

#### Representative and specific viewpoints

13.7.146 Viewpoints have been identified and used to inform the assessment of visual effects, the locations of which are shown in ES Figure 13.22 Representative viewpoint, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). These viewpoints have been informed by consultation with HCC and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities.

13.7.147 Representative viewpoints have been selected to represent a range of close, middle and long-distance views from various receptor groups including residents, recreational users and people travelling through the area. In some cases, a viewpoint may have been selected as it is representative of more than one visual receptor group. An example of this is where a PRoW is close to houses or where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the likely significant effects are unlikely to differ, as explained in paragraph 6.19 of GLVIA3 [20]. Sequential views from key roads and promoted PRoWs have been considered with reference to relevant representative viewpoints (see ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)).

13.7.148 A small number of specific viewpoints have been identified by competent experts acting on behalf of the Applicant because they are key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, for example from the car parks on Portsdown Hill. Such viewpoints are usually identified on OS maps or at the viewpoint location with interpretation material, such as viewpoint panels.

13.7.149 A review of the SDNP: View Characterisation and Analysis report (2015) [54] has not identified specific viewpoints which are within the study area that are orientated towards the Order Limits.

13.7.150 At the SDNPA's request, the Applicant has identified within ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) whether each of the viewpoints identified in the LVIA are within the designated area of the SDNP, within its setting, or outside both the designation and its setting. Including those on the border of the designation, the following ten viewpoints are

located within the SDNP: VP046, VP048, VP050, VP051, VP082, VP085, VP089, VP099, VP112, VP118.

- 13.7.151 With respect to viewpoints within the setting, these have been defined with reference to the LLCAs listed in paragraph 13.7.71 above. Of the 68 viewpoints within the 14 LLCAs that contribute to the setting of the SDNP to varying degrees, only those within LLCAs that strongly contribute to the setting, purposes, or special qualities of the SDNP have been classified as being within its setting, as well as those geographically within the immediate setting or where specific parts of the LLCA have been noted as contributing to the setting of the SDNP, as referenced in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The 14 viewpoints considered to be within the setting of the SDNP are VP008, VP083, VP084, VP088, VP090, VP093, VP103, VP104, VP106, VP107, VP110, VP117, VP120, and VP126.
- 13.7.152 Viewpoints within LLCAs that have a limited contribution to the setting of the SDNP, or where the character is notably different, have been classified as outside the SDNP, along with the remaining viewpoints.
- 13.7.153 The Chichester Harbour Priority Views Study (2020) [69] and Chichester Harbour AONB Viewpoint Map [73] include a viewpoint on Thorney Island from which the ZTVs indicate there might theoretically be views towards the construction of the WRP site. Consequently, it has been identified as VP002 in the LVIA.
- 13.7.154 Whilst most views towards the site are from ground level, it is acknowledged that there are some taller structures from where longer distance views towards the Proposed Development may be available. The Spinnaker Tower is a 170m high landmark observation tower in Portsmouth, located on the western side of Portsea Island outside of the study area. It is promoted for tourism as a specific location to experience panoramic views across the city and the Solent. The principal viewing gallery is orientated towards the south-west, across Portsmouth Harbour. Whilst there are views to the north in the direction of the Proposed Development, these are largely screened by the entrance lobby and lifts. Views of construction, operation and decommissioning would form a very small part of the wider panorama and would be located amongst dense urban development and would not change the visual amenity of visitors to the Spinnaker Tower. These views are therefore not assessed further.
- 13.7.155 As a consequence of the removal of the option of the Pipelines between the Water Recycling Plant site and Havant Thicket Reservoir, the following visual receptor groups and associated representative viewpoints have been removed from the scope of the LVIA:
1. People travelling along E9 European long-distance trail (VP005 and VP006)
  2. People travelling along Staunton Way (VP003)
  3. People travelling along footpath 108/121/1 (VP008)
  4. People travelling along footpath 108/40/1 (VP013)
  5. Residents of Leigh Park, Havant (VP005, VP007 and VP008)
  6. Visitors to Staunton Country Park (VP003 and VP006)
  7. People using Hook Lane Recreation Ground (VP013)

13.7.156 The numbering of all remaining viewpoints has been retained because they have been used extensively in consultation with stakeholders and to assist with comparisons against the assessment set out in the PEI Report.

13.7.157 Photographs of the existing baseline, captured during winter fieldwork in early 2024, in early 2025 and summer fieldwork between July and September 2024 and 2025, are included in the ES for each representative viewpoint. These are presented as Landscape Institute Type 1 annotated photographs. Verifiable photomontages (Landscape Institute Type 4) have been prepared for a selection of viewpoints (winter and summer) associated with the AGP for the operation scenario. The Applicant agreed these with HCC and relevant local planning authorities. These are presented in ES Figure 13.23 Viewpoint photography, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).

13.7.158 Table 13-12 summarises the visual receptor groups identified, the corresponding viewpoints shown on ES Figure 13.22 Representative viewpoint, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), and the value attached to the view at these locations.

**Table 13-12 Visual receptor groups**

Visual receptor group	Representative viewpoints	Value attached to views
<b>People travelling along PRow which are promoted routes</b>		
People travelling along the Allan King Way	VP038, VP041, VP072	Medium to high
People travelling along the Hayling Billy Coastal Path	VP004	High
People travelling along the Itchen Way	VP103	Medium
People travelling along the Meon Valley Trail	VP054	Medium
People travelling along the Pilgrims' Way	VP029, VP032, VP033, VP077, VP082	Low to very high
People travelling along the Solent Way	VP011, VP016, VP017, VP129	Low to high
People travelling along the Sussex Border Path	VP002	Very high
People travelling along the Wayfarer's Walk	VP009, VP018, VP019, VP020	Low to medium
<b>People travelling along PRow which are not promoted routes</b>		
People travelling along footpath 108/30/1	VP014	Low
People travelling along footpath 218/28/1	VP022, VP023, VP034	Medium to high
People travelling along footpath 218/38/1	VP037	High
People travelling along footpath 023/14/1	VP042	Low
People travelling along footpath 023/14/1	VP131	High
People travelling along footpath 084/107/1	VP130	High
People travelling along footpath 084/130/1	VP045	High
People travelling along footpath 251/6/1	VP048, VP051	Low to very high

Visual receptor group	Representative viewpoints	Value attached to views
People travelling along footpath 207/13/1	VP055	Low
People travelling along footpath 251/1/1	VP128	Low
People travelling along footpath 251/23a/1	VP060	Medium
People travelling along footpath 251/14/2	VP062	Medium
People travelling along footpath 207/3/2	VP069	Medium
People travelling along footpath 062/4/1	VP073	Medium
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/20/1	VP083	High
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/26/1	VP086	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/23/1	VP094	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/22/1	VP095	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/21/1	VP097	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/5/3	VP100	Low
People travelling along footpath 082/6/1	VP106	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/1/1	VP110	Medium
People travelling along footpath 084/101/1	VP123	High
People travelling along footpath 084/103/1	VP124	High
People travelling along footpath 251/10/2	VP125	Low
People travelling along footpath 251/1/1	VP128	Low
People travelling along footpath 207/3/2	VP069	Medium
People travelling along footpath 062/4/1	VP073	Medium
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/20/1	VP083	High
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/26/1	VP086	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/23/1	VP094	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/22/1	VP095	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/21/1	VP097	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/5/3	VP100	Low
People travelling along footpath 082/6/1	VP106	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/1/1	VP110	Medium
People travelling along footpath 084/101/1	VP123	High
People travelling along footpath 084/103/1	VP124	High
People travelling along footpath 251/10/2	VP125	Low
People travelling along footpath 251/1/1	VP128	Low
People travelling along footpath 207/3/2	VP069	Medium
People travelling along footpath 062/4/1	VP073	Medium

Visual receptor group	Representative viewpoints	Value attached to views
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/20/1	VP083	High
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium
People travelling along footpath 069/26/1	VP086	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/23/1	VP094	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/22/1	VP095	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/21/1	VP097	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/5/3	VP100	Low
People travelling along footpath 082/6/1	VP106	Medium
People travelling along footpath 054/1/1	VP110	Medium
People travelling along footpath 207/12/2	VP116	Low
People travelling along footpath 084/101/1	VP123	High
People travelling along footpath 084/103/1	VP124	High
<b>Residents of local communities</b>		
Residents of Bedhampton	VP121	Medium
Residents of Portsdown Hill Road (B2177)	VP108	Medium
Residents of Widley (western edge)	VP018, VP019, VP020	Medium
Residents of Wickham	VP046, VP050, VP065, VP070, VP125, VP128	Low to very high
Residents of Funtley, North Fareham and surrounding scattered properties north of M27	VP053	Medium
Residents of Waltham Chase	VP068, VP114	Low
Residents Bishop's Waltham	VP075	Low
Residents of Lower Upham	VP085, VP090, VP117, VP118	Medium to very high
Residents of Crowdhill and Fisher's Pond	VP093	Medium
Residents of Durley	VP120	Medium
Residents of Colden Common	VP094, VP095, VP096, VP100	Low to medium
Residents of Otterbourne	VP104	Medium
Residents of Shirrel Heath	VP055, VP116, VP134	Low
<b>Tourists</b>		
Visitors of Fort Nelson	VP038	High
<b>People using public open spaces</b>		
People using Broadmarsh Coastal Park	VP016	Low
People visiting Portsdown Hill Viewpoint and associated public open space	VP021	High

Visual receptor group	Representative viewpoints	Value attached to views
People using the open space north of Fort Widley	VP024	High
People using Oakwood Park Recreation Ground	VP104	Medium
People using Bambridge Park	VP110	Medium
<b>People travelling through the area on main roads</b>		
People travelling along A32	VP047, VP126	Low
People travelling along B2177	VP031, VP046, VP085, VP090, VP108, VP112	Medium to very high
People travelling along B3035	VP076	Medium
People travelling along B3354 (Winchester Road)	VP093	Medium
<b>People travelling through the area on local roads</b>		
People travelling along Harts Farm Way	VP015	Low
People travelling along Sheepwash Lane	VP026	Medium
People travelling along Belnet Lane/Pigeon House Lane	VP030	Medium
People travelling along Crooked Walk Lane	VP036	Medium
People travelling along Ashley Down Lane	VP039	Low
People travelling along Nine Elms Lane	VP043	High
People travelling along Frith Lane	VP050, VP051	Low to high
People travelling along Pricketts Hill	VP052	Medium
People travelling along Kiln Road	VP053	Medium
People travelling along Mayles Lane	VP060, VP127	Medium
People travelling along Titchfield Lane	VP065, 070	Low
People travelling along Cudridge Lane	VP073	Medium
People travelling along Winters Hill	VP083	Medium
People travelling along Scivier's Lane	VP088, VP118, VP120	Medium to very high
People travelling along Baybridge Lane	VP089	Very high
People travelling along Kiln Lane	VP099, VP107	Low to very high
People travelling along Bishopstoke Lane	VP111	Low
People travelling along Curdrige Lane	VP113	Low
People travelling along Sandy Lane	VP114	Low
People travelling along Alma Lane	VP117	High
People travelling along Forest Lane	VP125	Low
People travelling along Mayles Lane	VP127	Low

[Overview of the visual baseline](#)

13.7.159 Desk study and fieldwork surveys have identified the following principal areas within the study area which strongly influence visual amenity. These areas relate

better to the landscape character baseline described in section 13.7 than the components of the Proposed Development referred to in other chapters of the ES. They have been used to help structure and summarise the visual baseline and the likely visual effects described in section 13.8:

1. Havant and Bedhampton
2. Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere
3. River Meon to the River Itchen

13.7.160 At the time of the PEI Report, two options were being considered for the section of Pipeline between the WRP site and Havant Thicket Reservoir. However, the Proposed Development now does not include any construction works within two miles of Staunton Country Park, which means that Havant Thicket Reservoir and Staunton Country Park would no longer be affected by the Proposed Development. Consequently, the area previously described in the PEI Report has been removed from the scope of the LVIA set out in this ES.

#### *Havant and Bedhampton*

13.7.161 The WRP site lies to the north of Broadmarsh Coastal Park and Langstone Harbour, which are popular locations for public recreation and tourism. Two car parks and a small boatyard and slipway are located here. There are close distance views towards the site from the Solent Way (part of the King Charles III England Coast Path) on the southern edge of the park (VP016) and longer distance views from Farlington Marshes to the south-west (VP017). However, the focus of these views is to the south, across Langstone Harbour and towards Hayling Island.

13.7.162 There are also views towards the site of the WRP site from the Solent Way to the east from either side of the Hermitage Stream. These views are substantially screened by the elevated landform and dense vegetation on the eastern side of the site and Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP011). Views towards the Budds Farm WTW are substantially screened by dense woodland and industrial development to the north. This is evident from VP011, where the principal views are across Langstone Harbour.

13.7.163 There are some locations within Hayling Island to the south towards the site of the WRP site, although this forms a very small part of much wider panoramas. This includes the Hayling Billy Line (VP004), which is a popular cycling and walking route with several viewpoint information boards.

13.7.164 Views from the north are substantially more screened. The A27, which forms the northern boundary is in a cutting, the slopes of which are densely vegetated with trees and scrub. Views from a footbridge across the A27 at the north-eastern corner of the site of the WRP site, which is elevated, are also limited by the vegetation on the eastern and northern boundaries (VP014). Further north within Bedhampton this and other intervening vegetation and buildings screen views, as illustrated by VP009. Views from a new housing estate on the southern edge of Bedhampton are slightly more open but are interrupted by vegetation along the A27 (VP121). It is evident from fieldwork that there are also views from a small number of properties at the eastern end of Portsdown Hill towards the site of the WRP site. These views are represented by VP108 located on the B2177 Portsdown Hill Road.

*Views from Langstone Harbour.*

13.7.165 Baseline views across Langstone Harbour are represented by VP004 from the western edge of Hayling Island, and views from the Solent Way as it wraps around the northern edge of the Harbour (VP011, VP016), the eastern edge of Farlington Marshes (VP129, VP133), and along Eastern Road (VP129, VP133). These views are defined by expansive, open panoramas over Langstone Harbour, with a natural coastal character shaped by intertidal wetlands and open grasslands. Built elements such as the Langstone Bridge, remnants of the historic Hayling Billy Line railway, and moored boats add visual interest and depth. Across these views, industrial buildings within Brockhampton Industrial Estate are prominent in the background, often standing out due to their white colour. The urban edges of Havant, Portsmouth, and Fareham are frequently visible in the background, with Portsdown Hill forming a consistent ridgeline and visual horizon. Existing vegetation softens views, particularly around Broadmarsh Coastal Park and along major transport corridors. The WRP site is generally screened or blended into these contexts.

*Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere*

13.7.166 The focus of views from the public open space, open access land and PRowS across the elevated ridge of Portsdown Hill is generally towards the south (VP021). This is because the scarp slope drops away steeply, giving rise to open, panoramic views across the urban skyline of Havant, Portsmouth and Fareham and as far as Southampton to the west and the Isle of Wight to the south across the Solent. There are several public car parks and interpretation material, which assist in understanding the history of the landscape and monuments and the visual amenity of the viewing places along the ridge.

13.7.167 Views north across the dip slope of Portsdown Hill extend many kilometres across the wooded farmland of the Forest of Bere to the high ground within the SDNP. This creates a strong wooded skyline and visually encloses the landscape. Views are generally screened or filtered from the B2177 Portsdown Hill Road but are more open from the car parks and the open space around the Napoleonic forts which line the ridge. The Order Limits traverse the dip slope and are screened in places by vegetation on field boundaries, which increases with the abundance of woodland and as the field scale decreases further to the west.

13.7.168 At the eastern end of this area from the north the abundance of woodland substantially screens views towards the Order Limits. There are views from some sections of PRowS, including the promoted routes of the Pilgrims' Way (VP029, VP032 and VP033) and Wayfarer's Walk (VP018, VP019 and VP020). The valleys of the Wallington River and the River Meon have a more complex topography and views become shorter, particularly where woodland and riparian vegetation increases.

13.7.169 There is relatively little settlement in the eastern and central parts of this area. Portsdown Hill screens views of the Order Limits from the urban areas of Portsmouth and Fareham to the south. Views west from the edge of Widley take in the site of the BPT/IPS-E on Portsdown Hill to the north and across the Order Limits further west (VP018, VP019 and VP020). There are also views from the southern edge of Southwick, but not from within the village itself (VP034). At the

western end of this section, there are some views across parts of the Order Limits from the edges of the settlements of Wickham (VP125, VP126) and Wickham Common (VP046).

#### *River Meon to the River Itchen*

- 13.7.170 West of the River Meon the landscape generally has smaller scale, irregular shaped fields, suggestive of a surviving historic landscape pattern, and more settlement and woodland. This is supported by the evidence provided in ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), which identifies mature trees in the area. There are sequential views across parts of the Order Limits from promoted routes, including the Meon Valley Trail (VP054 and VP064), the Allan King Way (VP072), the Pilgrims' Way (VP077 and VP082) and the Itchen Way (VP103). There are no views from within the tourist destination of Marwell Zoo in the west, but views from the south are represented by VP112.
- 13.7.171 There are views across parts of the Order Limits from the edges of several settlements. Views from Wickham in the eastern part of this section are screened by existing vegetation, but there are views from properties lining Titchfield Lane to the south-west (VP065 and VP070). Settlement north-west of Wickham is more dispersed and there are some views from properties within and around Shedfield Common (VP052, VP116 and VP115), Shirrell Heath (VP055, VP116, and VP134) and Waltham Chase (VP068).
- 13.7.172 Viewpoints VP072 and VP075 illustrate the limited extent of views of residents on the southern edge of the town of Bishop's Waltham, with the SDNP located directly to the north. Views from within the settlement are screened by intervening buildings and vegetation.
- 13.7.173 North-west of Bishop's Waltham settlement again becomes smaller and more dispersed in pattern and there are a range of generally shorter views across the landscape. These include views from properties in Durley Street (VP120 and VP088) and Lower Upperham (VP085, VP117 and VP118).
- 13.7.174 Settlement increases in size and density in the western part of this section. There are views from the northern part of the settlement of Crowdhill (VP093). Views from Colden Common are limited to the southern edge (VP096) and the sparser settlement immediately to the south at Bambridge (VP100). Views east from Otterbourne are across a railway line towards the higher ground of the SDNP in the background (VP104, VP106 and VP107). Views from the settlements of Fair Oak and Bishopstoke to the south, are obstructed by a ridge between these settlements and the Order Limits.

#### *Sequential views from long-distance routes*

- 13.7.175 Numerous PRowS and roads traverse the study area, providing a range of views across the Order limits. In some cases, there are several points along these routes from where there could be views of the Proposed Development. These are referred to as sequential views in GLVIA3 and viewpoints have been selected to assist in the assessment of such views. This section provides a summary of the baseline character of sequential views from promoted PRow and key roads within the study

area. Additional detail is provided in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

#### *Allan King Way*

- 13.7.176 Travelling along the Allan King Way, there are varying views of the landscape travelling south-east to north-west from Portchester in the southern part of the study area towards Winchester in the north.
- 13.7.177 South of the M27, there are no views from the Allan King Way towards the Order Limits due to the lower topography and the ridge of Portsdown Hill, which obstructs views of the landscape to the north, including towards the Order Limits. However, this changes on the northern dip slope of Portsdown Hill, where the Allan King Way passes north of Fort Nelson. The Order Limits would be perceptible along approximately 2.4km of the route. From the top of Portsdown Hill, open panoramic views across the rural landscape provide unobstructed views towards the Order Limits located 500m to the north (VP038), the route continues north and would cross the Order Limits (VP041). Further north, between Boarhunt and the Forest of Bere, the land within the Order Limits is less visible, with views often filtered or screened by intervening vegetation as the route continues north towards Soberton, which is outside the study area.
- 13.7.178 The route re-enters the study area to the west of the River Meon, where there is no visibility towards the Order Limits. From the south of Bishop's Waltham, the Order Limits, located 1.2km to the south-west at its nearest point, may occasionally be glimpsed in the background, largely screened by trees and hedgerows (VP072). Further west the route aligns with Pilgrims Trail, where the Order Limits could be visible for approximately 3km of the route, running 140m to the south-west at its nearest point (VP077, VP082).

#### *Hayling Billy Coastal Path*

- 13.7.179 The Order Limits are not distinguishable when travelling along the majority of this route. In the northern part, on the approach to Langstone Bridge, the WRP site can be perceived in the background and in context of the urban settlement of Havant (VP004).

#### *Itchen Way*

- 13.7.180 There are very limited views of the Order Limits from the Itchen Way. The approximately 3km section of the route north of Kiln Lane, lies within the SDNP and is generally lined with mature vegetation along the River Itchen, which obstructs views toward the Order Limits. Within the following 1.5km of the route south of Kiln Lane and outside the SDNP, the views become more open, often encompassing grazing fields (VP103). In this section, the route crosses over the Order Limits (trenchless construction), and the railway line, obstructs views of the Order Limits as it bends approximately 300m to the west.

#### *Meon Valley Trail*

- 13.7.181 Travelling south, there are no views towards the Order Limits from the north of Wickham, and views are generally limited as the route is partially sunken and

enclosed by vegetation. As the trail continues south and is level with the surrounding terrain, it offers views of the surrounding landscape, often filtered by vegetation. Views towards the Order Limits increase on approach to Wickham Park Golf Club, where the path would cross the Order Limits which would eventually appear in the foreground (VP054). This section of the trail (approximately 1km) would be the only section of this trail to potentially be affected.

#### *Pilgrims' Way*

- 13.7.182 Travelling north-west from Portsmouth to Winchester, views towards the Order Limits are only possible from the northern dip slope of Portsdown Hill as the hill itself obstructs visibility from the southern section of the path. There would be views from approximately 4km of this route between the top of Portsdown Hill and the B2177/Crooked Walk Lane roundabout. As the route reaches the top of Portsdown Hill, the open character of the rural landscape offers clear views from the Pilgrims' Way towards the Order Limits located approximately 300m to the north. Visibility increases on approach to the Order Limits, which the route crosses over. North of the Order Limits, views are often filtered by woodland and roadside vegetation; however, due to the lower elevation, the Order Limits remains visible in views looking south towards the northern slopes of Portsdown Hill (VP029, VP032, VP033).
- 13.7.183 In the centre of the study area, distance and existing woodland limit views towards the Order Limits. The Pilgrims' Way traverses the woodland of West Walk within the SDNP, and while the ZTV shows visibility within this area, fieldwork confirmed that the dense vegetation obstructs views to the south and towards the Order Limits. Further west of Bishop's Waltham, the route aligns with the Allan King Way, where the Order Limits could be visible for approximately 3km of the route, 140m to the south-west at its nearest point (VP077, VP082), including the site of BPT-K on the north facing slope of Winters Hill.

#### *Solent Way*

- 13.7.184 Following the edge of Langstone Harbour, the character of views along this path varies, as does visibility towards the Order Limits, which within this route is limited to the WRP site. Travelling east to west, the route takes on an industrial character near Brockhampton Estate, where for approximately 2km views of the Order Limits are more open (VP011, VP016) albeit the attention of people travelling along this path is likely to be drawn to the expansive views south across the Harbour. Further west, as the route skirts Farlington Marshes, urban areas remain visible across the background, but views also include the lagoons within the nature reserve, giving the views a more natural foreground. Located approximately 1km to the north-east at its closest point, the Order Limits are less visible from this section of the path (VP017), perceived only in the background and within the context of the urban settlement of Havant. The same applies further west, where the path runs parallel to Eastern Road (VP129).

#### *Wayfarer's Walk*

- 13.7.185 In the eastern part of the study area, views along Wayfarers Walk have an urban character, with occasional glimpses of the Order Limits in the background (VP009). To the west of the A3(M), the route runs along the B2177. As the route borders

Widley, the character becomes more rural, offering views towards the Order Limits for approximately 1.3km of the route. These views are oblique, looking south, and are often screened by vegetation along the narrow path (VP018, VP019, VP020). North of Purbrook Heath, views are obstructed by the dense vegetation within the woods.

#### *Views from national landscape designations*

- 13.7.186 The ZTVs shown in ES Figures 13.18 to 13.21, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6), suggest potential visibility of the Order Limits from the elevated landscape of the SDNP and the open edges of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape during construction and operation. As confirmed during fieldwork, the actual extent of visibility is substantially less and varies depending on the distance from the Order Limits and the intervening existing vegetation and built structures. Additional detail on the views from representative viewpoints within the SDNP and Chichester Harbour National Landscape is provided in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Photographs from each viewpoint are provided in ES Figure 13.23 Viewpoint photography, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.187 The land within the Order Limits is more noticeable from the SDNP when it is closer to the boundary:
1. Near Wickham, the Order Limits abuts the SDNP (VP048, VP051) and is close to its southern boundary, approximately 600m to the south (VP046).
  2. Between Bishop's Waltham and Marwell, the Order Limits are adjacent to the SDNP boundary near Lower Upham (VP117) and are between 175m and 850m away further to the west (VP082, VP085, VP112, VP118).
  3. Near Brambridge, the Order Limits wrap around the south-western edge of the SDNP, between 200m and 380m away (VP099). However, the dense vegetation along the River Itchen prevents views of the landscape beyond.
- 13.7.188 Views from further north within the SDNP were also evaluated (VP089, 3.6km away), but there was no visibility of the Order Limits due to the extent of intervening vegetation.
- 13.7.189 The Order Limits are located approximately 770m from Chichester National Landscape at the closest point. Fieldwork confirmed that there is almost no visibility of the Order Limits due to intervening built form and existing vegetation from within this designation. VP002 demonstrates views towards the WRP site, from a location identified within the Chichester Harbour AONB Viewpoint Map [73].

#### **Future baseline**

- 13.7.190 A review has been undertaken to determine whether the existing baseline conditions might change between the time of undertaking the assessment and the future years in which the Proposed Development is planned to be constructed and become operational.
- 13.7.191 Consideration was given to the following types of change that could potentially alter the landscape and people's views of the landscape:

1. The natural evolution of the landscape, for example whether the growth of existing vegetation would alter existing landscape character and how its components feature in existing views.
2. The impacts and effects of climate change on the pattern and type of vegetation within the landscape and how this might alter its character.
3. The loss of features and components of the landscape, for example as a consequence of landtake from planned developments in the area, leading to changes in landscape character and the opening of existing views for visual receptors.
4. The introduction of new built form and infrastructure into the existing landscape and available views, which changes the character, value and appreciation of the local landscape and features in existing views.
5. The introduction of new receptors, for example residents of new dwellings under construction that are expected to become occupied and subsequently be exposed to awareness of the Proposed Development construction and/or operation.

13.7.192 A review has been undertaken of the planned development projects identified in ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). This involved:

1. The identification of any permitted (i.e. consented) development projects within the study area that have yet to be implemented.
2. Analysis of the likely environmental effects and planned timescales for each identified development project.
3. An assessment of the potential for each identified development project to change the baseline during the construction phase and following completion of the Proposed Development in year 1 of operation, in the manner described above.

#### Construction year baseline

13.7.193 The landform across the study area would reflect the existing baseline conditions in 2024, identified through the LVIA. It would remain strongly defined by the flat coastal plain and harbours along the Solent in the south, separated from the lower lying areas in the centre of the study area by the narrow ridge of Portsdown Hill. The land would continue to rise up to the north into the SDNP. The narrow chalk rivers which cross the area from north to south would remain within their current course.

13.7.194 Vegetation patterns would largely reflect the existing baseline conditions. In the centre, north of Fareham and the M27 the construction of the Welborne Garden Village development would also change the pattern locally. Land use would still be mostly agricultural.

13.7.195 The settlement pattern would remain largely unchanged, but completed phases of the Welborne Garden Village development would introduce new built form in an area which is currently open countryside and which falls partly within the Portsdown Hill ASLQ, reducing its value.

- 13.7.196 The PRoW network would reflect the existing baseline, as illustrated on ES Figure 13.5 Landcover and vegetation patterns, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.197 A review of committed developments which might alter the baseline character of the landscape or introduce new visual receptor groups has been undertaken.
- 13.7.198 The landscape character and the visual amenity of the identified visual receptors would remain due to the open character of the landscape and retention of the above features of the current the baseline. Therefore, the landscape and visual receptors would remain as described in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

#### Year 1 and Year 15 of operation baseline

- 13.7.199 Landform, land cover and land use would remain largely as reported above for the construction year baseline.
- 13.7.200 The settlement pattern would generally reflect the existing spatial distribution. The completed phases of the Welborne Garden Village development would have introduced substantial new areas of development, extending the extent of settlement in the southern part of the study area. This would transform the rural landscape to urban, introducing new roads, open spaces and activity and new visual receptors to the east of the A32. The anticipated phasing of the Welborne Garden Village development means that it is unlikely that there would be any interaction between this development and the Proposed Development during construction or year 1 of operation. Future residents of northern edge of Phase 5 of the approved Welborne Garden village development have been considered as visual receptors in the future baseline at a high level within the assessment of residual effects in the year 15 of operation scenario.
- 13.7.201 The PRoW networks would reflect the existing baseline, as illustrated on ES Figure 13.6 Land use and settlement, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.7.202 The landscape character and the visual amenity of the identified visual receptors would remain due to the open character of the landscape and retention of the above features of the baseline. Therefore, the landscape and visual receptors would remain as described in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

## **13.8 Assessment of likely significant effects**

- 13.8.1 This section presents the assessment of likely significant effects on landscape and visual resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It should be read alongside the detailed assessment of effects on landscape receptors set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and visual receptors set out in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). The assessment has been set out by

presenting a summary of the landscape effects of construction, operation and decommissioning, and followed by an assessment on the visual effects of construction, operation and decommissioning stages.

- 13.8.2 This assessment is based on desk-based surveys and fieldwork carried out between 2023 and September 2025. Winter and summer viewpoint surveys, habitat surveys including hedgerow surveys, and arboricultural surveys have also been used to inform the design and the assessment set out in the ES.
- 13.8.3 The likely significant effects of the Proposed Development are identified taking into account primary and tertiary mitigation explained in section 13.4. Following assessment, the residual landscape and visual effects are summarised in section 13.10.

### **Potential impacts**

- 13.8.4 The scoping exercise identified that the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would potentially result in different types and durations of impact on landscape character and visual amenity. The potential impacts likely to arise during these phases have been reviewed through the EIA process and are listed below.

#### *Potential impacts of construction*

- 13.8.5 Impacts on the landscape and people's views of the landscape during construction of the Proposed Development are likely to include the following:
1. Site clearance operations to remove existing vegetation, including hedgerows, trees and woodland, which could increase the openness of the landscape.
  2. The introduction of temporary construction compounds and associated buildings including welfare facilities, machinery, haul roads, temporary fencing and signage, which would temporarily increase the extent and perception of built development within the landscape.
  3. Soil stripping and disturbance of natural landform through excavation and the creation of temporary earthwork bunds, which could locally alter topography and the openness of the landscape.
  4. Excavation in the open landscape required for the open-cut trenching method for the Pipelines.
  5. General construction activity and operations, and the movement of construction plant and vehicles, which could temporarily increase levels of activity within the Order Limits.
  6. Presence and construction activity at the launch and intermediate tunnel shafts sites associated with tunnelling, which forms the trenchless sections of pipeline installation.
  7. Construction of the WRP and BPT/IPS-E, Intermediate Pumping Station F (IPS-F), IPS-G, and BPT-K.
  8. Lighting of the works and temporary construction compounds for safety and security, which could increase the perception of development and activity in hours of darkness.

9. Temporary closures or diversions to PRoW that could disrupt access to the countryside.
10. Including sharing accurate visualisations of impacts on tranquillity and dark night skies.

#### Potential impacts of operation

- 13.8.6 Impacts on landscape and people's views of the landscape relating to the operation of the Proposed Development are likely to include the following:
1. Loss of existing vegetation, which may cause severance and fragmentation of existing landscape elements, for example woodland and hedgerows
  2. Permanent changes to natural landform associated with re-profiling or bunds to assist in the integration and screening of AGP
  3. Introduction of new built form associated with the WRP site, IPSs and BPTs
  4. Lighting causing light spill or sky glow associated with the WRP site, IPSs and BPTs
  5. The introduction of new site access infrastructure and changes to existing access arrangements
  6. Establishment of new habitats, which change the land cover and enhance the biodiversity and connectivity of the landscape
  7. Easements that prevent existing vegetation being replaced or mitigation planting, except where trenchless methods, such as tunnelling would be used
  8. Maintenance activities relating to the WRP site, IPSs and BPTs
  9. Presence of maintenance hatches, bell mouths and tracks

#### Potential impacts of decommissioning

- 13.8.7 The activities associated with decommissioning would be similar to the construction phase. It is assumed that structures and equipment would be removed in a similar manner, requiring machinery and localised excavation and that most of the proposed planting would be retained. Therefore, the potential impacts of decommissioning on the landscape and people's views would be no worse than those reported for construction.

#### **Landscape effects**

- 13.8.8 The following section provides a summary of the assessment of effects on landscape that would result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
- 13.8.9 A full and detailed assessment of all landscape effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This includes the sensitivity for each receptor and the detailed narrative which explains judgements on the magnitude of impact and the significance of effects.
- 13.8.10 The assessment of landscape effects in this section addresses the following:

1. Effects on landscape designations (construction, operation and decommissioning)
  2. Effects of construction on landscape elements and landscape character
  3. Effects of year 1 of operation on landscape elements and character
  4. Effects of decommissioning on landscape elements and character
- 13.8.11 It would take time for the proposed planting to become established and effective in mitigating landscape effects. The residual effects on the landscape of construction and at year 15 of operation are set out in section 13.10.

#### *Effects on landscape designations*

- 13.8.12 This section considers the likely impacts and effects of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on designated landscapes. This comprises the nationally designated landscapes of the SDNP, Chichester Harbour National Landscape and the local ASLQ designations defined in the Fareham Local Plan 2037 (2023).
- 13.8.13 The LVIA considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the designation as a receptor in line with point 5(12) of LI TGN 01/24. This assessment takes a bottom-up approach by considering the results of the detailed assessment of landscape character informed by the LLCAs and the landscape features present within them, drawing on the results of tree and habitat surveys. Where harm has been identified at the local level, it is noted that this would affect the designation as a whole.
- 13.8.14 A summary of the effects on landscape is first provided to set the context for each designated landscape. This has then been used to inform an assessment of the likely effects on the Special Qualities.

#### *South Downs National Park*

- 13.8.15 The national importance of the SDNP has been a key determinant in selecting the preferred option for the Proposed Development through the iterative design process, as explained in detail in ES Chapter 4 Consideration of alternatives, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). As explained in section 13.4, the Order Limits have been defined to avoid the nationally designated area of the SDNP. Therefore, there would be no impacts upon the physical landscape fabric of the SDNP during the construction, operational or decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.
- 13.8.16 There is potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development located outside of the designated area of the SDNP to affect it. To provide context, this section first summarises the likely impacts and effects on the landscape character within and in the setting of the SDNP with reference to the LLCA and the detailed assessment set out in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) of the ES. It then considers the likely impacts and effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP and its statutory purposes to demonstrate how the Proposed Development has been sensitively located and designed to avoid or reduce adverse effects on the designated area and to address the legal duty to seek to further the purposes of the National Park. The detailed

assessment upon which this is based is set out at the end of ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

*Summary of the effects on the character of the landscape within the South Downs National Park*

- 13.8.17 Effects on LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley and LLCA 31: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs southern edge, which lie within the central part of the study area would relate to construction activity associated with the presence of temporary construction compounds, the movement and noise of construction plant and vehicles and lighting, which would reduce tranquillity. Fieldwork has demonstrated that these impacts would be localised due to intervening landform and the density of intervening vegetation and built form. Consequently, there would be no perceptible change to the character within the majority of these areas. Furthermore, these impacts would be temporary and would be reversed at the end of the construction period. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be very low in both cases and the resulting effects would be moderate adverse for LLCA 27, which is significant. This is because of the presence and activity related to the adjacent compound and construction traffic along Mill Lane, which lies within this LLCA. Effects on LLCA 31 would be minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.8.18 Construction activities relating to the crossing of the River Itchen would be located within approximately 400m of LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley with the connection to Otterbourne Water Supply Works (WSW) within 180m. However, the flat landscape, the tall, vegetated embankments associated with the railway line between Eastleigh and Winchester and dense vegetation substantially limit the geographical extent of likely impacts. Trenchless construction techniques would be used to construct the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW, passing beneath the River Itchen, the Itchen Navigation and the railway line. Whilst there may be some localised reduction in tranquillity in the southern part of the area, this would be in the context of the major road and rail routes and the flight path of Southampton Airport in proximity. The magnitude of impact would be very low and resulting effects would be minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.8.19 Construction activity would be located more than 500m from the southern edge of LLCA 25: Forest of Bere Rookesbury, which is characterised by dense woodland and mature tree lined field boundaries. As a result, there would be no perceptible changes to the character of this area and therefore no effect.
- 13.8.20 Following construction, the land above the Pipeline would be restored with replacement planting as close to the location of the existing landscape feature as reasonably practicable, except where planting over pipeline restrictions constraints exist. Restrictions on which species can be planted over the underground Pipeline will be followed within a zone of 10m either side of the center line of the underground Pipeline. Full details including a list of indicative species, are provided within the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
- 13.8.21 Whilst in year 1 of operation the planting proposed to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction, and for mitigation and enhancement would not be fully established, the distance and density of intervening vegetation would largely filter these changes imperceptible across most of the SDNP. However, from a small portion of the SDNP, the Proposed Development will remain perceptible. The

AGPs would be located at least 500m from the boundaries of all LLCAs within the SDNP. These facilities have been sited and designed to make use of existing landforms and the dense existing vegetation, to maximise landscape integration and enclosure. Notwithstanding these measures, there would be some intervisibility of the BPT-K within the southern edge of LLCA 31 to the north of Lower Upham during year 1 of operation. These effects would be mitigated as the proposed planting establishes reducing awareness of the new structures by year 15 of operation. With the exception of LLCA 31, no effects on the LLCAs within the SDNP are therefore likely within these areas as a consequence of the operation of the Proposed Development at year 1 and year 15 of operation.

13.8.22 Table 13-13 below provides a summary of these likely effects on the LLCAs which fall within the SDNP.

**Table 13-13 Summary of effects on Local Landscape Character Areas within the South Downs National Park**

Local Landscape Character Areas within the South Downs National Park	Construction significance of effect	Year 1 of operation significance of effect	Year 15 of operation significance of effect
LLCA 25: Forest of Bere Rookesbury	No effect	No effect	No effect
LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley	Moderate adverse (significant)	No effect	No effect
LLCA 31: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs southern edge	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	No effect
LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley	Minor adverse	No effect	No effect

*Effects on the setting of the South Downs National Park*

- 13.8.23 There is potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development to affect the setting of the SDNP.
- 13.8.24 As noted in section 13.7, the spatial extent of the setting has not been defined in policy. This assessment has therefore considered likely effects on the setting described in section 13.7 where there is potential for intervisibility or impacts on tranquillity, the night-time baseline or functional habitat connections.
- 13.8.25 It is unlikely that construction within LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes would affect the setting of the SDNP due to the considerable distance and the extent of existing woodland and settlement in the intervening landscape.
- 13.8.26 Construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW and the IPS-G has the potential to reduce tranquillity within the southern part of the SDNP associated with Rookesbury Park to the north of Wickham. However, the ZTV with screening and fieldwork indicates that there would be limited intervisibility between the SDNP and the Order Limits in this area due to the substantial intervening woodland and mature trees (see ES Figures 13.19 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (construction, with screening – whole Proposed Development), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) and ES Figure 13.21 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (operation, with screening – whole Proposed Development, differentiating Above Ground Plant), Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6). Furthermore, the SDNPA Tranquillity Study [37] shows this area as

having low relative tranquillity scores and so the perception of construction activity is likely to be limited. Effects on LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham, which forms part of the setting of the SDNP in this area would be moderate adverse during construction, which is significant. These effects would be temporary and localised to the northern part of the LLCA, close to the urban edge, but would increase the perception of activity in the landscape along the river. The majority of the area would not be affected.

- 13.8.27 There is a higher potential for impacts during construction on the setting of the SDNP to the west of Bishop's Waltham, where the distance from the Order Limits decreases. Impacts on the setting would relate to localised reductions in tranquillity, including noise and visual disturbance, which could be perceptible in areas of the SDNP close to the boundary. As noted above, this would be particularly to the south and west of Lower Upham. However, across the majority of this area such impacts would be avoided or limited by the substantial, mature vegetation in the intervening landscape.
- 13.8.28 In summary, the construction of the Proposed Development would result in impacts on the landscape within the setting of the SDNP. These impacts would be limited to areas where there is intervisibility with construction or where the noise of construction would reduce tranquillity locally. The impacts would be temporary and reversible but would extend across the landscape where the Order Limits are parallel to the SDNP boundary, particularly to the west of the River Meon. Impacts on the setting to the east of the River Meon would be less extensive due to the extent of woodland within the Forest of Bere and the increased distance from the boundary.
- 13.8.29 Adverse impacts of the setting of the SDNP are likely to extend into the operational phase, but these would be localised and would reduce over time with the establishment of mitigation planting.
- 13.8.30 BPT-K in the operational phase would contribute to adverse impacts on the setting of the SDNP at year 1 of operation, reflected in the assessment of effects on LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street and VP082. These effects would arise from the localised changes in landform, the introduction of new structures and the new access. However, the scale of these impacts would be localised, small in scale and geographical extent in the context of the wider agricultural landscape. Although it would be located approximately 500m from the boundary and beyond existing mature trees with other mature vegetation in between, there is likely to be some localised intervisibility, as evidenced by the photomontages presented in ES Figure 13.23 Viewpoint Photography, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) for VP082. The relatively low height of the AGP means that it is unlikely that it would be perceptible in the wider landscape, including within the SDNP, beyond a small area north-west of Lower Upham which coincides with a short section of approximately 200m of the Pilgrims' Way promoted route, which has a total length of 214km.
- 13.8.31 IPS-G would be located within 500m of the boundary of the SDNP at a similar elevation and with substantial mature intervening vegetation lining Mill Lane and field boundaries. There would be physical impacts through the introduction of the new structures occupying the corner of an existing arable field. However, it is unlikely that during the operational phase that this part of the Proposed Development would perceptibly alter the setting of the SDNP more widely.

- 13.8.32 While a significant residual effect is anticipated at VP082 due to views of BPT-K from elevated land within the SDNP, this effect is localised and does not alter the overall conclusion for the wider designation. Overall, the introduction of the AGPs and the extent of vegetation loss within the Order Limits is not considered likely to result in permanent, long-term likely significant effects on the setting of the SDNP in the year 15 scenario. The siting and design of the AGPs have been informed by landscape and visual considerations, and mitigation, including the establishment of native planting and use of naturalistic materials, would help to reduce the prominence of built form over time. Along the Pipeline, the vegetation loss would be localised within a maximum corridor of 40m width where open-cut construction techniques would be used. Such vegetation and existing field patterns would be reinstated following construction and would be fully established by year 15 of operation. Full details including a list of indicative species, is provided within the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).
- 13.8.33 Vegetation loss would be avoided in the case of woodland and ancient and veteran trees through the application of the design principles set out in the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) where possible, where trenchless installation techniques would be used. This is supported by the results of the AIA presented in ES Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) and the habitat surveys summarised in ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-14 Summary of effects on Local Landscape Character Areas within the setting of the South Downs National Park**

Local Landscape Character Areas within the South Downs National Park	Construction significance of effect	Year 1 of operation significance of effect	Year 15 of operation significance of effect
LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes	Major adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse
LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse	No effect
LLCA 24: North Boarhunt	No effect	No effect	No effect
LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse
LLCA 29: Shedfield heathlands	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse
LLCA 30: Durley Claylands	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse
LLCA 32: Bishop's Waltham	Negligible adverse	No effect	No effect
LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street	Moderate adverse (significant)	Minor adverse	Minor adverse
LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland	Moderate adverse (significant)	Negligible adverse	No effect

Local Landscape Character Areas within the South Downs National Park	Construction significance of effect	Year 1 of operation significance of effect	Year 15 of operation significance of effect
LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen valley	Moderate adverse (significant)	Moderate adverse (significant)	No effect
LLCA 38: Colden Common	Negligible adverse	No effect	No effect

*Effects on the Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park*

- 13.8.34 A detailed assessment of the likely effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP is set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This follows the four-step approach described in the Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects developed by NatureScot [74] and reported in ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). These Special Qualities have and will continue to inform the iterative design of the Proposed Development, including the mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 13.8.35 Step one identified aspects of the Proposed Development that have the potential to give rise to impacts and effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP. These relate principally to temporary changes in the landscape fabric and activity during the construction phase and the permanent AGP in closest proximity during the operational phase.
- 13.8.36 Step two involved identifying the Special Qualities that may be affected by the proposal. This included defining the area over which the proposal is likely to have effects on the key Special Qualities of the SDNP within the study area and its setting, as set out in paragraphs 13.8.17 to 13.8.22.
- 13.8.37 Step three comprised an assessment of the effects on Special Qualities and design objectives. This concluded that six of the seven Special Qualities are relevant and the results of this assessment are summarised below.
- 13.8.38 With respect to Special Quality 1: *Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views*, the study area includes the upper reaches of the small, fast-flowing chalk rivers which incise the chalk and flow through the gently undulating plain of the South Hampshire Lowlands in the south. Inspirational landscapes, such as the steep scarp slopes in the north and the white chalk cliffs along the coastline in the east are not within the study area. None of the representative viewpoints identified in the SDNP Viewshed Characterisation and Analysis report [54] fall within the study area but characteristically short views associated with chalk river valleys are relevant. The construction and the operation of the Proposed Development would not impact the physical attributes or experience of the steep scarp slopes or gentle dip slopes of the SDNP. There would be construction impacts on the character of the chalk rivers flowing south from the SDNP within its setting, limited by the abundance and density of existing vegetation and by using trenchless techniques to avoid vegetation loss. Where vegetation is removed to facilitate construction, it would be reinstated. This planting and planting proposed to assist with integrating the AGP would have established by year 15 of operation such that there would be no perceptible change to the setting of the SDNP. Overall, the Proposed Development is unlikely to permanently change the Special Qualities

relating to the diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views by year 15 of operation.

- 13.8.39 Special Quality 2 relates to a rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species. Key habitats within the study area are related to the Forest of Bere at the centre and the internationally important chalk rivers which extend south from the SDNP into the South Hampshire Lowlands. The pattern of habitats strongly define the character of the landscape and its functions and there are therefore close relationships between this and the LVIA. Vegetation loss within such areas has been reduced by routing the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW away from existing landscape features or using trenchless techniques. However, there would be some need for vegetation removal where open-cut construction techniques would be used. This could sever some hedgerows which form wildlife corridors. Planting proposed to reinstate these connections would take up to 15 years to establish. Additional detail on the likely effects on wildlife and habitats is provided in ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume 1 (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). Overall, the Proposed Development is unlikely to change the Special Qualities relating to the rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species.
- 13.8.40 Tranquil and unspoilt places is addressed by Special Quality 3. The map within the SDNPA Tranquillity Study (2017) shows that most of the southern part of the study area lies around the middle of the range and therefore has intermediate relative tranquillity. Construction activity would reduce relative tranquillity across the study area but mostly within and adjacent to the Order Limits. Within the SDNP, there is limited intervisibility because of intervening vegetation and built development and therefore these impacts would be localised to where there are more open views such that perception of large-scale construction would be unlikely. Effects could temporarily reduce people's perception of these Special Qualities, but would be reduced through implementation of the measures set out in the Outline CEMP (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7), for example by minimising the width of the construction corridor, adjusting the site layout and good housekeeping. It is unlikely that there would be impacts on tranquillity during the operational phase because the AGPs have been sited away from the SDNP and far apart from each other and they would be enclosed by existing vegetation and proposed planting.
- 13.8.41 Special Quality 4 relates to an environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise. The construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development located outside of the SDNP is not likely to affect land use or commercial enterprise within the SDNP and therefore this Special Quality has not been assessed further.
- 13.8.42 Special Quality 5 recognises the great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences that the SDNP offers. The evidence base shows that there is a strong network of PRowWs, which provide access to the countryside and important links between the SDNP and the landscape to the south. This includes several promoted long-distance routes and Open Access Land. As noted above, several of the settlements within the study area provide key gateways into the SDNP. Some temporary closures or diversions of PRowWs would be required to facilitate construction. This would temporarily disrupt access to the countryside locally but following construction, all closures and diversions within the setting of the SDNP

would be reversed. Residual effects of construction would be localised to the Order Limits and the immediate surrounding landscape. It is unlikely that there would be impacts on the opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences that the SDNP offers during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

- 13.8.43 Well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage are addressed by Special Quality 6. The landscape within the study area has a rich cultural heritage including extensive areas of historic forest and settlements within and to the south of the SDNP boundary. Several of these settlements, in particular Bishop's Waltham and Lower Upham, are important gateways into the SDNP. In terms of construction impacts, the route of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW avoids the wooded landscape of the historic Forest of Bere in the east but coincides with some smaller historic landscape features. This includes sections of Roman Road west of Bishop's Waltham and the small private parkland at Wintershill Hall where the site of the BPT-K is located. A combination of open-cut and trenchless construction techniques would be used to avoid the loss of mature trees. This would result in localised, temporary impacts within the setting of the SDNP on the historic landscape fabric as a result of construction. These effects would be mitigated through restoration of the land and planting to reinstate existing vegetation patterns. In terms of permanent impacts of operation, the BPT-K would be located close to the Wintershill Hall and would be of a similar scale to existing agricultural buildings within the study area. It has been sited to integrate with the existing landform and designed to respond positively to the local landscape character through tree planting. Additional detail on the likely effects on cultural heritage is provided in ES Chapter 7 Archaeology and cultural heritage, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.8.44 Special Quality 7 relates to distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area. The baseline review has identified several distinctive small towns and villages that lie within the study area and act as gateways between the SDNP in the north and the South Hampshire Lowlands to the south. The Proposed Development has been designed to largely avoid existing settlements. There would be construction impacts relating to the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW around the settlement edge of Wickham, through the dispersed settlement between Shedfield and Shirrell Heath and to the south of Lower Upham. There would be no impacts to the built form, but there would be temporary changes to the landscape pattern around these settlements through the removal of vegetation to facilitate construction. These effects would be mitigated by applying the measures set out in the Outline CEMP (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7), for example by minimising the construction area and retaining and protecting existing landscape features such as trees, woodland and hedgerows. It is not considered likely that there would be impacts or effects on this Special Quality in operation. This is because the land would be reinstated and vegetation above and either side of the Pipeline would be replaced in accordance with the reinstatement strategy set out in the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7). Reinstatement would follow the planting restrictions within the protective strip of land (up to 10m either side of the Pipeline centreline), including the use of shallow-rooted species directly over the Pipeline, as required by the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7). These constraints do not alter the nature or scale of reinstatement and, together with the small scale of change relating to the AGP. Long-term effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP

relating to distinctive towns and villages are not anticipated. Long-term effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP relating to distinctive towns and villages are not anticipated.

- 13.8.45 Step four provides a summary of the likely significant effects on the relevant Special Qualities and the implications for the nationally designated landscape. It concludes that there would be some temporary impacts on some of the Special Qualities of the SDNP during the construction phase as summarised above. The resulting effects would arise within the corridors of the rare chalk rivers which connect the SDNP with the South Hampshire Lowlands to the south, localised reductions in tranquillity, changes to the historic landscape fabric and setting of a small number of heritage assets and distinctive settlements. The temporary effects of construction would be reduced through the application of the measures set out in the Outline CEMP (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7). This is explained more in section 13.4 and later in this section with reference to landscape and visual effects.
- 13.8.46 There would continue to be some scarring of the landscape within the setting of the SDNP at year 1 of operation and some intervisibility with BPT-K in the vicinity of Lower Upham. However, the vast majority of the SDNP would be largely unaffected during operation. Within 15 years of operation the proposed planting would have established to mitigate, reinforce and where reasonably practicable enhance the existing landscape compared to the baseline conditions. With regard to the AGP, these would be of a similar scale to existing agricultural buildings, are small in number and located at least 500m from the SDNP boundary. Overall, the permanent long-term impacts on the landscape are not likely to compromise the Special Qualities of the SDNP.

#### *Effects on the Purposes of the South Downs National Park*

- 13.8.47 The assessment above notes that there would be moderate adverse effects on LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley within the SDNP during construction. There would also be some effects which could temporarily impact on the setting of the SDNP, although these would be localised due to the abundance and density of intervening vegetation. Construction activity within the valleys of the rare chalk rivers which connect the SDNP with the landscape to the south, including localised impacts on tranquillity could affect the related Special Qualities. Temporary impacts on the views of users of the PRow network during the construction period have been identified in section 13.8 of this chapter and in ES Chapter 18 Traffic and transport, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). These impacts have been acknowledged through assessing the likely effects on the Special Qualities of the SDNP in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). This also considers the relationship between the Order Limits and settlements which form gateways into the SDNP. The effects reported would be short- to medium-term and reversible following construction. Overall, therefore, whilst there is potential for the purposes of the SDNP to be compromised during construction, these effects would be temporary and would cease on completion.
- 13.8.48 During year 1 of operation, there would be some localised impacts on the landscape fabric and intervisibility with BPT-K, but the vast majority of the SDNP would be unaffected. Whilst there would be some localised impacts on the

character of the landscape within the SDNP and on the character and landscape fabric within its setting, the resulting effects would be temporary, reversible and would be largely mitigated within 15 years of operation by the establishment of proposed planting. Three of the five AGP would be located within the setting of the SDNP. IPS-G (refer to ES Figure 13.1 Landscape and visual impact assessment study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6)) would be sited such that existing mature vegetation would provide substantial enclosure, and this would be reinforced by proposed planting. BPT/IPS-E would be located approximately 6.5km at its closest point from the SDNP boundary. There would be views of BPT-K on the north facing slope of Winters Hill associated with the landscape north-west of Lower Upham from a short section of the Pilgrim's Way promoted route. The application of the design principles within the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) and proposed planting would assist in sensitively integrating the structures within the background of views and it would not be perceptible from the majority of the designated area. In conclusion, during operation the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the SDNP would be conserved and the Proposed Development would not compromise Purpose 1. Furthermore, the Proposed Development would not prevent opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Special Qualities of the National Park by the public and therefore Purpose 2 would also not be compromised in operation. Opportunities to further these statutory purposes have been considered through the definition of the EMEAs shown on the Works Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2) and the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5), and the mitigation within them is secured through the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7).

#### *Chichester Harbour National Landscape*

- 13.8.49 Desk study and initial winter fieldwork carried out in 2023 indicated that intervisibility between the Chichester Harbour National Landscape and the construction of the Proposed Development would be very limited. This is due to the distance to the closest parts of the Order Limits associated with the WRP site and the extent of intervening mature vegetation and buildings within Langstone. A series of ZTVs, additional fieldwork during 2024, and subsequent evaluation including full assessment of a viewpoint located within the National Landscape, determined that it is unlikely that there would be any perceptible change to the character of the Chichester Harbour National Landscape or its setting, Special Qualities or Purposes during construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

#### *Local Areas of Special Landscape Quality designations*

- 13.8.50 This section summarises the likely impacts and effects on the three ASLQ defined in the Fareham Local Plan 2037 (2023) which coincides with the study area.
- 13.8.51 A route for the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW has been selected which avoids the site of the Welborne Garden Village development and is located further north. The closest part of ASLQ 4: Meon Valley to the Order Limits now lies approximately 2km to the south and west. The abundance of mature intervening vegetation and the density of existing development within Knowle and the planned Welborne Garden Village development, currently under

construction, means that there would be no effects on the setting or perception of the construction or the operation of the Proposed Development.

- 13.8.52 Approximately 2km of the Pipeline route would be located within ASLQ 5: Forest of Bere and North Fareham Downs, the majority of which would be constructed using open-cut techniques. This would require the removal of up to 40m of field boundary vegetation at each location where the route intersects existing hedgerows. At sensitive locations a reduced working width would be employed, as set out in ES Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6). IPS-F would also be located within ASLQ 5, adjacent and to the north of the Welborne Garden Village development, which would lie immediately to the west of the designated area. There would also be some localised effects on the setting of this designation to the east and north as a result of the construction of the Pipeline. As a consequence of construction, there would be temporary impacts on the scenic quality, visual unity and high tranquillity that are referred to in the designation of ASLQ 5. Trenchless construction methods would be used where the Pipeline passes beneath the River Wallington, protecting the woodland and riverside habitats which are emphasised in the designation.
- 13.8.53 Following construction, the ground and hedgerows would be reinstated. By year 15 of operation the proposed planting would have fully established, restoring the existing field patterns and the overall integrity of the designation. The location of IPS-F has been selected to make use of existing woodland to the south and rising land to the north to assist with landscape integration and visual screening. The scale of the AGP would be similar to existing agricultural buildings approximately 250m to the west. The building would be designed to respond positively to the local landscape character. Overall, IPS-F would be a small, permanent introduction in the context of the extensive development currently under construction at the Welborne Garden Village development that will extend to the south and west and in conclusion, the Proposed Development would not undermine the purposes of the designation.
- 13.8.54 Approximately 1.5km of the Pipeline route would extend across the western slopes of ASLQ 6: Portsdown Hill where the land falls into the valley of the River Wallington. The large, open fields mean that vegetation removal to facilitate construction would be very limited and that the impacts of construction activity on scenic quality would extend across most of the designated area. These impacts would be temporary and reversed on completion, when the land would be restored to existing contours. During operation there would be no perceptible change to the existing landscape fabric of ASLQ 6. IPS-F approximately 800m to the north-west would be visible from the higher ground, in the context of the extensive new development in the eastern part of Welborne, which would extend across the skyline. The establishment of planting to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction means that the Proposed Development would not undermine the designation for ASLQ 6 in the long-term.

#### *Landscape character construction effects*

- 13.8.55 This section summarises the likely impacts and effects of the construction of the Proposed Development on LCAs defined at the national, county and local scale. A full and detailed assessment of the effects on each receptor is reported in ES

Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

### *National Character Areas*

- 13.8.56 NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands includes parts of LCA 2d: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic, 2e Forest of Bere West, LCA 3c: Itchen Valley, LCA 3e: Meon Valley and LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment. Construction activity would extend across the rural landscape through the centre of NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands, from the western edge of the settlement of Widley in the east to Otterbourne in the west. This would include construction of BPT/IPS-E and the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW across the north facing dip slope of Portsdown Hill, with impacts on tranquillity and scenic quality extending into the lower lying Forest of Bere. Across the majority of the rest of the area the geographical extent of impacts would be more localised where it would traverse lower lying areas with a greater extent of existing mature vegetation and settlement. At the centre of the area the construction of IPS-F and IPS-G would result in small changes at the scale of this landscape receptor associated with the operation of taller plant and temporary construction compounds. West of Wickham the route of the Pipeline would temporarily impact on the settlement and vegetation patterns around Shirrell Heath and to a lesser extent to the south of Lower Upham, with existing topography preventing perception of large-scale impacts. Trenchless construction techniques would preserve the character and setting of the valuable chalk rivers which extend south from the SDNP to the north, avoiding the loss of riparian vegetation. The same techniques would be used to avoid the loss of mature trees associated with parkland at Wintershill Hall. The majority of NCA 128 would not be affected by the construction of the Proposed Development and overall the magnitude of impact would be low. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

### *Hampshire county landscape character areas*

- 13.8.57 Of the 12 LCAs defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment which coincide with the study area, four would experience likely significant effects during construction. These effects would relate to LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West, LCA 3c: Itchen Valley, LCA 3e: Meon Valley and 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs, which are defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment.
- 13.8.58 LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West coincides with LLCA 28: Whiteley Woodlands, LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands, LLCA 30: Durley Claylands, LLCA 32: Bishop's Waltham, LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street, LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland and LLCA 35: Hornton Heath. Construction activity would occur across the northern part of the LCA largely related to the open-cut of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW and the construction of BPT-K. This would require vegetation removal of up to 40m at each point where the route intersects existing field boundaries, causing localised severance and disrupting the strong network of hedgerows. At this scale, these impacts would be numerous but small and overall would not affect the function of the Green Infrastructure network. Trenchless construction techniques would also be used to prevent the loss of key vegetation such as woodland and mature trees and below the River Hamble.

Construction activity would reduce tranquillity away from the sections near settlements including Shirrell Heath and Waltham Chase through noise and visual disturbance. The historic field pattern and extensive areas of woodland that contribute strongly to the value attached to LCA 2e would be retained and would limit the scale of impacts across the wider area, as would the distinctive ridge of higher ground to the south. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be medium and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area, would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant. This is because construction activities would traverse its length and cause partial deterioration of the existing landscape.

- 13.8.59 The part of LCA 3c: Itchen Valley which lies within the study area coincides with LLCA 36: Bishopstoke, LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley, LLCA 38: Colden Common, LLCA 39: Eastleigh and LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley. Impacts would be focused within centre of LCA 3c and would comprise sections of open-cut construction of the Pipeline either side of the Itchen valley, connected by approximately 1km of trenchless construction beneath the river and railway line. This would preserve the meandering course of the river, the important habitats which line the river including extensive woodland and the scenic value, including along the Itchen Way long distance route. On the eastern side of the river, higher ground would limit the extent of impacts to the south but the small-scale field pattern would be disrupted where the route crosses paddocks, but trenchless construction would retain mature trees at the crossing of a minor watercourse. West of the river, construction would be relatively open in the large fields and would require some removal of mature trees, but woodland and higher ground would provide some enclosure. This would include construction activity including the connection to the existing Otterbourne WSW. Overall, considering the scale of impacts would be localised to the centre of the area and the works would be screened by existing landform and vegetation, the magnitude of impact would be low. This, assessed against the very high sensitivity of the area would result in moderate adverse effects during construction, which is significant.
- 13.8.60 LCA 3e: Meon Valley encompasses LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham and LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley. To the east of the River Meon there would be impacts on the setting of the area where open-cut construction would extend across open fields either side of the A32. The Pipeline beneath the A32 would be constructed with trenchless techniques to retain the existing vegetation which lines it. The part of LCA 3e to the north which lies within the SDNP would not be affected because of the relatively flat landscape and the abundance and density of existing vegetation and development. The narrow floodplain and the existing riparian vegetation which lines it would be preserved by trenchless construction beneath the River Meon. The extent of existing mature vegetation west of the river, including where construction activity would extend across the Wickham Park Golf Club, would limit the geographical extent of impacts. This would also be the case for the construction of IPS-G, which would be located on the edge of a field adjacent to existing barns. Open-cut construction would continue across arable fields which surround the settlement of Wickham. It would cross under the A32 again via trenchless techniques to retain the existing mature vegetation which lines it. In summary, there would be some temporary physical impacts on the field pattern and some existing vegetation and some impacts on its setting in the east. However, these impacts would be localised and there would be no perception of

construction within the wider LCA which extends several kilometres to the north and south because of the density of existing vegetation and development. The magnitude of impact would be low and this, assessed against the very high sensitivity of LCA 3e, would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant.

- 13.8.61 LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs corresponds with LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge, LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes, LLCA 22: Fareham and LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open downs west. Construction activity would bisect the majority of this narrow area with most comprising open-cut construction of the Pipeline across open, gently sloping fields on the dip slope of Portsdown Hill. This would require the removal of field boundary vegetation where the route intersects existing hedgerows. The River Wallington would be crossed using trenchless techniques, preserving its alignment and riparian vegetation. Tranquillity would be temporarily reduced across much of the area. The construction of BPT/IPS-E in the east, IPS-F in the west and several temporary construction compounds located at intervals within LCA 8i would be focuses of particularly intense activity, which may include lighting to illuminate the works. Considering the wide scale of impacts and the openness of the landscape, the magnitude of impact would be very high. This, assessed against the high sensitivity of LCA 8i, would result in major adverse effects, which is significant. This is due to construction activities occurring across the majority of this narrow, sloping area, the perception of these activities being heightened by the open character of the landscape, and disruption of three promoted routes, resulting in temporary deterioration of the existing landscape character.
- 13.8.62 LCA 2f: Forest of Bere East includes the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW, between the new settlement of Welborne and the southern edge of Wickham in the west. The physical changes within LCA 2f would therefore be small in extent compared with the extensive area. However, there would be more widespread changes in its setting across the centre of the area, where activities related to the construction of the Pipeline would be located on the north facing dip slope of Portsdown Hill. These impacts would relate to construction plant and vehicles excavating the open-cut sections, temporary construction compounds, the construction of BPT/IPS-E on the more exposed top of the ridge and vegetation removal. Intervening vegetation would limit the geographical extent of these impacts to the southern part of the area. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be low. Considering the small physical scale of change and the localised impacts on setting this would result in minor adverse effects when assessed against the high sensitivity of the area, which is not significant.
- 13.8.63 LCA 7g: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs, which lies principally within the SDNP, coincides with LLCA 31: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs southern edge. The Order Limits would be located a minimum of 500m south of the boundary of LCA 7g, widening out to approximately 2km in the east and 1km in the west. The relatively flat or gently sloping land and the abundance of intervening mature vegetation and settlement means that there would be very little perception of construction activity within LCA 7g associated with the noise of plant and machinery and occasional glimpsed views. The magnitude of impact would be very low. Although the scale of impacts would be small, the extent means that when assessed against the very high sensitivity, the result effects would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

- 13.8.64 Impacts within LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain would include the construction of the WRP site and the connection to the Budds Farm WTW. Construction activity would be focused in the eastern part of LCA 9g, where some limited vegetation removal would be required to facilitate construction. There would be an intensity of construction within the WRP site, including temporary construction compounds, material storage and movement of plant and vehicles. Dense vegetation around the boundaries, the busy A27 to the north and landfill planted with trees to the south would limit the geographical scale of effects. Tranquillity would be reduced in proximity to the site of the WRP and the Budds Farm WTW, but this would be in the context of busy roads and industrial activity in the surrounding area. The scenic quality of the coastal areas would be largely unaffected, although there would be some intervisibility from more open areas, including Farlington Marshes. There would be no perception of construction activities within the part of LCA 9g which coincides with the Chichester Harbour National Landscape because of the flat topography and the extent of intervening buildings and vegetation. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be low. Considering the small scale and geographical extent of these impacts this, assessed against the high sensitivity of the area would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.8.65 There would be no changes to the physical landscape or the character of LCA 2d: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic, LCA 7f: West Winchester Downs, LCA 9f: Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain, LCA 10a: Langstone and Chichester Harbours and LCA 10b: Portsmouth Harbour and therefore no effects. This is due to the distance from the Order Limits and the abundance and density of existing vegetation and development, therefore no effects are reported on these receptors.

#### *Local Landscape Character Areas*

- 13.8.66 This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on the LLCAs that would result from the construction of the Proposed Development. The assessment has been summarised according to the three principal areas within the study area shown in ES Figure 13.1 Landscape and visual impact assessment study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).

#### *Havant and Bedhampton*

- 13.8.67 Construction activity relating to the WRP site would be focused to the south-east of the A3/A27 junction. This would include the establishment of compounds and associated facilities, earthworks and material storage, movement of machinery and night-time impacts of task lighting. These changes would be localised to the eastern edge of LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks, reducing tranquillity within Broadmarsh Coastal Park to the south. The containment provided by vegetation within this part of the LLCA would limit impacts within the wider LLCA, including Farlington Marshes. The construction of the WRP site would result in localised temporary and permanent changes to land cover patterns and increasing levels of activity, albeit in the context of the busy A27 to the north and the Brockhampton industrial area to the east. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant. This is due to construction activities occurring adjacent to public open space, resulting in partial deterioration of the existing landscape character.

- 13.8.68 The magnitude of construction effects would be low within LLCA12: Brockhampton industrial area, where the existing industrial development heavily influences existing character locally, and within LLCA 14: Portsmouth, where impacts would be limited to a very small part of the LLCA, resulting in negligible adverse effects, which are not significant. Within LLCA11: Langstone Harbour, the magnitude of impact would be very low where the increase in activity during construction would be perceptible along the northern edge resulting in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.8.69 There would be no changes to the landscape baseline conditions within LLCA 09: Chichester Harbour and LLCA 10: Hayling Island due to the distance and extent of surrounding built development. Therefore, no effects are reported on these receptors.

*Portsmouth Hill and Forest of Bere*

- 13.8.70 There would be likely significant effects that would result from the construction of the Proposed Development, within LLCA 15: Portsmouth Hill ridge, LLCA 18: Portsmouth Hill northern slopes, LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland and LLCA 23: Portsmouth Hill open downs west.
- 13.8.71 The construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would extend across the open, elevated landscape of LLCA 18: Portsmouth Hill northern slopes. Works would entail extensive activity such as the removal of existing field boundary vegetation, excavation and storage and the movement of plant and machinery. Several temporary construction compounds would be established, where activity would be concentrated. These activities would collectively temporarily alter the landscape pattern and reduce the tranquillity across this rural setting and would disrupt the PRoW network, including the Wayfarer's Walk, Pilgrims' Way, and Allan King Way long distance routes. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be very high and the resulting effects would be major adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.72 The extent of physical impacts would be limited within LLCA 15: Portsmouth Hill ridge, LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland, and LLCA 23: Portsmouth Hill open downs west and located close to existing and proposed urban development. This includes areas near the edge of Widley in the east, where construction of the BPT/IPS-E would be located and between the new settlement of Welborne and Wickham in the west, where IPS-F would be located. Construction works would disrupt tranquillity locally. The size and scale of impacts would be limited, and landscape patterns across the majority of these LLCAs would be maintained. The magnitude of impact would be medium for LLCA 15 and LLCA 23 and low for LLCA 19. The resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is considered significant.
- 13.8.73 There would be no construction activities or changes to the physical landscape within LLCA 17: Purbrook and Waterlooville and LLCA 20: Southwick and Southwick House. However, the construction of the Proposed Development would temporarily reduce the relative tranquillity of localised areas, such as the south-western edge of Widley. These impacts would be temporary and reversible following completion and overall, of very low magnitude. The resulting effects would be negligible and minor adverse respectively, which is not significant.

13.8.74 There would be no construction activities or changes to the landscape baseline conditions within LLCA16: A3(M) corridor, LLCA 21: Portchester, LLCA 22: Fareham. The intervening landform and dense vegetation and built form within Portchester and Fareham to the south, means that there would be no intervisibility with the construction activities and no changes to the character of the landscape. The same applies to LLCA 24: North Boarhunt and LCA 25: Forest of Bere Rookesbury where a combination of distance, a relatively flat intervening landscape and an abundance of intervening vegetation means that there would be no change to the character of these areas and therefore no effects.

*River Meon to River Itchen*

13.8.75 Within this section of the Proposed Development, there would be likely significant effects as result of construction of the Proposed Development within LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham, LLCA, 27: Upper Meon Valley, LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands, LLCA 30: Durley Claylands, LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street, LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland and LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley.

13.8.76 Construction activities would disrupt the northern part of LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham, including the removal of sections of field boundary vegetation to the east of Mayles Lane and vegetation within Wickham Park Golf Club. Temporary impacts would include changes in land use to facilitate the establishment of compounds, earthworks, and the construction of the IPS-G. Locally, the noise from these works would reduce tranquillity. The construction of the Proposed Development would impact the recreational value of the area, with temporary disruptions to the use of Wickham Park Golf Course and a section of the Meon Valley Trail. The construction of the section of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW crossing the River Meon would be tunnelled, avoiding impacts upon the distinctive characteristics of the chalk stream, including riparian vegetation and ecological networks. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be medium, which would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant.

13.8.77 In the north-western part of this section, construction activities would be located within LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands, LLCA 30: Durley Claylands, LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street, LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland and LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley. Similar impacts in these areas would result from open-cut excavation across predominantly arable fields, removal of existing boundary vegetation where it is intersected by the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW and the erection of several temporary construction compounds within the Order Limits. Tunnelling under the River Hamble within LLCA 30: Durley Claylands would limit impacts within the important wetland habitats in this area. Similarly, within LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley, the trenchless crossing under the River Itchen would limit the impact on the chalk stream and its setting. However, it would introduce temporary construction compounds with tall elements on each side of the river, disrupting tranquillity and the sense of wildness of the rural landscape and along the adjacent section of the Itchen Way long distance trail. While there may be some perception of construction activity in the wider landscape, this would be limited to the immediate surroundings. The Order Limits and the BPT-K would be located within the northern part of LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street. The larger, wooded part of this LLCA in the south-west would be relatively unaffected by changes to the setting and perceptual qualities in the north, as the elevated ground of Wintershill Hill and surrounding hedgerows provide a

generally strong degree of enclosure. Where the Order Limits lie in proximity to woodland, particularly within LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland, the tranquillity and rural character of the area would be affected. Within each of these LLCA the magnitude of impact would be medium, and the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

- 13.8.78 Additional likely significant effects would be limited to LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley which lies within the SDNP. These effects relate to partial deterioration of the landscape within this LLCA due to the adjacent compound and associated construction activity, including the presence of construction traffic along Mill Lane. The magnitude of impact would be very low, which assessed against the very high sensitivity of the receptor would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant.
- 13.8.79 Construction effects would not be significant within LLCA 28: Whiteley Woodlands, LLCA 32: Bishop's Waltham, LLCA 38: Colden Common, and LLCA 43: Lower Itchen Valley. Only a small section of the Order Limits would be located within the north-eastern corner of LLCA 28. This would reduce tranquillity locally due to noise of construction activities and construction vehicles using Titchfield Lane. The wooded landscape and character means that most of the area would not be affected. Construction activity would be located at least 500m from the southern edge of LLCA 32: Bishop's Waltham and 300m to the south of LLCA 38: Colden Common. While construction activities might be perceived within the southern edge of these settlements, impacts would be substantially limited due to the distance and abundance of intervening vegetation, resulting in a very low magnitude and effects ranging from minor to negligible adverse significance, which is not significant.
- 13.8.80 Within the western end of the study area there would be no construction activities or changes to the landscape baseline conditions within LLCA 35: Hornton Heath, LLCA 36: Bishopstoke, LLCA 39: Eastleigh, LLCA 40: Chandler's Ford, LLCA 41: Cranbury Woodlands and LLCA 42: Hursley Scarplands. Construction activities would be located at least 500m to the north of the settlements of Horton Heath, Fair Oak, and Bishopstoke. No effects are predicted within these areas due to the abundance and density of built form and vegetation and the intervening Stoke Park Woodland and higher ground between these settlements and the Order Limits. Within LLCA 39: Eastleigh and LLCA 40: Chandler's Ford the built form and containment by Otterbourne Park Wood, Castle Copse, and Great Moorland Copse would avoid perception of construction activity. To the west of the M3, there would be no change to the wooded and rural character of LLCA 41: Cranbury Woodlands and LLCA 42: Hursley Scarplands. Therefore, there are no reported effect on these receptors.
- 13.8.81 Table 13-15 below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on landscape receptors during the construction of the Proposed Development. A full and detailed assessment of all landscape effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-15 Summary of likely significant landscape effects during construction**

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
<b>County Landscape Character Areas</b>			
Hampshire LCA 2e Forest of Bere West	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Hampshire LCA 3c Itchen Valley	Very high	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
Hampshire LCA 3e Meon Valley	Very high	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
Hampshire LCA 8i Portsdown Hill Open Downs	High	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
<b>Local Landscape Character Areas</b>			
LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes	High	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland	High	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open down west	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 27: Upper Meon Valley	Very high	Very low	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 30: Durley Claylands	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

*Summary of likely effects on landscape features during construction*

13.8.82 Some vegetation removal will be required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development, including trees and hedgerows. This assessment is based on the information provided in the AIA, which is based on a tree survey undertaken as the design of the Proposed Development was developed, and provided in Appendix 13.5 Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO

Volume 6) and ES Appendix 8.2 Habitats, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

- 13.8.83 The AIA has made the following reasonable worst case assumptions for tree removal: *“The construction working width for the pipeline will be a maximum of 40m within the Order Limits. The pipeline must be located within the Limits of Deviation (LoD), and then the 40m working width could extend beyond the LoD. For example, if the pipeline is located at the edge of the LoD, a maximum width that would be required beyond the LoD boundary would be 27m with the other 13m applied to the other side of the pipeline.”*
- 13.8.84 *“The key assumptions for defining the worst case will be the 40m maximum working width, and locations that a 20m reduced working width would be implemented as indicated on the Reduced Working Width Schedule in Appendix A of the Outline CEMP (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7). If these are applied, the worst case loss can be identified, without assuming that all trees within the Order Limits will be lost. For example, if a 40m section passes through a line of trees with both category A and B trees at each end, it will be assumed as a worst case scenario that the 20m working width will require the removal of the category A trees but leaving the lesser category B trees at the opposite end retained.”*
- 13.8.85 This information has informed the assessment of effects on the character of LLCAs defined by the Applicant, and the definition of the EMEA, which are shown on the Work Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2) and the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5).

### Trees

- 13.8.86 As outlined in section 13.4, the AIA and the LVIA have actively informed the scheme development and the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5). A range of primary mitigation measures have been embedded into the design, including the avoidance of ancient woodland, the inclusion of appropriate buffer zones around them, and measures to ensure that there will be no loss or deterioration of ancient and veteran trees. Other measures include reducing the working width for open-cut sections from the typical 40m where the route intersects sensitive features, such as key vegetation, and using trenchless construction methods to avoid or reduce impacts on important tree and features, such as the TPO group at the corner of Titchfield Lane and Winchester Road (within LLCA 28), and the Category A trees (including two ancient trees) within Wintershill (LLCA 33). However, some vegetation removal would be unavoidable. Based on the tree survey, which was undertaken as the design of the Proposed Development was developed, tree removal would be required to accommodate the Proposed Development. In a worst-case scenario, this would include the removal and partial removal of a proportion of individual trees and tree groups within the Order Limits.
- 13.8.87 It is anticipated that up to 266 individual trees and 15 groups of trees would need to be fully removed to accommodate the Proposed Development. An additional 74 groups of trees and five woodlands would be partially removed. None of the trees identified for full or partial removal are considered ancient or veteran.

- 13.8.88 A breakdown of landscape features, an estimate of the trees that would need to be removed to facilitate construction by LLCA, is provided within ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).
- 13.8.89 The design has sought to reduce impacts wherever possible. Through early integration of landscape and visual considerations, including no loss or deterioration of ancient and veteran trees, incorporation of buffer zones, and adoption of sensitive construction methods, the extent of vegetation loss has been reduced. However, it is estimated based on the data in the AIA that the Proposed Development would result in the loss of a proportion of existing vegetation. A worst case assessment has been made in this ES, but additional refinement post-consent may help to avoid or reduce these impacts even further.

#### *Hedgerows*

- 13.8.90 Some sections of species-poor and species-rich native hedgerows would need to be partially or entirely removed to facilitate the installation of open-cut pipeline sections and the creation of temporary construction compounds and AGPs. These hedgerows would predominantly be reinstated following construction, except in locations where removal is required to enable access to:
1. AGP site BPT/IPS E from New Down Lane (LLCA 15)
  2. IPS F from Chalk Lane (LLCA 23)
- 13.8.91 With reference to ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), it is estimated that, in the worst case scenario, approximately 4.49 linear kilometers of hedgerow would require temporary removal. The hedgerows would be reinstated following construction.

#### *Landscape effects in year 1 of operation*

#### *National Character Areas*

- 13.8.92 Following construction of the Pipelines, the ground above and within working areas such as temporary construction compounds would have been restored to its previous condition. Gaps of up to 40m in existing vegetation removed to facilitate construction would remain as the planting proposed to reinstate these gaps would not have established. As a consequence, there would be a visible scar across the landscape. This would mostly be evident across Portsdown Hill and to the north with the southern part of the Forest of Bere East but across the majority of the area it would result in localised impacts and the character would not be affected. The permanent structures of BPT/IPS-E, IPS-F, IPS-G and BPT-K would be located within NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands. These AGP would be similar in scale to existing agricultural buildings in the area and have been sited to take advantage of existing vegetation or to associate them with existing development. Proposed planting designed to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction and to integrate the AGP would not have established. However, existing vegetation and earthworks would assist in minimising impacts which would be localised at this scale. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be low. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity of NCA 128, would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

*Hampshire landscape character assessment*

- 13.8.93 With the exception of LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs effects at the scale of the LCAs defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment would have reduced to not significant following construction. This is because the changes to the landscape character would be generally small and localised to the Order Limits and would not be perceptible in the wider landscape.
- 13.8.94 Within LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs short sections of hedgerow where the pipeline crosses field boundaries would have been reinstated but would not have established to mitigate the loss and therefore gaps in the field pattern would remain. The open character and sloping topography and the route of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW means that the majority of the area would be affected. The completed BPT/IPS-E would introduce a new built form in a prominent position on the ridgeline, although in the immediate context of the infrastructure close to the urban edge of Widley. The magnitude of impact would be medium and this, assessed against the high sensitivity of the area means that the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.95 Effects on LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West, LCA 3c: Itchen Valley, LCA 3e: Meon Valley and LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain would not be significant during year 1 of operation. This is because the magnitude of impact would reduce to low or very low. The extent of impacts would be limited to within the Order Limits and where agricultural cultivation would have recommenced and site compounds and accesses made good. Gaps within existing vegetation removed to facilitate construction would remain, but these would be small in the context of the overall LCA and would have been replanted. In the case of LCA 2e: Forest of Bere West, a greater length and therefore larger proportion of the area would be impacted and the scale of impacts would be greater because the field pattern is generally smaller, particularly around settlements. Nevertheless, the majority of the area would remain as described in the baseline conditions. The low to very low magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium to very high sensitivity, would result minor adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.8.96 There would be no changes or no perception of the Proposed Development within the remaining areas comprising LCA 2d: Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic, LCA 7f: West Winchester Downs, LCA 7g: Owslebury and Corhampton Downs, LCA 9f: Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain, LCA 10a: Langstone and Chichester Harbours and LCA 10b: Portsmouth Harbour. This is due to intervening topography or the extent of vegetation and settlement. Therefore, no effect during year 1 of operation is reported.

*Local Landscape Character Areas*

- 13.8.97 This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on the LLCAs that would result from the Proposed Development in year 1 of operation. The assessment has been summarised according to the three principal sections within the study area shown in ES Figure 13.1 Landscape and visual impact assessment study area, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).

*Havant and Bedhampton*

- 13.8.98 A short section of above-ground pipeline would feature between the WRP site and Bedhampton Springs WTW, within the southern part of LLCA 08: Bedhampton. This would cross open pasture to the east of the Hermitage Stream and within the operational land of the Bedhampton Springs WTW. These changes would be localised and not perceptible across the majority of the area because of the railway line and vegetation to the north and the A27 to the south. The key characteristics of LLCA 08 would be retained. The magnitude of impact would be very low. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity, would result in negligible adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.8.99 There would also be no likely significant effects on LLCAs relating to the WRP site at year 1 of operation. Permanent impacts of operation would be limited in geographical extent to the eastern part of the area associated with the WRP site which coincides with LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks. The new built form would create order and structure in this part of the area, with improved access to Harts Farm Lane and with architectural quality which would act as a gateway feature close to the junction with the A27 in the north. Proposed planting would not have established but the abundance of existing mature trees and other vegetation would assist in integrating it within the landscape, limiting the size and scale of impacts. The magnitude of impact would be low. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity, would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

*Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere*

- 13.8.100 During year 1 of operation there would be likely significant effects relating to LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge and LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes.
- 13.8.101 With respect to LLCA: 15: Portsdown Hill ridge, the physical impacts would be limited to the completed BPT/IPS-E, which would introduce new built form and associated infrastructure in the immediate context of the existing development on the urban edge of Widley. The size and scale of impacts would be limited due to the small part of the LLCA affected and the low height of the structures in the context of the wider landscape. The reinstatement of the pipeline corridor to the north would not result in perceptible changes to the character of the wider LLCA 15. The magnitude of impact would be low, assessed against the high sensitivity of the area. The permanent physical changes to the top of Portsdown Hill mean that the resulting effects at year 1 of operation would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.102 The majority of LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes would return to the baseline condition following construction and there would be no AGP in this area. The topography and land use above the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would have been restored and short sections of hedgerow would have been reinstated. However, this planting would not have established to mitigate this loss and therefore gaps in the field pattern would remain. As a consequence, the magnitude of impact would be medium which assessed against the high sensitivity of the area, the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.103 The magnitude of impact on LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland and LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open downs west would be very low and low respectively and this, assessed against the high sensitivity, would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant. With respect to LLCA 23, IPS-F would introduce new built form, but this would be in the context of extensive new development within Welborne just to the south and existing agricultural development to the east of the A32. The majority of both areas would return to the baseline conditions and the small loss of existing vegetation would result in only very localised changes to the landscape character.

*River Meon to the River Itchen*

13.8.104 Within this section of the Proposed Development, there would be likely significant effects during year 1 of operation within LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham, LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands, LLCA 30: Durley Claylands and LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley.

13.8.105 For LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham the above-ground impacts of operation would be limited to BPT-K. The new structure would introduce new built form adjacent to existing barns of a similar height and between two areas of existing residential properties along Titchfield Lane. Along the Pipeline route, the land would have been restored but the planting would not have established to assist in mitigating the loss of existing vegetation. The size and scale of impacts would be limited due to the small part of the LLCA affected and the low height of the structures in the context of the wider landscape. The magnitude of impact would be low and the resulting effects, assessed against the high sensitivity of the area, would be moderate adverse, which is significant. This is due to the permanent physical changes within the setting of the SDNP and the scarring of the land within Wickham Park Golf Course, resulting in partial deterioration of the landscape character.

13.8.106 Impacts on the local landscape pattern would remain within LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands, relating to short sections of hedgerow where the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW crosses field boundaries. Similar impacts would extend across LLCA 30: Durley Claylands and LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley. The majority of these areas would return to the baseline conditions. The magnitude of impact would range from low for LLCA 37 to medium for LLCA 29 and LLCA 30 and overall, the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant. Effects within LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street and LLCA 34: Fair Oak wooded farmland would not be significant. In the case of LLCA 33, although BPT-K would be located here, it would be enclosed by mature vegetation on the boundaries and would not exert an influence over the wider area, which would largely return to the baseline conditions. Gaps relating to short sections of hedgerow where the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW crosses field boundaries would remain.

13.8.107 Table 13-16 below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on landscape receptors during year 1 of operation of the Proposed Development. A full and detailed assessment of all landscape effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-16 Summary of likely significant landscape effects during year 1 of operation**

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
<b>County Landscape Character Areas</b>			
LCA 8i Portsdown Hill Open Downs	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>Local Landscape Character Areas</b>			
LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge	High	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham	High	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 30: Durley Claylands	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley	High	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)

Summary of likely effects on landscape features during year 1 of operation

13.8.108 During year 1 of operation, gaps left by the removal of vegetation would remain visible, as newly planted vegetation would not yet be established.

Effects of decommissioning on landscape elements and character

13.8.109 The effects on the landscape from decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered to be no greater than those identified during the construction phase and are therefore assessed to be of the same significance as those assessed for construction. As stated in paragraph 13.5.8, this is because the activities relating to decommissioning would be similar to construction, but carried out in the context of enhanced landscape mitigation. The significance of effects resulting from decommissioning would therefore be as reported for the construction effects.

**Visual effects**

13.8.110 The following section provides a summary of the assessment of visual effects that would result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

13.8.111 A full and detailed assessment of all landscape effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

13.8.112 The visual effects assessment has been presented as follows:

1. Visual effects of construction
2. Visual effects of year 1 of operation

3. Visual effects of decommissioning

Construction effects

*Havant and Bedhampton*

13.8.113 Construction of the Pipelines between the WRP site and Bedhampton Springs WTW, would be prominent in views within a small section of the Wayfarer's Walk as it passes along the Hermitage Stream between Meyrick Road and the railway line (VP009). Construction activities, including the removal of vegetation along the watercourse, would represent a detrimental change within a localised section of the path. However, along the majority of the route there would be no views of construction activity, and therefore the magnitude of impact would be low. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the receptor, would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

13.8.114 The construction of the WRP site would result in significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1. People travelling along Harts Farm Way (VP015)
2. People travelling along the Solent Way long distance route, near Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016)

People travelling through the area on local roads

13.8.115 Construction activity would be most evident within the local roads immediately surrounding the WRP site (VP015), where construction activity and taller plant would be seen in the foreground of views through occasional gaps in the dense vegetation which lines the boundaries. The focus of views would remain on the road ahead. The magnitude of impact would gradually increase to very high on approach to the WRP site, resulting in moderate adverse effects, which is significant.

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes

13.8.116 The Solent Way long distance route is situated approximately 150m to the south of the Order Limits. There would be views of construction activity in the background when looking north towards the WRP site from the footpath and the adjacent coastal park (VP016). This includes the presence of temporary construction compounds, material storage and tall plant visible above boundary vegetation and against the sky. Task lighting at night would be seen in the context of the brightly lit Bedhampton Industrial Area to the east and the A27 to the north. While the attention of the receptor is focused to the south across Langstone Harbour, the construction activity would be a visual distraction. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant, since construction activity would be obvious and noticeable from this location. Effects for people travelling along the other promoted routes identified would be minor adverse and therefore not significant.

Views from Langstone Harbour

13.8.117 While it may be possible to make out construction activity in the distant background of views from Langstone Harbour, the only likely significant effect would be experienced from Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016) on the northern edge of the Harbour, as described in paragraph 13.8.116.

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes

13.8.118 Views from the rest of the local PRoW network towards the Order Limits are mostly screened by vegetation and built form. The steep and well-vegetated bank along the eastern edge of the Order Limits would screen the majority of construction activities within the WRP site from the public footpath along the edge of the Hermitage Stream. The substantial, dense belt of trees and shrubs along the A27 would substantially screen views of construction activity from the pedestrian bridge over the road (VP014). Therefore, there would be no likely significant visual effects during construction on people travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes.

Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere

13.8.119 The construction of the Proposed Development would result in likely significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1. People walking along Wayfarer's Walk, on the approach to Portsdown Hill from the north (VP018, VP019, VP020)
2. People walking along the Pilgrims' Way to the south of Millers Coppice. (VP029, VP032)
3. People walking along the Allan King Way to the north of Fort Nelson (VP038, VP041)
4. People walking along PRoW which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the Order Limits (VP022, VP023, VP037, VP042, VP045, VP123, VP124, VP130, VP131)
5. Residents on the western edge of Widley (VP019, VP020)
6. Residents of the periphery Wickham (VP125)
7. People visiting Portsdown Hill viewpoints (VP021, VP024)
8. People travelling along the A32 to the south of Wickham (Hoad's Hill) (VP126) and at the junction with Knowle Road (Wickham Road) (VP047)
9. People travelling along the B2177/Southwick Road, to the north of Portsdown Technology Park (VP031)
10. People travelling through the area on local roads (VP036, VP039, VP043, VP125)

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes

13.8.120 VP018, VP019 and VP020 represent a kinetic approach to Portsdown Hill from the north along the Wayfarer's Walk long distance route. People travelling along this route would experience views of the construction, including earthworks and the presence and movement of construction plant across the northern dip slope of

Portsmouth Hill. The removal of sections of hedgerows across a working width of up to 40m would slightly increase the openness of views across the landscape. While views from this route travelling north are oblique and the attention of receptors is generally on the narrow and uneven path, the magnitude of impact would gradually increase from medium at VP018, high at VP019 and very high at VP020 on the approach to the Order Limits. This, assessed against the high sensitivity of the receptor would result in moderate to major adverse effects, which is significant.

- 13.8.121 People walking along the Pilgrims' Way long distance route across the valley to the north of Portsmouth Hill (VP029, VP032) would occasionally experience unobstructed views of the construction of the Proposed Development. This is due to the exposure of the Order Limits on the open, north facing dip slope and often across bare arable fields. Earthworks and the presence of temporary construction compounds, construction vehicles and the removal of sections of hedgerow would result in impacts of medium magnitude at these locations. This, assessed against the high sensitivity of the receptor, would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant. Effects at other points on this route, such as VP033, would not be significant due to the abundance of intervening vegetation.
- 13.8.122 People walking along the section of the Allan King Way to the north of Fort Nelson, (VP038, VP041) would experience unobstructed views towards the construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW in views to the north. Construction activity would be visible in the middle ground across the view. The rural character, time depth, and visual connection to the Forest of Bere and the SDNP in the far distance would be interrupted. Overall, the magnitude of impact would range between medium and very high and the resulting effect between moderate and major adverse, which is significant.

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes

- 13.8.123 On the eastern edge of this section people using PRoW in the vicinity of the Order Limits along New Downs Lane (VP022 and VP023) would experience prominent views of construction activity. This would include the temporary presence and activity related to large temporary construction compounds within the site of BPT/IPS-E. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be very high, and the resulting effects would be major adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.124 Visual impacts would gradually decrease away from the Order Limits where construction activity would be seen across the middle ground in views from PRoW to the south (VP037) and north (VP042). The magnitude of impact would be high, and the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.125 At the western end of this section, on the approach to the A32, the construction of the Pipeline and IPS-F, would affect the views of people walking through the area (VP045, VP123, VP124, VP130 and VP131), who would experience views of construction activities across the rural fields, including excavation and the presence of vehicles, tall machinery, and large temporary construction compounds. The magnitude of impact would range between medium and very high, resulting in moderate and major adverse effects in close proximity to the Order limits (VP130) which is significant.

Residents

- 13.8.126 From the rear elevations of the residential properties on the western edge of Widley (VP018, VP019 and VP020), the construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW and AGP, would be visible in the background across the dip slope of Portsdown Hill. This would include major earthworks, the presence and operation of temporary construction compounds and activities including the movement of construction plant and the removal of existing vegetation from field boundaries. Task lighting, if needed, would be perceptible within the relatively dark rural landscape in views to the west. On the western edge of the area, some residents on the periphery of Wickham (VP125) could also perceive construction activity across arable fields.
- 13.8.127 Overall, the magnitude of impact would range between medium and high depending on the extent of intervening vegetations, and the significance of effects would range from moderate adverse at VP018, VP019 and VP125 and major adverse at VP020, which is significant.

Tourists

- 13.8.128 There would be no views from within Fort Nelson itself due to the tall brick walls. However, from the Allan King Way, which is a promoted route running along the northern edge of the fort (VP038) there would be unobstructed views towards the construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW towards the bottom of the dip slope of Portsdown Hill, the magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse.

People using public open spaces

- 13.8.129 People using the open spaces across Portsdown Hill would experience impacts varying between low in views to the south and medium in views to the north toward the Order Limits. From the viewpoint associated with the car park located to the south of the B2177 Portsdown Hill Road, the focus is generally to the south across the urban skyline. However, when looking east along the road towards the site of BPT/IPS-E (VP021), there would be views of construction traffic and tall machinery accessing the site. Most construction activity would be screened by the tall, dense trees and scrub which line the road. From the wide verge on the northern side of the road and from the specific viewpoint to the east of Fort Widley (VP024), there would be filtered views of construction activity to the north. In both cases the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

People travelling through the area on main roads

- 13.8.130 People travelling on Southwick Road (B2177), to the north of Portsdown Technology Park (VP031) would experience views of the construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW across the foreground and middle ground of the view. This would include the presence of two temporary construction compounds obstructing views of the landscape beyond. Within this section of the road, the magnitude of impact would be high, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

People travelling through the area on local roads

- 13.8.131 The open character of the rural landscape would often allow unobstructed views of construction activity from roads lacking roadside vegetation and within areas with scarce built form, such as Boarhunt (VP039 and VP043). The higher topography of the northern dipslopes of Portsdown Hill would also allow views of construction activity travelling north (VP036 on Crooked Walk Lane), where construction activities would disrupt the existing views towards the Forest of Bere, Southwick and the SDNP. At each of these viewpoints the magnitude of impact would be high, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.132 Blocks of woodland are more prevalent within the western part of this section and vegetation along the River Meon. However, open views towards construction activity would be possible from some roads such as Forest Lane (VP125), where the magnitude of impact would also be high, and the significance of effect moderate adverse, which is significant.

River Meon to the River Itchen

- 13.8.133 The construction of the Proposed Development would result in likely significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:
1. People walking along the Meon Valley Trail (VP054)
  2. People walking along the Pilgrims' Way (VP077, VP082)
  3. People walking along PRow which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the Order Limits (VP048, VP051, VP055, VP069, VP073, VP079, VP083, VP084, VP094, VP097, VP100, VP106, VP116, VP128)
  4. Residents on the western edge of Wickham and along Titchfield Lane opposite Wickham Park Golf Club (VP065, VP128)
  5. Residents of Shirell Heath (VP055, VP116)
  6. Residents of Durley (VP120)
  7. Residents of Lower Upham (VP085, VP090, VP117, VP118)
  8. Residents on northern edge of Crowdhill (VP093)
  9. Residents to the south of Colden Common (VP094, VP096, VP100)
  10. People travelling along A32 (Hoad's Hill) (VP126)
  11. People travelling along the B2177/Portsmouth Road (VP90)
  12. People travelling along the B3354/Winchester Road (VP093)
  13. People travelling through the area on local roads (VP117, VP120)

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes

- 13.8.134 Likely significant effects along the Meon Valley Trail would relate to the section that runs to the east of Wickham Park Golf Club (VP054). Construction activities would be visible across Wickham Park Golf Club, partially screened or filtered by the mature vegetation which lines the route. Views would diminish along the rest of the route, especially in areas enclosed by vegetation or where the route is in cutting. The magnitude of impact would be high, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.135 The openness of views of construction of the Proposed Development from the Pilgrims' Way would increase on the approach from the north and within the SDNP (VP082). Construction activities on the northern slopes of Wintershill would be visible in the background, whereas in proximity to the Order Limits (VP077) the construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would dominate views changing the rural character by introducing earthworks, the movement of construction plant and task lighting if needed. The magnitude of impact would vary between low and very high and the significance of effect from moderate adverse to major adverse, which is significant.

People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes

13.8.136 To the north of Wickham, people travelling along PRoW on the boundary of the SDNP (VP048, VP051) would experience views of earthworks and the presence of a temporary construction compound located at the junction of Blind Lane and Mill Lane. While construction would largely be screened by mature vegetation, visibility would increase within the western part due to the lack of vegetation and the increasing proximity to the Order Limits, resulting in effects of moderate adverse significance, which is significant.

13.8.137 To the west of Wickham, the open character of the arable field where construction activities and IPS-G would be located, are likely to allow open views towards construction activities from footpath 1/1 (VP128). The character of this view would temporarily change to a construction site, with large temporary construction compounds, activity, stock piling and machinery in view. The magnitude of impact would be very high, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.138 Likely significant effects on people walking along sections of PRoW in proximity to the Order Limits, (VP055, VP073, VP079, VP097, VP106, VP116) would experience views of extensive construction activity including earthworks, the presence of temporary construction compounds and the movement of construction plant and vehicles. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be very high, and the significance of effect would vary between moderate adverse and major adverse, which is significant.

13.8.139 Impacts on the views of users of PRoW would gradually decrease away from the Order Limits. Construction activity would be seen across the middle ground of views from PRoW to the south (VP069, VP100), and to the north (VP094). The magnitude of impact would reduce to high, and the significance of effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.140 Construction activities around Wintershill would be visible to people travelling along footpath 20/1, which runs parallel to the Order Limits (VP083, and VP084). Trenchless construction under vegetation on the southern boundary of the Wintershill Hall parkland would avoid the loss of mature trees and reduce landscape and visual impacts. However, it would require tall machinery and large temporary construction compounds which would be prominent in views along the footpath. Overall, there would be a high magnitude of impact, and the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

Residents

- 13.8.141 Residents of Titchfield Lane fronting Wickham Park Golf Club (VP065) would experience views of construction activities across the road, filtered by the existing vegetation within front gardens. There would also be views from the rear of properties off Winchester Road/A334 (VP128). In this area, there would be views of excavation and two temporary construction compounds. Additionally, there could be night-time impacts relating to task lighting to illuminate the works at the start and end of winter working shifts. The magnitude of impact would range between high and very high, and the significance of effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.142 There would also be views of the construction of the Proposed Development from properties on the outer edges of Shirrell Hill (VP055, VP116) and Durley (VP120). The magnitude of impact would vary between high and very high, and the significance of effect would range from moderate to major adverse, depending on the distance from construction activities. These are considered likely significant effects.
- 13.8.143 Within Lower Upham, construction activity would be most perceptible from the rear elevations of properties along Winchester Road (B2177) (VP085 and VP090). There would be views of construction activity along the northern slope of Wintershill, including earthworks, cranes and other machinery needed for construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW and BPT-K. Residents of properties on the northern edge of Crowdhill (VP093) and to the south of Colden Common (VP094, VP096, and VP100), and from residential streets in proximity to the Order Limits (VP 117, VP118), would also experience views of construction activity. The magnitude of impact would vary between high and very high, and the significance of effects between moderate and major adverse, which is significant.

People travelling through the area on main roads

- 13.8.144 People travelling along the A32 (Hoad's Hill) (VP126) and the B3354 (VP093) would experience views of construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW. The trenchless section under these roads would introduce construction vehicles, tall plant and large temporary construction compounds by the road. These impacts, whilst large in scale, would be localised to short sections of the road.
- 13.8.145 Views from the B2177 (VP090) towards the Order Limits would include glimpses of construction activity through roadside vegetation. There would be noticeable changes to the view including earthworks, the movement of construction vehicles and the presence of temporary construction compounds.
- 13.8.146 The magnitude of impact for these viewpoints would be high, and the significance of effect moderate adverse, which is significant.

People travelling through the area on local roads

- 13.8.147 People travelling along Frith Lane (VP051) on the approach to Mill Lane west of Wickham would experience views of the temporary construction compound which would introduce temporary built form. These changes would relate to a short section of the road and the magnitude of impact would be high. This, assessed

against the low sensitivity of the receptor, would result in moderate adverse effects, which is significant.

- 13.8.148 People travelling on Titchfield Lane, as the road passes by Wickham Park Golf Club (VP065) would experience oblique views of construction activity, including the removal of vegetation, and the presence of machinery increasing the openness of views and resulting in a high magnitude of impact. Overall, the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant. The Proposed Development would traverse several local roads, including Pricketts Hill (VP052), Cudridge Lane (VP073), Sandy Lane (VP114), Scivier’s Lane (VP117), Alma Lane (VP118) and Bishopstoke Lane (VP111). Visual impacts would also result from temporary traffic management and construction activity, generally localised to short sections of road in proximity to the Order Limits.
- 13.8.149 The trenchless construction method under Wintershill and the parkland of Wintershill Hall would reduce visual impacts from the road. However, it would require tall machinery and large temporary construction compounds which would be visible within the foreground of views travelling along Wintershill (VP083).
- 13.8.150 Overall, the magnitude of impact would vary between high and very high, and the significance of effect would be moderate to major adverse, which is significant.
- 13.8.151 A summary of the significant visual effects during construction which have been identified with the assessment is presented below in Table 13-17. A full and detailed assessment of all visual effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-17 Summary of likely significant visual effects during construction**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
<b>People travelling along PRow which are promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along Allan King Way	VP038, VP041	High	Medium to very high	Moderate to Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along Meon Valley Trail	VP054	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Pilgrims’ Way	VP029, VP032, VP077, VP082	High to very high	Medium to very high	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Solent Way	VP016	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Wayfarer’s Walk	VP018, VP019, VP020	High	Medium to very high	Moderate to Major adverse (significant)
<b>People travelling along PRow which are not promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along footpath 218/28/1	VP022, VP023	Medium to High	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 218/38/1	VP037	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
People travelling along footpath 023/14/1	VP042	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/130/1	VP045	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 251/6/1	VP048, VP051	Medium to high	Medium to high	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 207/13/1	VP055	Medium	Very high	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 207/3/2	VP069	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 062/4/1	VP073	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 069/20/1	VP083	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 054/23/1	VP094	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 054/21/1	VP097	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 054/5/3	VP100	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 082/6/1	VP106	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 207/12/2	VP116	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/101/1 and 084/103/1	VP123, VP124	High	Medium to high	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/107/1	VP130	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 023/14/1	VP131	High	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 251/1/1	VP128	Medium	Very high	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>Residents</b>				
Residents of Widley (western edge)	VP018, VP019, VP020	High	Medium to high	Moderate to Major adverse (significant)

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
Residents of Wickham	VP065, VP125, VP128	Medium	High to very high	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Shirell Heath	VP055 VP116	Medium	Very high	Moderate to Major adverse (significant)
Residents of Lower Upham	VP085, VP090, VP117, VP118	Medium to high	Medium to high	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Durley	VP120	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Crowdhill	VP093	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Colden Common	VP094, VP096, VP100	Medium to high	High to very high	Moderate to Major adverse (significant)
<b>Tourists</b>				
Visitors of Fort Nelson	VP038	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>People using public open spaces</b>				
People using Broadmarsh Coastal Park	VP016	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People visiting Portsdown Hill Viewpoint and associated public open space	VP021	High	Low	Moderate adverse (significant)
People in open space north of Fort Widley	VP024	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>People travelling through the area on main roads</b>				
People travelling along A32 (Hoad's Hill)	VP126	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along B2177	VP031, VP090	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along B3354	VP093	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>People travelling through the area on local roads</b>				
People travelling along Harts Farm Way	VP015	Low	Very high	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Crooked Walk Lane	VP036	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Ashley Down Lane	VP039	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
People travelling along Nine Elms Lane	VP043	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Forest Lane	VP125	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Frith Lane	VP051	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Pricketts Hill	VP052	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Titchfield Lane	VP065	Medium	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Cudridge Lane	VP073	Medium	Very high	Major adverse (significant)
People travelling along Winters Hill	VP083	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Bishopstoke Lane	VP111	Low	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Alma Lane	VP117	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Scivier's Lane	VP118, VP120	Medium to high	High	Moderate adverse (significant)

### Visual effects in year 1 of operation

#### *Havant and Bedhampton*

13.8.152 At year 1 of operation, the new built form within the WRP site would result in significant visual effects for people travelling along the Solent Way long distance route, near Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016)

13.8.153 From the Solent Way looking north, the upper parts of the WRP structures would be visible against the sky. These impacts would affect only a short section of the route, and the views would continue to be focused to the south across the harbour. The use of materials and a colour palette appropriate to the local context will be secured through the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5). This would help integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape. However, the proposed planting would not have established at year 1, and the structures would be partially screened by the retained existing vegetation within the perimeter of the site for the WRP. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

#### Views from Langstone Harbour

13.8.154 While it may be possible to make out the new built form related to the WRP in the background of views from Langstone Harbour, the only likely significant effect

would be experienced from Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016) on the northern edge of the Harbour, as described in paragraph 13.8.153 above.

*Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere*

13.8.155 The operation of the Proposed Development in year 1 would result in significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1. People walking along Wayfarer's Walk, on the approach to Portsdown Hill from the north (VP019, VP020)
2. People walking along PRoW which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the AGP (VP022, VP123, VP124)
3. Residents on the western edge of Widley (VP019, VP020)

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes*

13.8.156 On the approach to Portsdown Hill from the north along the Wayfarer's Walk long distance route (VP019, VP020), the BPT/IPS-E would introduce new built form in the background. The new structures would be seen within the context of the existing infrastructure including telecommunication masts, a covered reservoir and small solar panel arrays and against a backdrop of tall mature trees. The reinstatement of field boundary vegetation removed to facilitate construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would not have fully established, and occasional gaps in the hedgerows within the rural landscape to the west would still be visible at year 1 of operation. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes*

13.8.157 The new structures within the BPT/IPS-E would be the dominant feature in the foreground of views on the approach to the B2177 (VP022) from the public footpath to the west. The wide panoramic views to the north across the Forest of Bere and beyond towards the distant hills within the SNDP and the east along Portsdown Hill would largely return to the baseline condition. The restoration of the ground with the temporary construction compound would be evident in the middle ground where there would be some gaps in field boundary vegetation. Due to the proximity of this receptor, at year 1 the magnitude of impact would be high, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.158 People traveling on the PRoW network around the River Wallington at the western end of Portsdown Hill (VP123, VP124) would experience glimpsed views of the IPS-F. These new structures would be viewed against a background of rising ground and mature woodland and in the context of the new residential development at Welborne to the south. At year 1 the magnitude of impact would range between low and medium, and the significance of effect would vary between minor, which is not significant, and moderate adverse, which is significant.

*Residents*

13.8.159 There would be views from the rear elevations of the residential properties on the western edge of Widley (VP019 and VP020) of the BPT/IPS-E, which would

introduce new built form in the background. The new structures would be seen within the context of the existing infrastructure including telecommunication masts, a covered reservoir and small solar panel arrays and against a backdrop of tall mature trees. The reinstatement of field boundary vegetation removed to facilitate construction of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would not have fully established, and occasional gaps in the hedgerows within the rural landscape to the west would still be visible at year 1 of operation. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse.

#### *River Meon to the River Itchen*

13.8.160 The operation of the Proposed Development in year 1 would result in likely significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1. People walking along the Meon Valley Trail (VP054)
2. People walking along the Pilgrims' Way (VP077, VP082)
3. People walking along PRoW which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the Order Limits (VP079) and the BPT-K (VP084)
4. Residents on the northern edge of Crowdhill (VP093 and VP114)
5. Residents to the south of Colden Common (VP096)

#### *People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes*

13.8.161 People travelling along the Meon Valley Trail would continue to experience changes in views along the short section of the route that runs to the east of Wickham Park Golf Club (VP054). Gaps left after the removal of vegetation within the golf course would be noticeable as at year 1 of operation mitigation planting would have not established.

13.8.162 Through the section of Pilgrims Way to the north of Winters Hill, across the B2177 Winchester Road and within the SDNP (VP082), BPT-K would be visible on the north-facing close of Winters Hill. The new structures would appear above the existing development, and while the majority of the panoramic view would not be affected, it would be possible to discern the new built form in the background of views from this section of the Pilgrims' Way.

13.8.163 Gaps within the hedgerow network would also be evident to people travelling along the Pilgrims' Way in proximity to the Proposed Development (VP077).

13.8.164 Although the rural character of the views would be largely returned to the baseline conditions, some changes to field boundaries and the restoration of the ground would be noticeable. The magnitude of impact upon these receptors would range between low and medium and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

#### *People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes*

13.8.165 Scarring effects on the landscape would still be perceptible in views from footpaths in close proximity to the Order Limits (VP079), since mitigation planting would not have established in year 1 of operation. The BPT-K would be visible from footpath 20/1 (VP084), which runs to the east of Wintershill Hall. Existing vegetation would

continue to screen views to the south-west, and the scaring effects along the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW would be barely perceptible from this location. The magnitude of impact would be medium, and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

#### Residents

13.8.166 Views of residents on the streets in proximity to the Proposed Development would largely return to the baseline conditions. In areas where roads are lined by continuous hedgerows (VP093, VP096, VP116) gaps would remain where planting would not have established to mitigate this loss. As a consequence, the magnitude of impact would be medium and the resulting effects would be moderate adverse, which is significant.

13.8.167 A summary of the likely significant visual effects during operation that have been identified within the assessment are presented in Table 13-18.

**Table 13-18 Summary of likely significant visual effects during year 1 of operation**

Visual Receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
<b>People travelling along PRow which are promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along Solent Way	P016	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Meon Valley Trail	VP054	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Pilgrims' Way	VP077 VP082	High to very high	Low to medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Wayfarer's Walk	VP019, VP020	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>People travelling along PRow which are not promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along footpath 218/28/1	VP022	High	High	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 207/12/2	VP116	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/103/1	VP124	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
<b>Residents</b>				
Residents of Widley (western edge).	VP019, VP020	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Shirell Heath	VP116	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
Residents of Crowdhill	VP093	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

Visual Receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effects
Residents of Colden Common	VP096	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)

Visual effects of decommissioning

13.8.168 Visual effects relating to the decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered to be no greater than those identified during the construction phase and are therefore assessed as being the same as construction effects. The significance of effects resulting from decommissioning would therefore be as reported for the construction effects.

## 13.9 Mitigation, monitoring and enhancement

13.9.1 Mitigation measures are defined in ES Chapter 5 EIA approach and methodology, Volume I, (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) with primary mitigation and tertiary mitigation for landscape and visual amenity being presented in section 13.4.

### Secondary mitigation

13.9.2 For landscape and visual matters, all mitigation relating to construction effects is considered to be tertiary and for operation effects is considered primary (embedded). Section 13.4 explains this more and summarises key changes to the design of the Proposed Development, which have been informed by the LVIA as part of the iterative design process. This approach is explained more in section 1.3 of ES Appendix 13.2 Landscape and visual assessment methodology, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Therefore, no secondary measures are proposed.

### Monitoring

#### Construction

13.9.3 As likely significant effects on landscape and visual receptors would occur during construction of the Proposed Development, monitoring of these effects would be undertaken. The implementation of the mitigation planting would be overseen by a suitably qualified landscape architect employed by the Contractor during the works to ensure that good practice relating to ground preparation, plant handling and planting techniques is followed. The Contractor will be responsible for the implementation, establishment maintenance, management, and monitoring of all landscape reinstatement. This monitoring would be undertaken in accordance with the measures set out within the Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) and are secured by a requirement in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO (Document reference 3.1, DCO Volume 3).

#### Operation

13.9.4 Monitoring of the growth and maintenance of planting would be undertaken by a suitably qualified landscape architect employed by the Contractor during the first

five years following implementation to ensure it establishes successfully. All planting incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development would be routinely inspected, managed and maintained during the contract period in accordance with the requirements as stipulated within the detailed LEMPs. The detailed LEMPs will be produced and submitted for approval in accordance with the corresponding requirement in Schedule 2 to the draft DCO (Document reference 3.1, DCO Volume 3). Such maintenance and management practices would include inspecting and, where necessary, replacing defective plants to ensure that all planting establishes and achieves its intended environmental functions and objectives.

- 13.9.5 The Outline LEMP (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) explains that after the five-year establishment period, the longer-term maintenance and management would commence. This would be monitored by landscape architects employed by the Contractor during annual inspections of proposed planting up to year 15 of operation. At this point a monitoring visit would be made by a suitably qualified landscape architect to each viewpoint identified within the LVIA predicted to experience likely significant visual effects to ensure that the planting has established and is delivering its intended screening and integration objectives. Should the planting be found not to have established as intended or be insufficient to provide the required level of screening and integration, remedial works would be undertaken as necessary. These works could, for example, include establishing additional planting within Order Limits to augment that already in place.

### **Enhancement**

- 13.9.6 As well as environmental mitigation, the Proposed Development also seeks to provide environmental enhancement within the Order Limits. Locations for environmental mitigation are shown on the Works Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2) and the Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5). Potential enhancement proposals include habitat improvements adjacent to construction working areas. The Proposed Development is seeking consent to deliver these environmental enhancements, but these will only be implemented subject to securing agreements with landowners.
- 13.9.7 Additional work by the Contractor would continue post-consent consent to refine environmental enhancement opportunities. This would include more multi-disciplinary working to define opportunities to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain and wider Environmental Next Gain. This would include consideration of the opportunities to enhance natural capital and ecosystem services through the Proposed Development and connections with the wider Green Infrastructure network.

## **13.10 Summary of residual effects**

- 13.10.1 This section presents a summary of the likely residual effects on the landscape, and people's views of the landscape, during construction and decommissioning, and after 15 years of operation. It should be read alongside the detailed assessment of effects on landscape receptors set out in ES Appendix 13.3 Landscape baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6), and visual receptors set out in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and

effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6). Table 13-19 and Table 13-20 provide a high-level summary of these effects.

#### *Landscape and visual effects of construction and decommissioning*

- 13.10.2 The tertiary mitigation measures described in section 13.4 have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce environmental effects. Therefore, the residual landscape and visual effects of construction and decommissioning are the same as those reported in section 13.8.

#### *Landscape effects at year 15 of operation*

- 13.10.3 None of the residual landscape effects reported are considered significant. This would be due to the establishment of planting carried out to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction and to integrate the AGP, including BPT/IPS-E, IPS-F, IPS-G, and BPT-K into the landscape. As a consequence, the physical landscape pattern would return to restore the baseline conditions and there would be localised perception of these changes at this scale.
- 13.10.4 The Applicant has considered opportunities to further enhance the landscape and to strengthen Green Infrastructure. The potential scope of these enhancements is illustrated within the focus area shown on the Indicative Environmental Masterplan appended to the Design Approach Document (Document Reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5). Environmental enhancements within the Order Limits will be considered post-consent and will only be implemented subject to securing agreement with landowners. This may reduce the adverse nature and significance of effects and increase the potential for beneficial effects reported in the ES.

#### *National Character Areas*

- 13.10.5 Impacts on NCA 128: South Hampshire Downs would be localised to the AGP, which would not change the character of the landscape at this scale. The magnitude of impact would have reduced to very low, and the effects would be negligible adverse by year 15 of operation, which is not significant.

#### *County Landscape Character Assessment*

- 13.10.6 There would be no perceptible change and no effect on the majority of the LCAs defined within the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment. This is because the proposed planting to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction would have fully established to restore the landscape pattern and the AGP would be well integrated at this scale.
- 13.10.7 Residual effects have been identified within LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs. These relate principally to BPT/IPS-E, which would be located towards the top of the ridgeline. Although planting would have established to assist in integrating the structures and associated infrastructure into the landscape, the open aspect and elevation means that there would still be some impacts on the wider landscape of the open downs. The magnitude of impact would be very low, which assessed against the high sensitivity of the LCA would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

- 13.10.8 There would also be residual effects within LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain. These effects would relate to the WRP site, limited by the vegetation which encloses the site and in the intervening landscape. Its location on slightly higher ground means that it would feature on the skyline in areas to the south, but in the context of widespread development. The magnitude of impact would be very low, which assessed against the high sensitivity of the LCA would result in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

#### *Local Landscape Character Areas*

- 13.10.9 Eleven of the 36 LLCA would experience residual minor adverse effects at year 15 of operation and these are described below. There would be no perceptible change within the remaining 25 LLCAs and therefore no effect.

#### *Havant and Bedhampton*

- 13.10.10 The WRP site would continue to influence the setting of LLCA 11: Langstone Harbour due to the openness of the seascape. Existing vegetation and proposed planting in leaf would limit the extent of impacts and the magnitude would be very low, resulting in minor adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.10.11 Within LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks existing vegetation and proposed planting around the boundaries of the WRP site would have established. This would assist in integrating the structures within the landscape setting and enhancing the gateway to the area via the junction of Harts Farm Way with the A27. The size and scale and geographical extent over which impacts would be perceived would be reduced to its immediate setting and the majority of the area would not be affected. The magnitude of impact would be low, and this, assessed against the medium sensitivity, would result in minor adverse residual effects, which is not significant.

#### *Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere*

- 13.10.12 Residual landscape effects would be limited in this section to the broadly contiguous LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge, LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes, and LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open downs west. The proposed planting around the AGP would have established to assist in integrating the structures and associated facilities into the landscape setting. The planting proposed to reinstate sections of hedgerow removed to facilitate construction of the Pipeline would have also established. However, some residual ‘scarring’ may remain compared to the baseline situation. The magnitude would reduce to very low, and the resulting effects would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

#### *River Meon to the River Itchen*

- 13.10.13 Residual impacts on LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham would be focused around the IPS-G, where proposed planting would have established to largely enclose the structures and associated infrastructure. The magnitude of impact would reduce to very low, and the resulting effects would be minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.10.14 LLCA 30: Durley Claylands and LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street are adjoining areas where the field pattern is small, and some residual effects would persist.

Proposed planting around BPT-K would have established to assist in integrating the structures and associated infrastructure into the landscape. Overall, in the case of both LLCAs the magnitude of impact would be very low, and the resulting significance of effects would be minor adverse, and therefore not significant.

13.10.15 Along the Pipeline, mitigation planting would have been established. However, some residual ‘scarring’ may remain compared to the baseline situation within LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands and LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley. The magnitude of impact would be very low, and the resulting effects would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

**Table 13-19 Summary of residual landscape effects at year 15 of operation**

Landscape receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Residual significance of effects
<b>National Character Areas</b>			
NCA 128: South Hampshire Lowlands	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
<b>County Landscape Character Areas</b>			
LCA 8i: Portsdown Hill Open Downs	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LCA 9g: Havant and Emsworth Coastal Plain	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
<b>Local Landscape Character Areas</b>			
LLCA 11: Langstone Harbour	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 13: Farlington Marshes and coastal parks	Medium	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 15: Portsdown Hill ridge	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 18: Portsdown Hill northern slopes	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 19: Forest of Bere East wooded farmland	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 23: Portsdown Hill open downs west	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 26: Meon Valley Wickham	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 29: Shedfield Heathlands	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 30: Durley Claylands	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 33: Durley and Durley Street	Medium	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
LLCA 37: Settled upper Itchen Valley	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Visual effects at year 15 of operation

- 13.10.16 Likely significant visual effects of year 15 of operation would be limited to VP022, located close to BPT/IPS-E, which is associated with people travelling along the adjacent PRoW, and VP082 from Pilgrims Way. The Applicant has introduced additional design measures, including with respect to the positioning and the lower elevation of the proposed buildings relative to the existing topography, earthworks and planting to reduce visibility. This is evidenced in the photomontages (LI Type 4) presented in ES Figure 13.23 Viewpoint photography, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6) for viewpoints VP019, VP022, VP023 and VP082. As noted in Table 13-20, residual effects relating to people travelling along New Downs Lane (VP022) would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.10.17 From the Pilgrims' Way (VP082) by year 15 of operation the proposed planting to the north-west of the AGP would have established, helping to soften and partially screen views of BPT-K. While the new tree cover and wall treatment would reduce the prominence of the built form, the Proposed Development would remain visible beyond Down Farm in the middle ground, on the side of Wintershill facing the viewpoint. This would affect views from a short section of the promoted route travelling south at the brow of the hill where BPT-K would form a small part of the wide panorama, which includes more extensive and longer distance views across the South Downs to the east and north. There would be no views of BPT-K towards the section of the route further south on the approach to Stakes Lane or travelling north. The magnitude of impact would remain low and the significance of effect would be moderate adverse, which is significant.
- 13.10.18 The effects on the rest of the visual receptors are not considered significant. This is attributed to existing deciduous vegetation in leaf and the establishment of planting carried out to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction and to integrate the BPT/IPS-E, IPS-F, IPS-G, BPT-K into the landscape. Consequently, the character of views would largely be restored to baseline conditions, with localised perception of these changes in proximity to AGP.

*Havant and Bedhampton*

- 13.10.19 The operation of the Proposed Development in year 15 would result in visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:
1. People travelling along Harts Farm Way (VP015)
  2. People travelling along the Solent Way, near Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016)
  3. People on the pedestrian bridge over the A27 (VP014)

*People travelling through the area on local roads*

- 13.10.20 From Harts Farm Way (VP015), there would be occasional glimpsed views of the top of taller structures in the middle ground and access gates in the foreground. Retained vegetation and proposed planting in leaf would strengthen the green buffer surrounding the WRP site and screen the majority of the built form and activities within the site. By year 15, the magnitude would be low, resulting in effects of minor significance, which is not significant.

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes*

- 13.10.21 From the Solent Way looking north (VP016) the upper parts of the structures within the WRP site would remain visible in the background, however, the majority of the Proposed Development would be screened by retained vegetation and proposed planting. The use of materials and a colour palette appropriate to the local context would assist in blending the elements of the structures with the surrounding landscape (Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5)), reducing visual contrast. The magnitude of impact would remain medium, but the significance of effect would reduce to minor adverse, which is not significant.

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes*

- 13.10.22 It is likely that the only part of the WRP site that would be visible from the PRoW adjacent to the Heritage Stream would be security fencing on the eastern boundary, substantially screened in oblique views by the dense trees which line the embankment. The main focus of the views would remain along the stream. It is likely that there would be no views of the structures including from the pedestrian bridge over the A27 (VP014). This is because of the substantial screening provided by the existing and proposed planting. Overall, the magnitude of impact would be very low, and the resulting effects would be negligible adverse, which is not significant.

*Views from Langstone Harbour*

- 13.10.23 From the northern edge of the Harbour and for a short section of the Solent Way near Broadmarsh Coastal Park (VP016), there would be views of the tops of the taller structures within the WRP site above intervening vegetation. The magnitude of impact would be low and the significance of effect minor adverse, which is not significant. Along the rest of the edge of the Harbour, by year 15 of operation, mitigation planting would have established and there would largely be no perceptible change compared to the baseline situation.

*Portsdown Hill and Forest of Bere*

- 13.10.24 The operation of the Proposed Development in year 15 would result in visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:
1. People walking along Wayfarer's Walk, on the approach to Portsdown Hill from the north (VP018, VP019, VP020)
  2. People walking along PRoW which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the AGP (VP022, VP023, VP123, VP124, VP130)
  3. Residents on the western edge of Widley (VP018, VP019, VP020)
  4. Residential properties on Portsdown Hill Road/B2177 (VP108)
  5. People visiting Portsdown Hill viewpoints (VP021)

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted route*

- 13.10.25 On the approach to Portsdown Hill from the north along the Wayfarer's Walk (VP018, VP019, VP020), the proposed planting associated with BPT/IPS-E would assist in integrating the structure into the landscape and the wooded backdrop to

the view. The mitigation planting to reinstate gaps in hedgerows would have established and therefore views to the west would return to the baseline conditions. The magnitude of impact would vary between low and very low, and the significance of effect would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes*

- 13.10.26 Views of the BPT/IPS-E from the footpath to the west would gradually increase on the approach to the structures and the magnitude of impact would range from very low (VP023) to medium (VP022) where the new built form would be seen in the foreground of the view. The proposed planting would have established, softening appearance of the AGP. The significance of effect would vary between minor adverse at VP023, which is not significant, and moderate adverse at VP022, which is significant.
- 13.10.27 Visual impacts relating to the IPS-F would substantially reduce by year 15 of operation as the structure would be largely enclosed by established planting and well-integrated with the existing woodland to the south. The tops of the structure may still be visible above this vegetation from parts of the surrounding PRoW network (VP124 and VP130).

*Residents*

- 13.10.28 Residual effects would prevail in views from the rear elevations of the residential properties on the western edge of Widley (VP018, VP019 and VP020) due to their elevation above the surrounding landscape and open aspect to the west. The proposed planting associated with BPT/IPS-E would assist in integrating the structure into the landscape and the wooded backdrop to the view. The mitigation planting to reinstate gaps in hedgerows would have established and therefore views to the west would return to the baseline conditions. The magnitude of impact would vary between low and very low, and the significance of effect would be minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.10.29 The higher elevation of Portsdown Hill would allow distant views of the WRP site from the rear elevation of some of the residential properties along Portsdown Hill Road/B2177 (VP108) where the WRP site would be seen as a small element in the context of extensive existing development in the background. The magnitude of impact would be very low, and the significance of effect minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.10.30 Future residents of the approved Welborne Garden Village development have been considered as visual receptors at a high level within this assessment of residual effects in the year 15 of operation scenario. At the time of the assessment, access to the Welborne Garden Village development site was not available and, as a result, no representative viewpoints were identified. The assessment therefore draws on desk-based analysis and professional judgement with reference to nearby viewpoints (VP047 and VP123). Views experienced by future residents on the northern edge of Phase 5 of the Welborne Garden Village development looking north would comprise the houses and gardens and the landscape buffer along northern edge and are likely to also include local roads and other infrastructure extending from the foreground to the middle ground. The value attached to views is considered to be medium because there would be a rural

backdrop of elevated land with fields lined by hedgerows and trees within the Forest of Bere ASLQ beyond the complex of buildings at Albany Farm and high voltage power lines across the middle ground. In consideration of the high susceptibility to change of residents, their sensitivity is assessed as medium. IPS-F would introduce development beyond the landscape buffer, existing woodland and planting provided as mitigation for the Proposed Development. It would be at a lower elevation compared to the Welborne Garden Village development and would only be partially glimpsed from the residential properties. The background of agricultural fields, hedgerows and woodland on higher ground to the north and views beyond and in the context of the high voltage power lines in the middle ground would be unaltered by the Proposed Development. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low, and the resulting residual visual effect would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

*People using public open spaces*

- 13.10.31 From the viewpoint associated with a car park located to the south of the B2177 Road (VP021), BPT/IPS-E would be substantially screened by the dense vegetation which lines the B2177 Portsdown Hill Road, and the proposed planting in leaf which would conceal the structures and maintenance activities. These views would be in the context of the busy road resulting in a very low magnitude of impact and minor adverse effects, which is not significant.

*People traveling through the area on main roads*

- 13.10.32 The higher elevation of Portsdown Hill would allow distant views of the WRP site from Portsdown Hill Road/B2177 (VP108) where the WRP site would be seen in oblique views, as a small element in the context of extensive existing development in the background. The magnitude of impact would be very low, and the significance of effect negligible adverse, which is not significant.

*River Meon to the River Itchen*

- 13.10.33 The operation of the Proposed Development in year 15 would result in visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:
1. People walking along the Pilgrims' Way (VP077)
  2. People walking along PRow which are not promoted routes, in proximity to the Order Limits (VP079, VP096) or the AGPs (VP084, VP128)
  3. Residential properties on Wickham (VP128); and Lower Upham (VP085), and southern edge of Colden Common (VP096)

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are promoted routes*

- 13.10.34 By year 15 of operation, the reinstatement planting would have become established, resulting in barely perceptible changes to the baseline conditions along the route of the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW. For people walking along the Pilgrims' Way, the magnitude of impact would vary from very low where views encompass the Pipeline between the WRP site and Otterbourne WSW (VP077), to low where views include the AGP (VP082). At this location, the established planting would partially screen views of BPT-K, reducing

the prominence of the built form; however, the Proposed Development would remain visible. The significance of effect would range from minor adverse, which is not significant, to moderate adverse at VP082, which is considered significant.

*People travelling along Public Rights of Way which are not promoted routes*

- 13.10.35 In close proximity to the Order Limits (VP079, VP097, VP116), scarring effects may still be perceptible, since at year 15, mitigation planting would not have reached mature size. The magnitude of impact would be very low, and the significance of effect would be negligible adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.10.36 The BPT-K would be visible in the background of views to the north-west, from the middle section of footpath 20/1 (VP084), which runs to the east of Wintershill Hall. By year 15 of operation the proposed planting associated with the new structure would have established, substantially screening the AGP in the view. The magnitude of impact would be low, and the significance of effect would be minor adverse, which is not significant.
- 13.10.37 IPS-G would be visible in the background of views from footpath 1/1 (VP128), in the context of adjacent existing sheds and commercial buildings off Titchfield Lane which are of a similar scale and height. Its presence would not be prominent, blending into the surrounding landscape, the magnitude of impact would be very low, and the significance of the effect would be minor adverse, which is not significant.

*Residents*

- 13.10.38 IPS-G would introduce new built form in views from the rear elevations of the properties along the road off Winchester Road/A334 (VP128). BPT-K would be perceptible from the rear elevations of properties along Winchester Road (B2177) (VP085). In both cases these views would be heavily filtered by the existing vegetation within rear gardens of residential properties and by the proposed planting. BPT-K would not be prominent, blending into the surrounding landscape. Views in close proximity to the Order Limits (VP096 from southern edge of Colden Common; VP116 from Shirell Heath), would encompass the proposed mitigation planting, which would be fully established but would have not reached full maturity at year 15 of operation. The magnitude of impact on residential receptors within this section would be very low and the significance of effect minor adverse which is not significant.

*People travelling through the area on main roads*

- 13.10.39 People travelling to the north of BPT-K along the B2177 (VP085) would experience glimpsed views of the AGP located on the northern slopes of Wintershill. The proposed planting would assist in integrating the structure into the surrounding landscape, resulting in very low magnitude of impact, and negligible adverse effects, which is not significant.
- 13.10.40 There would be no perceptible change within the remaining views and therefore no effect.
- 13.10.41 A summary of the residual visual effects which have been identified with the assessment is presented below in Table 13-20. A full and detailed assessment of

all visual effects is reported in ES Appendix 13.4 Visual baseline and effects, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6).

**Table 13-20 Summary of residual visual effects**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Residual significance of effects
<b>People travelling along PRow which are promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along Pilgrims' Way	VP077 and VP082	High to very high	Very low to low	Minor adverse (not significant) to Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along Solent Way	VP016	Medium	Medium	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along Wayfarer's Walk	VP018, VP019, VP020	High	Very low to low	Minor adverse (not significant)
<b>People travelling along PRow which are not promoted routes</b>				
People travelling along footpath 108/30/1	VP014	Low	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 218/28/1	VP022	High	Medium	Moderate adverse (significant)
People travelling along footpath 218/28/1	VP023	Medium	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 022/44/1	VP079	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 235/20/1	VP084	Medium	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 054/21/1	VP097	Medium	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 207/12/2	VP116	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/103/1	VP124	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 251/1/1	VP128	Medium	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People travelling along footpath 084/107/1	VP130	High	Very low	Minor adverse(not significant)
<b>Residents</b>				
Residents of Portsdown Hill Road (B2177)	VP108	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Residents of Widley (western edge).	VP018, VP019, VP020	High	Low to very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Residents of Lower Upham	VP085	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Residual significance of effects
Residents of Shirell Heath	VP116	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
Residents of Wickham (properties on road off Winchester Road)	VP128	Medium	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
Residents of Colden Common (southern edge)	VP096	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
<b>People using public open spaces</b>				
People using Broadmarsh Coastal Park	VP016	Medium	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
People visiting Portsdown Hill Viewpoint and associated public open space	VP021	High	Very low	Minor adverse (not significant)
<b>People travelling through the area on main roads</b>				
People travelling along A32 (Wickham Road)	VP047	Low	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
People travelling along B2177	VP085	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
People travelling along B2177 (Portsdown Hill Road)	VP108	Low	Very low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
<b>People travelling through the area on local roads</b>				
People travelling along Harts Farm Way	VP015	Low	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)

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from  
Southern  
Water. 

The Southern Water logo graphic consists of three white, stylized, wavy lines that resemble water waves, positioned to the right of the word "Water.".