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Environmental Statement

Interim Environmental Report (IER), Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and visual

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10 Landscape and visual

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of effects on the environment with respect to landscape and visual impacts as a result of the Scheme.

10.1.2 This chapter identifies and proposes measures to address the potential impacts and likely significant effects on the environment with respect to landscape and visual impacts during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

10.1.3 The information presented within this chapter has been informed by the Scheme information and description provided in Volume 1, Chapter 2 Scheme description.

10.2 Scope of assessment

10.2.1 Chapter 12 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report[1] addressed the potential for the Scheme to result in significant effects on the historic environment for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases and consequently whether a standalone topic chapter was required in the ES. It also identified sensitive receptors and the assessment methodology relevant to the landscape and visual assessment.

10.2.2 Through the adoption of the Scoping Opinion[2] and incorporating the relevant comments received from the planning inspectorate (PINS) and the other consultees, the Secretary of State has confirmed that landscape and visual assessment should be included in the ES and must assess the scope set out in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1 Landscape and visual receptors scoped in/ out of assessment within the ES

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
National Landscapes				
Cotswolds	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Sites 1 and 2 are over 10 km away and Sites 3 and 4 are 4 to 6 km away, however there is intervisibility from all Sites, therefore, considering its national importance this National Landscape (NL) will be scoped in to confirm no significant effects on its setting. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Malvern Hills	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	The distinctive "backbone" of the Malvern Hills National Landscape can also be discerned from some locations within the Order Limits. However, this landscape is over 26 km away at its closest point and, although the NL can be identified from Order Limits, the presence of the Order Limits from within the NL would be much more difficult to discern and any effects are highly unlikely on the setting or views at this distance. Therefore, it is scoped out from the assessment as significant effects are highly unlikely. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, the Malvern Hills remain scoped out of the assessment.

[1] Arrow Valley Solar Limited (2026) Arrow Valley Solar. Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report. Volume I: Main Report (Document Reference AVS-ATR-GEN-AA-DOC-ENV-000001, Rev. A). Planning Inspectorate Reference EN0110033.
Available at: https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN0110033-000002-20260327%20Arrow%20Valley%20EIA%20Scoping%20Report%20Volume%201%20Main%20Report%20Rev.%20A.pdf

[2] Planning Inspectorate (2026) Scoping Opinion: Proposed Arrow Valley Solar (Case Reference EN0110033). Adopted on behalf of the Secretary of State pursuant to Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, 7 May 2026.
Available at: https://nsip-documents.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/published-documents/EN0110033-000010-Arrow%20Valley%20Solar%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
Special Landscape Areas				
Arden Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Sub-Site 1(e) is entirely within this SLA and potential effects on the SLA will be scoped in. The northwest area of sub-Site 2(a) is within this SLA and sub-Site 2(b) lies immediately adjacent to it. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Published Landscape Character Assessments				
National Character Area: Arden NCA97	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Due to the location of the Order Limits on the NCA boundary and the scale of the Scheme with the potential for the boundary to be affected. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
National Character Area: Severn and Vales NCA106	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Due to the location of the Order Limits on the NCA boundary and the scale of the Scheme with the potential for the boundary to be affected. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Regional Character Areas: Stratford on Avon Reviewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	The following Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are directly affected by the Scheme and have possible visual interconnectivity: ▪ Arden Wooded Estatelands ▪ Avon Orchard Belt ▪ Avon Terrace Farmlands ▪ Avon River Meadowlands There are no other LCTs within the study area extent. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Worcestershire County Council, Landscape Character Assessment, Supplementary Guidance (August 2012)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	The following LCTs are directly affected by the Scheme and have possible visual interconnectivity: ▪ Wet Pasture Meadow ▪ Principal Timbered Farmlands ▪ Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use ▪ Village Claylands ▪ Wooded Estatelands ▪ Timbered Plateau Farmlands ▪ Riverside Meadows ▪ Village Farmlands with Orchards ▪ Principal Village Farmlands There are no other LCTS within the study area extent. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
Night-time effects	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	A high-level appraisal of the effect of proposed lighting during construction, operation and decommissioning will be undertaken. This will not constitute a Lighting Impact Assessment but form part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). A lighting strategy will be required as part of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) and outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) to ensure significant effects do not arise. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Visual Receptors				
Representative viewpoints	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	All the receptors noted within Table 12-1 of the Scoping Report will be scoped into the assessment. These are mainly residential receptors, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) users, road users and views from or towards historical designations and the NL. The actual receptors to be represented by each viewpoint will be defined within the LVIA once viewpoints have been agreed and initially assessed. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Night-time effects	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Although proposed lighting is minimal, a high-level appraisal will be included as part of the LVIA for the visual receptors. Following receipt of the scoping Opinion these matters remain scoped into the assessment.
Dark skies	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	In the Scoping Report, it was noted that given the minimal proposed lighting, the overall effect on Dark Skies was not considered to be significant. However, following receipt of the Scoping Opinion these matters are now scoped into the assessment. The assessment provides more information on the construction and operational lighting strategy for the scheme and how intermittent lighting may impact dark skies, human, and ecological receptors.

10.3 Consultation

10.3.1 Table 10-2 provides a summary of all the additional consultation relevant to this assessment:

Table 10-2 Consultation summary

Stakeholder	Date consulted	Issue Consulted On	Consultee comment and outcome
Wychavon District Council	02/03/2026 – Email	Pre-EIA Scoping request for LVA receptor advice	Consultee provided additional viewpoints which have been considered as part of the ES.
Cotswolds National Landscape	10/03/2026 - Email	Pre-EIA Scoping request for LVA receptor advice	Consultee provided additional viewpoints which have been considered as part of the ES.
Warwickshire County Council	10/03/2026 - Email	Pre-EIA Scoping request for LVA receptor advice	Consultee provided additional viewpoints which have been considered as part of the ES.
Worcestershire County Council	11/03/2026 - Email	Pre-EIA Scoping request for LVIA receptor advice	Consultee provided additional viewpoints which have been considered as part of the Assessment. Consultee also requested consideration of Historic Landscape Character, which has been included as part of this chapter and Volume 1, Chapter 9 Historic environment of this ES.
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	04/06/2026 - Email	Final agreement for visual receptors following scoping	Applicant issued final agreed visual receptors for comments.
Warwickshire County Council	05/06/2026 - Email	Final agreement for visual receptors following scoping	Minor amendments to the location and descriptions of visual receptors included as part of the ES.
Worcestershire County Council - Landscape	08/06/2026 - Email	Final agreement for visual receptors following scoping	Applicant issued final agreed visual receptors for comments. Consultee confirmed list was acceptable.
Wychavon District Council	08/06/2026 – Email	Final agreement for visual receptors following scoping	Minor amendments to the location and descriptions of visual receptors included as part of the ES.
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	13/07/2026 - Email	LVA receptor advice	Consultee provided additional viewpoints which have been considered as part of the ES.

10.4 Legislation, policy and guidance

Legislation

10.4.1 The below listed legislation is considered relevant to the landscape and visual assessment:

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000[3];
- Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023[4]. Section 245 states the required active duty to further the statutory purposes of designated landscapes;
- European Landscape Convention[5]; and
- Environment Act 2021[6].

[3] Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents
[4] Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/55/contents
[5] European Landscape Convention. Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/the-european-landscape-convention
[6] Environment Act 2021. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents

Policy

10.4.2 The below listed policies have been taken into account in the landscape and visual impact assessment. Volume 3, Appendix 10.1 Legislation, policy, and guidance relevant to the landscape and visual assessment provides further detail on how the below listed policy has informed the landscape and visual impact assessment:

- Overarching National Policy Statement NPS for Energy (EN-1)[7];
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[8];
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)[9];
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2026)[10];
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC) Core Strategy 2011–2031[11];
- South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) 2025 (emerging policy)[12];
- SoADC Development Requirements SPD (2019-2024)[13];
- South Warwickshire Development Plan (SWDP) 2026[14];
- Redditch Borough Council (ReBC) Local Plan No4 (Jan 2017)[15];
- Salford Priors Neighbourhood Plan (2017)[16];
- Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Plan (2017)[17];
- Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan (2025-2030)[18];
- Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study for SoADC (July 2014)[19];
- Worcestershire County Council (WoCC) Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)[20] 2012; and
- Warwickshire Landscape Assessment Guidelines[21].

Guidance documents

10.4.3 The landscape and visual assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the following documents which provide guidance on methodology:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) 2013[22];
- Landscape Institute Notes and Clarifications of GLIVA3[23];
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Notes (LITGN) 06/2019: Visual Representation of Development Proposals[24], noting this is currently under review;
- LITGN 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment;
- LITGN 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations[25]; and
- National Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)[26].

10.4.4 GLVIA3 states that:

[7] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025
[8] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), January 2026
[9] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2026) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025
[10] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025) National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[11] Stratford-on-Avon District Council, 2016, Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy 2011- 2031. Available at: https://tysoe.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/SDC-CORE-STRATEGY-2011-2031-July-2016.pdf
12 Warwick District Council and Stratford on Avon District Council (2025) Preferred Options Consultation. Available at: https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/publication-regulation-19-consultation.cfm
[13] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2019) Development Requirement SPD. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/development-requirements-spd.cfm
[14] South Worcestershire Development Plan 2026. Available at: https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/swdp-2016
[15] Redditch Borough Council (2017) Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4. Adopted January 2017. [Online, PDF] Available at: https://www.redditchbc.gov.uk/media/tbodcekr/adopted-borough-of-redditch-local-plan-no4-2011-2030.pdf (Accessed March 2026)
[16] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2017) Salford Priors NDP. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/208631/name/Made%20Version%20July%202017.pdf
[17] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2017) Bidford-on-Avon NDP. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/208629/name/Bidford%20NDP%20Referendum%20AUG19.pdf
[18] Cotswolds National Landscape (2020) Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030. available at: https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/CNL-MANAGEMENT-PLAN_2025-30-FINAL.pdf
[19] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/205819/name/ED4114%20Renewable%20Energy%20Landscape%20Sensitivity%20Study%20July%202014.pdf
[20] Worcestershire County Council (2012) Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance. Available at: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/landscape_character_assessment_supplementary_guidance.pdf
[21] Warwickshire Council (1993) Warwickshire Landscape Assessment Guidelines. Available at: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/landscapeguidelines
[22] Landscape Institute (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) https://landscapeinstitute.org/policy-practice/technical/assessments-standards/glvia3-panel/
[23] Landscape Institute (2024) Notes and Clarifications on Aspect of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/policy-practice/technical/assessments-standards/glvia3-panel/
[24] Landscape Institute (2025) Visualisation of development. Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/policy-practice/technical/digital-practice-mapping-visualisation/visualisation/
[25] Landscape Institute (2021) TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations. Available at: https://landscapeinstitute.org/publication/tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations/
[26] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2019) Use of planning conditions. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/use-of-planning conditions

"LVIA must address both effects on landscape as a resource in its own right and effects on views and visual amenity. An assessment of landscape effects should consider how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, its aesthetic and perceptual aspects, its distinctive character and the key characteristics that contribute to this. An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to the people and their visual amenity."

10.4.5 Landscape Character and Visual Amenity are thus assessed separately within this chapter.

10.4.6 A summary of the key steps involved in undertaking this LVIA are set out below:

- **Establish the baseline** – define the scope of the assessment. Undertake a desk-based study followed by field surveys to:
  - Identify landscape receptors – landscape character as defined by published landscape character assessments, designated landscape areas and landscape features noted on site.
  - Identify visual amenity receptors – people who live or work in or visit the study area and are likely to be affected by the Scheme.
- **Make judgements on receptor sensitivity**. This is a receptor's value combined with its susceptibility to changes.
- **Identify potential impacts of the Scheme**. As set out in GLVIA3, the term "*impact*" is defined as "*the action being taken*" for instance the loss of vegetation or the introduction of new built elements.
- **Identify design measures to mitigate potential adverse impacts**. Measures include embedded mitigation (part of the design) and essential mitigation (in addition to design principles). As well as possible enhancement measures (over and above measures required for mitigation).
- **Identify the likely magnitude of effect for each receptor**. As set out in GLVIA3, the term "*effect*" is the "*change resulting from that action*" or "*the consequence of that action*". Magnitude of effect is a combination of the size/scale of effect, geographical extent, duration and reversibility; accounting for both embedded and essential mitigation measures.
- **Assess the significance of the effect**. Combine the receptor's sensitivity with the anticipated magnitude of effect to assess the residual level and significance of effect on the receptor.

10.4.7 The assessment considers the effect of the Scheme during construction (and by its nature decommissioning), at Year one of operation (when any proposed soft landscape mitigation will not have established) and finally at Year 15 of operation (when soft landscape mitigation can be assumed to be established and performing its required role). Consideration is also given to effects during both winter and summer to account for changes due to vegetation in and out of leaf. Consideration is also given to the effect of proposed lighting on Dark Skies and visual amenity for residential receptors as appropriate.

10.5 Method of assessment

Establishing the baseline

Desk study

10.5.1 The following sources of information have informed the desk study:

- Natural England National Character Areas[27];
- Defra MAGIC maps;
- Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps;
- Aerial photography available from Google Earth;
- SoADC Special Landscape Areas Study (2012)[28];
- SoADC District Design Guide 2001[29]; and
- WDC Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines 1993[30].

Study Area

10.5.2 In accordance with GLVIA3, the purpose of the LVIA study area is to identify the extent within which the Scheme may affect the landscape character or visual amenity in a significant manner.

10.5.3 The topography within and immediately surrounding the Order Limits is very undulating, with large woodland areas, tall field boundaries and roadside vegetation. This results in rapidly changing visibility as one passes through the area. Although long distance views are possible, these tend to be either up to approximately 3km or very distant – over 10km away – to the high ground within the Cotswolds NL; with mid ground often "hidden" by dips in the landscape or intervening vegetation.

[27] Natural England (2026). Available at: https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/
[28] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2012) Special Landscape Areas Study. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/205823/name/ED4112%20Special%20Landscape%20Areas%20Study%20June%202012.pdf
[29] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2001) Stratford District Design Guide. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/175516/name/stratford%20district%20design%20guide.pdf/
[30] Warwickshire County Council (2026) Landscape character and guidelines. Available at: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/landscapeguidelines

10.5.4 The topographic plan (Volume 2, Figure 10.1 Topography) indicates the undulating land and how the views maybe curtailed by it. Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) have also been produced (Volume 2, Figure 10.6 Zone of theoretical visibility) to help indicate potential extent of visibility.

10.5.5 These should be used with caution as they can only reliably be used to confirm where views are *not* possible rather than where the Scheme would be visible. Where indicating possible visibility, the ZTVs do not define which part or how much of that part of the Scheme may be visible. Further, despite factoring into the plan the presence of woodland and buildings, anomalies may still occur. The ZTVs are therefore only used as a guide not a definitive assurance of visibility.

10.5.6 In line with GLVIA3, which requires a proportionate approach, for the main features of the Sites a study area of 3 km from the Order Limits has been chosen. It is considered that, as the maximum height parameter of a tracker solar panel is 4.5m high, and given the majority of the Scheme will comprise areas for solar panels and mounting structures, in general, the presence of the Scheme is unlikely to be obvious and significant in the context of views from most locations beyond 3 km, even when considering that certain elements such as the substations and BESS will be taller as per the parameters presented in Volume 1, Chapter 2 Scheme description.

10.5.7 From further distances, taller infrastructure such as substations would only form a small element in the wider viewshed. Whilst it may be visible, effects are assumed to be minimal. However, this has not precluded very high value receptors like the Cotswolds NL from being included as part of the assessment.

10.5.8 The Order Limits sit some 4.5 km from the closest part of the Cotswolds National Landscape. Given its designation, views and effects on the setting of the NL will be considered from 5 high viewpoints: Bredon Hill (13 km southwest of Site 4), Broadway Tower (10 km south of Site 4), Dover's Hill (7 km south of Site 4), Ebrington Hill (9.5 km south east of Site 4) and Meon Hill (6.25 km south east of Site 3). This approach has been agreed with the host authorities.

10.5.9 In the case of the Cable Route Corridor (CRC), the study area will be restricted to 500 m from its boundary, as effects on landscape character and visual amenity over this distance arising from the installation of underground cables are highly unlikely to be significant.

Surveys

10.5.10 Walkover surveys to establish conditions on the Sites and to assess landscape and visual impacts were carried out in winter 2025 and summer 2026 with further confirmatory surveys to be carried out in winter 2026.

10.5.11 Baseline photographs were taken during winter and summer to represent the character of the landscape and existing views.

10.5.12 A digital SLR camera with a full-frame sensor and 50mm fixed lens (or equivalent) was used to capture the photographs.

10.5.13 In addition, professional verified view photographs have been taken for identified key viewpoints where wireframe or photomontages are to be produced. These viewpoints have been confirmed following consultation with the host authorities.

Identifying receptors

10.5.14 The desktop and site surveys, together with Scoping Opinion responses and ongoing consultation with the relevant host authorities have identified key landscape and visual receptors. These are set out within section 10.6 below.

10.5.15 Landscape receptors are landscape character areas, defined by published assessment or analysis of the landscape elements of the study area. Visual receptors are residents, users of PRoW and local roads, Special Landscape Areas, National Landscapes, and National Character Areas, as well as visitors and employees within the study area with views towards the Order Limits.

Determining receptor sensitivity

10.5.16 GLVIA3 notes that:

> *"The determination of the sensitivity of the landscape resource is based upon an evaluation of each key element or characteristic of the landscape likely to be affected. The evaluation will reflect such factors as its quality, value, contribution to landscape character, and the degree to which the particular element or characteristic can be replaced or substituted…*
>
> *Each visual receptor, meaning the particular person or group of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint, should be assessed in terms of both their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and… also the value attached to particular views."*

Landscape receptor sensitivity

10.5.17 The study area is well defined by published landscape character assessments, the majority of which are relatively recent and relevant to the Scheme. These are described in Section 10.6 and have been utilised to establish baseline landscape character areas and their sensitivity.

10.5.18 Elsewhere, the susceptibility, value and sensitivity of the local landscape character and landscape elements have been determined using the criteria set out in Table 10-3 as a guide.

Visual receptor sensitivity

10.5.19 The sensitivity of each visual receptor considers the value the receptor is likely to assign to the view, the scenic qualities of the view and the likely number of viewers; this is considered against the susceptibility of the receptor to the Scheme. The criteria set out in Table 10-3 below has informed how a sensitivity rating has been established for each visual receptor using GLVIA3 and professional judgement.

Table 10-3 Sensitivity definition guide for landscape and visual receptors

Sensitivity	Landscape definition	Visual amenity definition
Very High	Landscapes of international/national importance. They exhibit a strong positive character with valued and distinctive features that combine to give the experience of unity, richness and harmony. and rarity with no or very limited ability to accommodate change without substantial loss/gain (i.e. National Parks, internationally acclaimed landscapes such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites).	▪ Static views from and of major tourist attractions; ▪ Views from and of very important national/international landscapes, cultural/historical sites (e.g. National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites); and ▪ Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies.
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/elements. Areas with a strong structure and a balanced combination of landform and land cover, including woodland and high distribution of trees, hedges and shrubs; or a balanced combination of built form and open space. Attractive features are present, including rivers and streams and valued buildings. Several landscape and heritage designations may apply including Ancient Woodlands and Conservation Areas. Limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/gain (i.e. designated areas, areas of strong sense of place such as Registered Parks and Gardens, country parks) due to high intervisibility, tranquillity or other aspect vulnerable to change.	▪ Views by users of nationally important PRoW / recreational trails (e.g. national trails, long distance footpaths); ▪ Views by users of public open spaces for enjoyment of the countryside (e.g. country parks); ▪ Static views from residential areas, longer transient views from designated public open space, recreational areas; and ▪ Views from and of rare designated landscapes of national importance.
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance. Areas that exhibit positive character, but which may have evidence of the degradation or erosion of some features, resulting in areas of more mixed character including a balance of developments. There is a reasonable distribution of vegetation or of built and open space and the overall area is pleasant. Isolated settlements may be present within extensive areas of open space. Designations of landscape or heritage value may be present. Able to accommodate some change due to limited intervisibility, tranquillity or other aspect vulnerable to change.	▪ Static views from schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoor areas; ▪ Views by outdoor workers; ▪ Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic roads, railways or waterways, users of local/regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance; and ▪ Views from and of landscapes of regional importance.
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance. Areas with a distinguishable structure often dominated by land use including roads, isolated housing, vegetation and countryside, resulting in an area of mixed character. Not of high attraction but may include areas with a positive character. There are some detracting features although there is scope to improve through management. Land may have a local landscape designation with ability to accommodate change. Landscape elements or landscapes could be damaged or already heavily developed and are tolerant of substantial change. This would include landscape areas of poor quality or more attractive areas that have a reduced intervisibility, tranquillity or other aspect vulnerable to change.	▪ Views by users of main roads or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes; ▪ Views by indoor workers; ▪ Views by users of recreational/formal sports facilities where the landscape is secondary to enjoyment of the sport; and ▪ Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.

Impact assessment

Determining magnitude of change resulting from impact

10.5.20 Once the impacts of the Scheme have been determined, consideration can be given to the effect (change) resulting from the impacts (actions) on the landscape and visual amenity.

10.5.21 Consideration is given to the direct or indirect changes to the appearance of the landscape/view, tranquillity, presence of new uncharacteristic features, and presence of mitigation measures. The magnitude of change relates to the size or scale of change, its geographical extent and the duration and reversibility of change.

10.5.22 Table 10-4 has been used to help define the magnitude of change on a five-point scale. Note that changes can be adverse or beneficial, but the definitions focus on adverse changes.

Table 10-4 Magnitude of change definition guide for receptors

Magnitude of change	Landscape definition	Visual amenity definition
Major	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/or addition of new uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements that substantially alter the character or tranquillity of the area.	Addition of new features that are highly visible, incongruous or in close proximity and would dominate the view or fundamentally alter the character and the experience of the view over a geographically extensive area.
Moderate	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing landscape character or distinctive features or elements; and/or addition of new uncharacteristic features or elements that noticeably alter the character or tranquillity of the area.	The proposal or elements of it would be obvious in the view, affecting the character and the experience of the view over a notable geographic area but generally in keeping with the existing view, or viewed in middle ground /partially screened/viewed obliquely.
Minor	Slight loss or damage to existing landscape character of one (maybe more) key features and elements; and/or addition of uncharacteristic new features and elements.	The proposal or elements of it would comprise a minor element of the view over a small area and would not alter the overall experience for the viewer. The project, or a part of it, would be perceptible though in keeping with the existing view. Changes to background of view or largely filtered/screened or viewed obliquely.
Negligible	Very minor loss, damage, or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements.	Only a very small part of the project work or activity would be discernible or being at such a distance it would form a barely perceptible feature or element of the view. Changes to background of view or seen as inconspicuous element in wide panorama. Almost entirely filtered/screened.
No Change	No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.	No part of the project work or activity would be discernible.

Determining effect significance

10.5.23 The likely significance of effect is determined by considering the relationship between the sensitivity of the landscape or visual receptor, and the magnitude of change caused by the Scheme on that receptor.

10.5.24 The significance of landscape and visual effects of the Scheme on receptors has been judged using the guidance matrix in Table 10-5 with a five-point scale, developed using professional judgement.

10.5.25 Where Table 10-5 identifies more than one level of significance, (e.g., Large or Moderate), professional judgement has been used to determine the suitable significance of effect based on the evidentiary baseline and knowledge of the likely activities or types of changes that would cause the impact.

10.5.26 Very Large, Large or Moderate effects are generally deemed to be significant in EIA terms. Slight and Neutral effects are deemed to be not significant. It is important to note that this approach acts as a guide to demonstrate a clear thought process in determining whether an effect will be significant or not. It is not intended to replace the professional judgement exercised by the assessor which will be the main determining factor for attributing effect significance.

Table 10-5 Criteria for determining significance of effect

Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of change: No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Very high	Neutral	Slight	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
High	Neutral	Slight	Slight or Moderate	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large
Medium	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate or Large
Low	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Slight or Moderate
Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight

10.6 Baseline conditions

Landscape baseline

10.6.1 The Order Limits and study area are within an attractive area rich in biodiversity, cultural features and valued landscapes. These are noted below.

Topography and landscape features

10.6.2 Given the varied landscape, each sub-Site has been described separately below. Volume 2, Figure 10.1 Topography and Volume 2, Figure 10.2 Designations of relevance to landscape should be referred to.

10.6.3 The overall landscape is generally an undulating, rolling landform with localised high points. The River Avon Valley cuts across the Order Limits between Bidford-on-Avon and Salford Priors.

10.6.4 There is an extensive network of PRoW routes across the study area often connecting the settlements by cutting across or along intervening fields.

10.6.5 The main roads through and around the Order Limits include the A46 heading north-south through Site 2; this road is a dual carriageway and is set within a cutting with dense roadside vegetation. The A22 heads west from the A46 passing north of Site 1 and over CRC1. The remaining minor roads and lanes across the study area are generally well vegetated, either by tall hedgerows, scrub or individual trees, but the undulating nature of the landscape often allows views over and out.

Site 1

10.6.6 Site 1 extends over a highly undulating landscape, rising to 124 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) just north of Weethley (highpoint of sub-Site 1(e)) and undulating down to around 57 m AOD at Lower Barn Farm (sub-Site 1(b)).

10.6.7 The B4088 forms a ridge east of sub-Site 1(e) between Weethley Gate in the south and Priory Farm to the north. The land falls dramatically away into the Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden to the east, and slightly more gradually to the west, with intervisibility between each side very restricted.

10.6.8 Weethley Wood follows the western edge of sub-Site 1(e), falling down from the high point to the lower part of the Site. Most of the woodland is classed as Ancient Woodland and heavily restricts views east/-west. The Weethley area (the whole of sub-Site 1(e)) sits with the Special Landscape Area of Arden highlighting its attractive qualities.

10.6.9 There are other large areas of woodland, several of which are also classed as Ancient Woodland. Poole Wood connects to the southern end of Weethley Wood, with Bush Wood sitting just to the west. Slade Wood and Morton Low Wood lie on the higher ground to the south-east and have a distinctive zig-zag edge near sub-Site 1(a). Slade Wood is also encompassed by the Registered Park and Garden (RPG) of Rous Lench Court. Long Wood and Commissioners Wood lie to the south at Rough Hill.

10.6.10 Land at Abbots Morton, Goom's Hill, Slade Wood, Rough Hill, Cock Bevington and Wood Bevington form a curve of undulating land between 70-110m AOD and thus form barriers to intervisibility between Site 1 and much of the landscape beyond, especially to the west and south, often aided by the woodland areas described above.

10.6.11 There is a distinctive low ridgeline (70-80 m AOD) crossing sub-Site 1(c) between Poole Wood and Commissioners Wood, made even more distinctive by two separate sets of dominating overhead electricity lines and associated towers that parade across it. It also forms the county boundary between Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

10.6.12 The land use is dominated by agriculture, mainly arable with some pastoral. Medium to large-scale agricultural fields tend to be bordered by well-maintained hedgerows with occasional specimen trees.

10.6.13 Site 1 is bordered by Weethley, Weethley Gate, Wood Bevington, Cock Bevington and Morton Wood (all small settlement clusters associated with manor houses or farms). The larger villages of Abbots Morton, Goom's Hill, Rous Lench, Knighton, Inkberrow and Dunnington lie 600 m to 2 km beyond the Order Limits and all have limited intervisibility to Site 1 due to topography and intervening woodland areas.

10.6.14 An existing modest solar farm approximately 11 hectares in size borders sub-Site 1(a) and has limited intervisibility within the surrounding landscape due to the topography and vegetation screening.

Site 2

10.6.15 This landscape is also undulating, from 80 m AOD at Site 2(a) west of Ennister Wood down to 30 m AOD within sub-Site 2(e).

10.6.16 Site 2 is closer to Dunnington and also borders Broom, Wixford and Salford Priors; the much larger village of Bidford-on-Avon is just over 1.5 km to the east.

10.6.17 Marriage Hill at Bidford-on-Avon and the road between Iron Cross and Salford Priors generally form ridgelines restricting intervisibility south except for the longer distance views to the Cotswolds NL. Wixford and Broom sit within a flatter area, generally well screened by vegetation but there is intervisibility between higher ground at Oversley and parts of Site 2.

10.6.18 The A46 crosses north-south and its earthworks and vegetation limit intervisibility between the adjacent sub-Sites here, but there are longer distance views east-west from slightly higher ground over the A46.

10.6.19 The River Arrow comes into Site 2 north of Wixford and runs adjacent to sub-Sites 2(b) and 2(e) between marsh meadow land heading south to merge into the River Avon at Salford Priors.

10.6.20 Site 2 lies adjacent to blocks of woodland, most notably at Ladies Wood and Ennister Wood to the north. There are several orchards at Dunnington and smaller blocks or linear areas of woodland within Site 2 as whole.

10.6.21 The northern-western part of sub-Site 2(a) is within the Special Landscape Area of Arden and is notable given its proximity to Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden and its undulating topography.

10.6.22 Sub-Site 2(d) contains large ponds which are associated with the historical quarry activity in this area, some of which are used for recreational purposes such as fishing ponds.

Site 3

10.6.23 The central area of Site 3 is generally flat at around 40-50 m AOD where it crosses the Roman Road of Buckle Street. Land at Staple Hill, Barton Hill, Ralphs Wood, Pebworth Downs, Pebworth, Ullington, Hoden and Green Hill then forms a bowl around this area containing views within.

10.6.24 Sub-Sites 3(a), 3(b) and 3(e-g) sit within or on this higher ground, with 3(c) and 3(d) on the flatter areas.

10.6.25 The current land use is dominated by arable farming and fields are typically much larger compared to the other sub-Site areas.

10.6.26 Site 3 borders the village of Cleeve Prior and sweeps around Bickmarsh. Dorsington village lies 1 km to the east, with Pebworth and the scattered properties of Ullington to the south.

10.6.27 The Dorsington section of the Heart of England Forest lies on the eastern extents of the Site with several newly planted woodlands connecting up the more established woods in this area.

Site 4

10.6.28 This Site sits in a much flatter landscape with views south and east curtailed by the flatness and tall intervening vegetation. Bennetts Hill forms a visual border to the west, with the north contained by the landscape between North Littleton and Ullington.

10.6.29 Site 4 borders the village of South Littleton, with Bretforton further to the south and the Great Western Railway runs just over 500 m to the south of Site 4 from Honeybourne to Evesham.

10.6.30 The Site itself is arable fields bounded by tall hedgerows and enclosing a block of woodland and meadow area.

CRC1

10.6.31 The cable route section CRC1 heads north from Site 1 past Abbots Morton, generally following existing overhead electricity lines, past isolated farms east of Inkberrow and west of Priory Piece Farm, between Morton Hall and Holberrow Green and into the National Grid substation east of Feckenham.

CRC2

10.6.32 CRC2 connects Site 1 and Site 2 and passes through primarily agricultural fields. It is bordered to the east by Tothall Lane and to the north by properties associated with the village of Dunnington.

CRC3

10.6.33 CRC3 connects Sites 2 and 3. From the north it crosses Salford Road before splitting into two routes to avoid the village of Marcliff. The western route crosses the River Avon before connecting to Site 3 at the east of Cleeve Prior. The eastern route also crosses the River Avon before running southeast, connecting to Site 3 west of Bickmarsh..

CRC4

10.6.34 CRC4 connects sub-Sites 3(a) and 3(b) and runs entirely through a single agricultural field east of Cleeve Prior.

CRC5

10.6.35 CRC5 connects Sites 3 and 4. From sub-Site 3(c) it travels directly south through farm fields, crossing Blake's Hill (a minor road) east of Pebworth Road Poultry Site. It then continues south through agricultural land before crossing Shinehill Lane and Gate Inn Brook before connecting to Site 4.

Tranquillity, dark skies and sense of place

10.6.36 There is a feeling of tranquillity across the Order Limits, especially when away from the larger village infrastructure and the local road network. The undulating landscape creates areas of quiet, intimate and enclosed sense of place, as well as areas of feelings of dramatic expanse and breathing space with long-distance views in certain locations.

10.6.37 Although areas of the Order Limits can feel secluded, there is little sense of wildness, due to the working farmland, awareness of vehicles on lanes and roads and views out to settlement areas, as well as the presence of infrastructure such as overhead electricity lines and associated towers of various voltages and sizes.

10.6.38 As set out in The Campaign to Protect Rural England's (CPRE) dark skies mapping[31], the Order Limits is set largely within an area of darkness (0.25-0.5 nanowatts/cm^2/sr), with Site 4 being within a lighter area of 1-2 nanowatts/cm^2/sr due to its proximity to Evesham and its outlier settlements.

10.6.39 Most roads in the area, including the A46, are unlit.

Historic and natural environment designations

10.6.40 The baseline landscape character is influenced by numerous historic designations including Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, listed buildings, and two RPGs. None of these are directly affected by the Scheme but consideration of the effect on setting is given within the LVIA to these designated features and are also considered within Volume 1, Chapter 9 Historic environment of this ES. Reference is also made to published Historic Landscape Characterisation documents to aid the understanding the significance of historic landscape development and inherited character as well as helping to inform landscape mitigation opportunities.

10.6.41 There is a Local Geology Site (LoGS)[32], Site 64 Marsh Farm, adjacent to sub-Site 2(d) along the A46. This is designated for rare exposure of sand and gravel of the second terrace of the River Avon. CRC3 passes close to LoGS 69 Marlcliffas it crosses the River Avon. Site 69 is designated for its rarely exposed Blue Anchor and Westbury Formations.

10.6.42 There are a few Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the study area, the closest being at Broom Railway Cutting (approximately 100 m to the east of sub-Site 2(e)).

10.6.43 There are also several Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Potential LWS and Special Wildlife Sites across the Site, with many of these designated areas associated with woodland. The River Arrow and its tributaries LWS runs through sub-Sites 1(e), 1(c), along the southern edge of sub-Sites 2(c) and 2(d) and the eastern edges of sub-Sites 2(b) and 2(e). The Alcester - Broom Disused Railway LWS cuts through sub-Sites 2(e) and 2(b) and the River Avon LWS is crossed by CRC3 and runs adjacent to sub-Site 3(f)/(g). There is also a potential LWS adjacent to Cleeve Road within CRC4.

10.6.44 Woodland areas vary in size across the study area. The Sites avoid encroachment into woodlands, but parts of the CRC does encompass areas of woodland such as at Lady's Coppice/Manor Farm/Hanging Wood, and Marlcliff. Ancient Woodland is mainly present near to the central area of the Site, adjacent to but not directly affected by Sites 1 and 2. CRC1 passes through ancient woodland at Hanging Wood and CRC3 passes through Marlcliff ancient woodland. At both these locations the cable would be drilled beneath the woodland.

[31] Campaign to Protect Rural England (2016) CPRE light pollution and dark skies map. Available at: https://www.cpre.org.uk/what-we-care-about/nature-and-landscapes/dark-skies/englands-light-pollution-dark-skies-map/

[32] Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group (2002) Warwickshire Local Geological Site. Available at: https://www.wgcg.co.uk/

10.6.45 The Dorsington area of the Heart of England Forest extends west along the eastern edge of Site 3 between Barton and Pebworth and there are PRoW as well as permissive routes through the woodland areas, many of which are newly planted.

10.6.46 All woodlands, trees and hedgerows that lie within or immediately adjacent to the Site will be considered as part of the LVIA.

10.6.47 The above features are not assessed separately within this chapter, but the integration of habitats, biodiversity and heritage settings informs the character of the landscape and its value and susceptibility.

Designated landscapes

10.6.48 Refer to Volume 2, Figure 10.2 Designations of relevance to landscape for Designations of Relevance to Landscape as noted below.

Cotswolds National Landscape

10.6.49 The Cotswolds National Landscape (NL) is 4.5 km to the east of the Site at its closest point (between sub-Site 3(d) and the foot of Meon Hill) and swings around to the southwest at Bredon Hill (where the closest point to the NL is more than 9 km from Site 4).

10.6.50 There is visibility to the higher ground within the NL from some sub-Site areas. Given the national value of this landscape it is deemed appropriate to consider key views from the Cotswolds and the potential effects on the special qualities and the setting of this National Landscape.

10.6.51 The assessment of the impacts of the Scheme on the key viewpoints and special qualities of the NL and are therefore assessed within the visual amenity section. These are described in paragraph 10.5.8.

Special Landscape Area

10.6.52 Large areas within Stratford-on-Avon District are designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLA). The Special Landscape Areas Study (2012)[28] describes these areas based on the characterisations set out within the Warwickshire Landscape Assessment and Guidelines[21] and the Stratford-on-Avon District Design Guide[29].

10.6.53 SLA 4 Arden extends across the whole of sub-Site 1(e) and across the northwest corner of sub-Site 2(a). The area is designated due to the scenic quality in terms of the juxtaposition of well wooded rounded hilltops and slopes enclosing valleys, fine oak dominated hedgerows, intimate pastoral scenes, cultural heritage features and sense of tranquillity.

10.6.54 Key management recommendations as set out in the SLA Study conducted in 2012 are:

- Manage woodlands to ensure continuity of woodland cover. New woodland should reflect the character and scale of existing woodland;
- Conserve old oaks and encourage oak seedlings to regenerate in hedgerows, woodlands and as specimens to ensure continuity of character;
- Manage hedgerows to maintain and enhance a strong characteristic hedgerow pattern;
- Conserve and enhance permanent pasture and field ponds encouraging species diversity;
- Conserve the continuity of river corridors, maintaining the river course and floodplain character, riparian vegetation and associated traditional grassland; and
- Conserve settlement character by restricting development to that which reflects the vernacular style, scale, pattern and materials.

National Character Areas

10.6.55 The whole Site spans the boundary between two National Character Areas (NCA), as defined by Natural England.

10.6.56 The Severn and Avon Vales NCA 106[33] lies to the south encompassing the southern half of Site 1, the majority of Site 2 and all of Sites 3 and 4.

10.6.57 The Arden NCA 97[34] spreads north covering the tip of Site 2, the northern half of Site 1, and CRC1.

10.6.58 Volume 2, Figure 10.3 Landscape Character Areas presents the boundaries of the NCAs which are further described below.

Severn and Avon Vales NCA 106[33]

10.6.59 This large-scale NCA extends in a narrow wedge shape from its junction with Arden NCA south to embrace the Bristol Channel.

10.6.60 Severn and Avon Vales are described as:

[33] Natural England (2012) NCA Profile: 106 Severn and Avon Vales (NE336). Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1831421

[34] Natural England (2012) NCA Profile: 97 Arden (NE337). Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1819400

"The lower valleys of the rivers Severn and Avon dominate this low-lying open agricultural vale landscape made up of distinct and contrasting vales… with Cotswold outliers like Bredon Hill punctuating the otherwise flat vale landscape…The majority of the area is used as agricultural land… Woodland is sparse and it is a generally open landscape."

10.6.61 Key opportunities include:

- Protect and appropriately manage the landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity associated with the river floodplains and estuarine environment;
- Manage the distinct field boundary patterns across the NCA;
- Plan to extend, through restoration and creation, areas of unimproved grassland, wetland and traditional orchard;
- Restore existing ancient woodlands and create new blocks of semi-natural habitat, including new woodland, in intervening spaces between ancient woodland; and
- Plan to extend areas of flood meadows/grazing marsh to create an extensive ecological network of unimproved grassland and wetland habitat.

Arden NCA 97[34]

10.6.62 Arden is a large-scale NCA extending north to Tamworth (Staffordshire) and east-west to embrace both Birmingham and Coventry. It is therefore a complex character area with heavily urbanised areas. However, overall:

"Arden comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham…. The landscape of the lower lying central area is gently rolling with small fragmented semi-natural and ancient woodlands. Mature oaks set in hedgerows, distinctive field boundaries, historic parklands and narrow river corridors are key features, all on the doorstep of a heavily urbanised area."

10.6.63 Key opportunities include:

- Manage and enhance the valuable woodlands, hedgerows, heaths, distinctive field boundaries and enclosure patterns throughout the NCA;
- Create new networks of woodlands, heaths and green infrastructure;
- Conserve and enhance Arden's strong geological, industrial, and cultural resource, to increase public access, enjoyment, recreation and to retain a sense of place and history; and
- Enhance the value of Arden's aquatic features such as the characteristic river valleys, meadows and standing water areas.

Regional character assessments

10.6.64 There are several published Landscape Character Assessments that cover the study area and aid understanding and value of the landscape.

Warwickshire landscape character assessment

10.6.65 Warwickshire County Council produced the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines Assessment in 1993[21], mapping the special characteristics of the county. The Site sits across the Arden and the Avon Valley Character Areas defined by these guidelines.

10.6.66 Within Arden, the Site (specifically sub-Site 1(e)), sits within Wooded Estatelands Landscape Character Type (LCT).

10.6.67 Within Avon, the whole Site extends over the following LCTs:

- River Meadows;
- Terrace Farmlands;
- Vale Orchard Belt; and
- Vale Farmlands.

10.6.68 Much of the Site also covers areas defined as enhancement zones within these LCTs, where opportunities have been identified for the enhancement of the LCTs.

Stratford-on-Avon landscape character assessments

10.6.69 SoADC's Development Requirements Supplementary Planning Guidance[8] includes a section, Part B Character and Local Distinctiveness, which sets out the key landscape character areas of the district. These are largely reflective of the Warwickshire Guidelines, and the Site extends over the following areas:

- Arrow Ridgeway Slope (sub-Sites 1 (c), (d), (e), 2(a), (c), (d), CRC2);
- Avon and Arrow Terraces (sub-Sites 2(b), (d), (e), CRC3); and
- Avon Vale (sub-Sites CRC3, 3(g) and (f)).

10.6.70 SoADC has also produced a Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study (2014)[19]. This study thoroughly reviewed the LCTs within the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines and the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and provides a valuable reference for a finer detailed and more up-to-date characterisation of the study area, whilst maintaining the integrity of the original guidelines and being reflective of the character areas defined within the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The study also relates directly to renewable energy projects, including solar, and is thus a highly relevant source document.

10.6.71 To maintain proportionality, the LCTs defined by the Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study are assessed within this LVIA as consideration of the landscape character described by both the Warwickshire Guidelines and the SoADC SPG Landscape Character Assessment.

10.6.72 The following LCTs are crossed by the Scheme and will be assessed as the most granular LCTs available. Volume 2, Figure 10.3 Landscape Character Areas presents the boundaries of the areas:

- LCT 5 - Arden Wooded Estatelands (Site 1(e) and part 1 (c));
- LCT 6 - Avon Orchard Belt (Site 1(c), 1(d), 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d), 3(b), 3(g) CRC2, CRC3 and CRC4);
- LCT 7 - Avon Terrace Farmlands (Site 2(d), 2(e) and CRC3); and
- LCT 9 - Avon River Meadowlands (Site 2(b), 2(e), and CRC3)

Worcestershire landscape character assessment

10.6.73 Worcestershire County Council has produced a Landscape Character Assessment[20] as a supplementary guidance document with supporting technical guidance and interactive map. This guidance is also referred to by Wychavon District Council within the landscape section of its website and this document has been used to assess landscape character within these authority areas.

10.6.74 The Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment divides the whole of Worcestershire into Landscape Types (LTs – separate from LCTs as described previously)). Five of these are defined as "unsettled" (i.e. with limited built development) within which there is a high presumption against new built development. Volume 2, Figure 10.3 Landscape Character Areas presents the boundaries of the landscape character areas described below.

10.6.75 The following Landscape Types within the study area may potentially be impacted by the Scheme, two of which are classed as unsettled:

- Wet Pasture Meadow (CRC1, and Site1(b)) – Unsettled Landscape;
- Village Claylands (CRC1, Site 1(b), 3(b), 3(c) 3(d), 3(e), and CRC5);
- Wooded Estatelands (Sites 1(a) and 1(c));
- Riverside Meadows (CRC3) – Unsettled Landscape;
- Village Farmlands with Orchards (Site 3(a), 3(b) and CRC3); and
- Principal Village Farmlands (CRC5 and Site 4).

10.6.76 These LTS are further broken down into Landscape Description Units (LDUs) that have been defined by WoCC considering geology, topography, soils, tree cover character, land use and settlements. The LDUs within the Scheme footprint that are assessed are:

- LDU MW83 Abbots Morton Village Claylands;
- LDU MW92 Abbots Morton Wet Pasture Meadows;
- LDU MW89 Morton Wood Wooded Estatelands;
- LDU VE30 Cleve Village Farmlands with Orchards;
- LDU VE32.1 Buckle Street Village Claylands;
- LDU VE32.2 Ullington Village Claylands; and
- LDU VE35 Bretforton Principal Village Farmlands.

10.6.77 A full assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape character against the impacts of the Scheme is set out within the assessment section of this chapter.

Visual amenity baseline

10.6.78 Visual receptors are the people who live in, work in, or visit the study area, and whose visual amenity could potentially be affected by the Scheme.

10.6.79 The main visual receptors within the study area are residential, outdoor workers, visitors to the area and users of PRoW.

10.6.80 Residential receptors have views from isolated or clusters of properties, plus limited views from larger settlements such as Bidford-on-Avon. Many of the properties are working farms or estates and therefore consideration is also given to those working on the land. Where buildings are listed or within Conservation Areas these are noted as such.

10.6.81 There are numerous local PRoW within the study area, including three designated long-distance PRoW: Shakespeare's Avon Way; Millennium Way; and the Heart of England Way. Additionally, there are permissive routes within the Heart of England Forest. All PRoW with views towards the Scheme are included within the LVIA, although generally assessed as groups with similar views rather than individually. Consideration will be given to the transitionary nature of PRoW and the changing views as one moves along a route.

10.6.82 Local road users are also considered as visual receptors though grouped overall within each sub-Site rather than individually assessed. It is noted that there are some Scenic Driving Routes promoted by local authorities, such as the Warwickshire "Saxons to Shakespeare" route, which are considered separately.

10.6.83 Views from key visitor sites such as RPGs, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas, as well as wildlife sites are also considered where appropriate.

10.6.84 A suite of representative viewpoints has been identified throughout the Scoping stage, consultation and pre-submission stages informed by Ordnance Survey and Google mapping as well as site walkovers and discussions with host authorities.

10.6.85 Volume 2, Figure 10.4 Representative viewpoints and landscape designations overview indicates the receptors assessed and the location of the representative viewpoints. Volume 2, Figure 10.5 Designations and viewpoints shows the same viewpoints against wider relevant designations. Annotated baseline site photographs of these viewpoints, alongside wireframes and visualisations for specific areas are presented in Volume 3, Appendix 10.2 Viewpoint photographs and Appendix 10.3 Photomontages.

Embedded mitigation

10.6.86 The development of the landscape and visual assessment for the Scheme has taken into consideration the embedded mitigation as defined in Volume 1, Chapter 2 Scheme description, Section 2.7 of this ES and design evolution outlined in Volume 1, Chapter 4 Consideration of alternatives of this ES. For landscape and visual this includes:

- E-GEN.1 - Implementation of Outline Construction Environmental Plan (oCEMP);
- E-GEN.2 - Implementation of Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP);
- E-GEN.3 - Implementation of Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP);
- E-GEN.4 - Implementation of Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP);
- E-LV.1 - Implementation of Lighting Strategy;
- E-LV.2 - Retention and enhancement of existing vegetation;
- E-LV.3 - Additional planting to provide visual screening;
- E-LV.4 - Sensitive design of infrastructure to align with natural landscape; and
- E-LV.5 - Aligning cable route away from sensitive features.

Receptors

10.6.87 The receptors which have been assessed in the landscape and visual impact assessment, including their assigned sensitivity which has been defined using the relevant criteria outlined in Section 10.5, are described in Table 10-6.

Table 10-6 Description of the landscape and visual receptors that will be assessed

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
NCA 106 Severn and Avon Vales	The lower valleys of the rivers Severn and Avon dominate this low lying open agricultural vale landscape made up of distinct and contrasting vales, including Evesham, Berkeley, Gloucester, Leadon and Avon, with Cotswold outliers like Bredon Hill punctuating the otherwise flat vale landscape. The M5 Motorway runs through the centre and the eastern edge of the area. NCA106 and NCA 97 meet east-west across Sites 1 and 2. The Sites are reflective of the key characteristics of each relevant NCA with the generally flatter more gently undulating landscape of NCA106 contrasting with the more rolling landscape of NCA97.	High
NCA 97 Arden	Arden comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south and east of Birmingham, including part of the West Midlands conurbation. Traditionally regarded as the land lying between the River Tame and the River Avon in Warwickshire, the Arden landscape also extends into north Worcestershire to abut the Severn and Avon Vales. To the north and northeast, it drops down to the open landscape of the Mease/Sence Lowlands. The eastern part of the NCA abuts and surrounds Coventry, with the fringes of Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon to the south. This NCA has higher ground to the west, the Clent and Lickey Hills and to the east, the Nuneaton ridge. NCA106 and NCA 97 meet east-west across Sites 1 and 2. The Sites are reflective of the key characteristics of each relevant NCA with the generally flatter more gently undulating landscape of NCA106 contrasting with the more rolling landscape of NCA97.	High
LCT 5 Arden Wooded Estatelands	Arden Wooded Estatelands, present within sub-Sites 1(c) and 1(e). An area of rolling topography with prominent hills and well wooded landscapes between mainly arable hedged fields. A high value landscape with fine landscape features, intimate and open views, several areas of historic or ecological value and covered by the SLA of Arden. Defined as an area with capacity for solar in only limited areas of flat or very gently sloping land with screening woodland and existing non characteristic uses.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
LCT 6 Avon Orchard Belt	This LCT crosses the Order Limits over areas either side of the Arrow and Avon Rivers, reflecting the large-scale rolling landscape of these areas, with some low but prominent hills such as at Marriage Hill. Generally, the landscape is described as intensively farmed, with the historic orchards gradually decreasing. Dunnington is recognised specifically for its existing orchard areas. The landscape is generally open with long- and middle-distance views, though enclosed by landform and woodlands in places. Part of the Arden SLA enters this area but there are few designated ecological or historical features, at least in the areas covering the Order Limits. The LCT is defined**Error! Bookmark not defined.** as having some capacity for solar, with the semi-formal field patterns being more compatible to solar, and the open hill and valley slopes less so.	High
LCT 7 Avon Terrace Farmlands	This LCT is scattered in small areas along the River Avon. Sub-Sites 2(d) and 2(e) sit within it either side of the River Arrow and A46. The landform is generally flat with open fields and degraded landscape of sand quarries with some irregular stream-side screening vegetation. There are areas of historic and ecological value. The A46 is a detracting noisy feature. The former quarry area is noted as most likely to provide capacity for large scale solar developments**Error! Bookmark not defined.**.	High
LCT 9 Avon River Meadowlands	This LCT follows the River Avon but extends north up to Wixford along the River Arrow thus covering sub-Sites 2(b) and 2(e). The landform within the sub-Site area is generally flat with undulations more noticeable at sub-Site 2(b). The watercourses and riparian vegetation are attractive and enclosed with limited views out.	High
LDU MW83 Abbots Morton Village Claylands	Open, gently-rolling agricultural landscape with mainly pastoral use and dense hedgerows to fields, with occasional trees. Conservation of hedgerows is noted of prime importance and reintroduction of pastoral use. This LCT covers the northwest corner of sub-Site 1(b) and CRC1.	High
LDU MW92 Abbots Morton Wet Pasture Meadows	This is a flat, low-lying largely uninhabited landscape, secluded and pastoral with tree cover limited to individual trees or planting along streams. Wetland habitats have emerged of wildlife interest. The area should be regarded as unsettled and undeveloped with wet pastoral use encouraged and therefore has been assigned a very high sensitivity. The north section of sub-Site 1(b) and all of sub-Site1(f) is within this LDU.	Very High
LDU MW89 Morton Wood Wooded Estatelands	Large-scale wooded agricultural landscape with isolated farmsteads. Several irregular woodlands prominent on low crests. Area lacks intimacy and appears functional. Hedgerows provide visual cohesion. Hedgerow and woodland restoration is encouraged. Sub-Site 1(a) and the west of sub-Site 1(c) are within this LDU.	High
LDU VE30 Cleeve Village Farmlands with Orchards	A distinctive planned low land agricultural landscape with a notably dominant orchard land use - as at Cleeve Prior. Fields are hedgerow bound, regular and planned. Sub-Site 3(a) sits within this LDU with panels being removed from the Scheme in this area within sub-Site 3(b).	High
LDU VE32.1 Buckle Street Village Claylands	This is a distinctively flat open very gently rolling agricultural landscape, much more large-scale and extensive than the other village clayland LCTs. It is the site of a medieval village, a former WWII airfield and is bisected by Ryknild Street Roman Road (Buckle Street). Original field pattern is lost. There is low tree cover and distinctive presence of a gliding and flying club.	High
LDU VE32.2 Ullington Village Claylands	Open gently rolling agricultural landscape with mainly pastoral use and dense hedgerows to fields, with occasional trees. Conservation of hedgerows is noted of prime importance and reintroduction of pastoral use. This LCT covers the SE corner of sub-Site 3(b).	High
LDU VE35 Bretforton Principal Village Farmlands	This is an intensively farmed landscape associated with fertile, free draining soils which give rise to high-quality farmland. Hedgerows define field boundaries. Site 4 is within this LDU.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Arden SLA	This is a large SLA spanning between Tamworth-in-Arden, Snitterfield and Alcester. The Alcester area extends southwest over the Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden into the Order Limits area. The special qualities are defined as: ancient intimate character of low rounded hills, small incised valleys, ancient semi-natural woodland, species rich hedgerows and disperse settlement patterns. The woodland form defined visual features of skylines. There are well connected PRoW and the landscape contains RPGS, conservation areas and planned estate landscapes. The SLA within the Order Limits area is strongly reflective of these qualities. The undulating landscape of Weethley within sub-Site 1(e) is bound by dense skyline woodland to the west and the ridgeline of Evesham Road to the east, with the estate parkland of Ragley Hall beyond. At sub-Site 2(a), the SLA extends south from Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden over dramatically undulating fields towards Dunnington. There are wide panoramic views out from both sub-Site areas with more intimate enclosed areas near Weethley Wood. The landscape is tranquil with occasional noise from the adjacent roads.	Very High
Visual receptors		
Assessment ID VRC1(a) – Millennium Way PRoW	Viewpoint VRa/b represents the Millennium Way PRoW along CRC1. Assessed only during construction.	High
Assessment ID VRC1(b) – All PRoW crossing cable route - general overview (VRa/b)	Viewpoint VRa/b represents the PRoWs crossing CRC1, providing a general overview of the route. Assessed only during construction.	High
Assessment ID VRC1(c) – All residential receptors adjacent to CRC	Viewpoint VRa/b represents a general overview of the residential receptors adjacent to CRC1. Assessed only during construction.	High
Assessment ID VRNL – PRoW within NL highpoints	The Cotswolds National Landscape, designated in 1966, covers approximately 790 square miles and is the largest National Landscape in the UK. Its distinctive character is derived from the underlying Jurassic limestone, which shapes both the natural and built environment. This geology is reflected in the area's characteristic honey-coloured and grey limestone architecture, dry stone wall networks, historic settlements, farmed fields and wildflower meadows. Limestone is a defining material throughout the National Landscape, evident in historic houses, churches, agricultural structures and ancient monuments. Viewpoint VRNLa/b/c/d represents the views from PRoWs highpoints within the Cotswolds National Landscape. From all points surveyed there are wide expansive views north towards the Order Limits. However, given the expansive nature of the view, intervening buildings and vegetation and the presence of other manmade features, buildings, polytunnels solar farms, the presence of the Order Limits, even collectively would be difficult to immediately discern and further appraisal has not been undertaken.	Very High
Assessment ID VRp4a - Between Clayfield Road Bretforton - Shinehill	Viewpoint VP4(b), 4(c), 4(d) & 4(e) represent the PRoW between Clayfield Road, Bretforton and Shinehill around Site 4. From Clayfield Road this route crosses the railway line where slightly elevated views are possible towards Site 4. The tall dense hedgerows filter views well however there are gaps and some properties along Shinehill Road, Station Road and Long Hyde can be intermittently glimpsed. A distinctive cluster of dead trees within Site 4 can be seen in the site photo (VP4d) and help indicate the site location. There are views back to the Cotswolds but views in between are prevented by the flat landscape and vegetation. The PRoW enters the site within a hedge lined grass track views out are largely screened by the tall hedge however there are lower sections and large gaps with views out east and west to the site perimeter vegetation. Again, this vegetation is quite dense and screens/filters views beyond but there are glimpses of properties at Bennetts Hill and along Shinehill Road. There are occasional glimpses of the hills of the Cotswolds in views SE. The PRoW joins a farm access track connecting to Shinehill Road.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Assessment ID VRp4b - South Littleton to Clayfield Road	Viewpoint VP4(a) represents the PRoW between South Littleton and Clayfield Road around Site 4. This route cuts between properties off Station Road and for the most part views are well screened or filtered by dense vegetation due to the orchard woodland along the stream to the east. The route emerges into an open field adjacent to Site 4. The site field boundaries are well formed with dense tall hedges screening views along the route, even in winter. However, there are a couple of gaps in the hedges and the PRoW runs very close to the Order Limits before heading away again to join Clayfield Road. There are long range views southeast towards the Cotswolds but the land in between is hidden by flat landscape and tall hedges/woodland. There are views north from the southern end of the route towards properties on Long Hyde Road and the southern end of Station Road where vegetation is thinner.	High
Assessment ID VRp4c - Shinehill Lane to Withy Tree Road	Viewpoint VP4(ka) & 4(kb) represents the PRoW between Shinehill Lane and Norval Road around Site 4. For the most part views are well filtered by dense vegetation along the route, even in winter. The PRoW runs very close to the Order Limits in an adjacent field at New Barn, then heads east to Withy Tree Road. Views west from here are again well filtered by field and stream vegetation enclosing views.	High
Assessment ID VRp4d - Norval Farm to Sheen Hill	Viewpoint VP4(j) represents the PRoW between Norval Farm and Sheen Hill around Site 4. Views from this PRoW towards the Site 4 are screened by intervening buildings and vegetation even in winter. Even from the higher ground at Sheen Hill tall trees and buildings screen any view.	High
Assessment ID VRp4e - All PRoW north of Site 4 between Shinehill Lane and Blakes Hill	Viewpoint VP4(i) represents these PRoW. There are 3 routes running between Shinehill South Littleton and Blakes Hill North Littleton. Views from these PRoW towards the Site 4 are however screened by intervening buildings and vegetation even in winter. Even from the higher ground at Blakes Hill tall trees and buildings screen any view. There are long range views to the Cotswolds Hill but the land in between is screened by the flat landscape.	High
Assessment ID VRp4f - All PRoW south of Site 4 between Railway and Bretforton/Honeybourne	Viewpoint VP4(n) represents the PRoWs south of Site 4 between the railway and Bretforton/Honeybourne. There are 3 routes running between Shinehill South Littleton and Blakes Hill North Littleton. Views from these PRoW towards the Site 4 are however screened by intervening buildings and vegetation even in winter. Even from the higher ground at Blakes Hill tall trees and buildings screen any view. There are long range views to the Cotswolds Hill but the land in between is screened by the flat landscape.	High
Assessment ID VRp4g - Bridleway South Littleton to Cleeve Hill	Viewpoint VP4(m) represents the bridleway between South Littleton and Cleeve Hill, around Site 4. Views from this bridleway towards the Site 4 are well screened by intervening buildings and vegetation even in winter. Even from the higher ground at Cleeve Hill tall trees and buildings screen any view. There are long range views to the Cotswolds Hill but the land in between is screened by the flat landscape.	High
Assessment ID VRp4h - PRoW north of Blakes Hill	Viewpoint VP3(q) represents the PRoWs north of Blakes Hill around Site 4. This route, colloquially called Hathway's Walk, is an attractive route down the hill towards Blakes Hill. It is through a wooded area along a stream/ditch with limited views out through the vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRs4a - Properties on Shinehill Lane, South Littleton (VP4b/c)	Viewpoints VP4(b) & 4(c) represent the properties on Shinehill Lane, South Littleton around Site 4. The properties along Shinehill Road are one and two storey. They generally have garden vegetation to their boundaries that filters views south and this together with road and field boundary vegetation views into the Site are limited. There may be views over the vegetation towards the Cotswolds Hills.	High
Assessment ID VRs4b - Shinehill Farm, South Littleton	Viewpoints VP4(b) & 4(c) represent the Shinehill Farm, South Littleton around Site 4. This property sits adjacent to the Order Limits at Site 4. It has views south across the existing fields. Views into the more eastern fields restricted by the PRoW hedge. Views north are heavily screened by dense vegetation along the brook. Views beyond the Site are well screened by the perimeter vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRs4c - Properties on Station Road and Robert Lane, South Littleton	Viewpoints VP4(a) & (c) represent the properties on Station Road and Robert Lane, South Littleton around Site 4. The properties along Station Road/Robert Lane are one and two storey. They generally have garden vegetation to their boundaries that filters views east and this together with the orchard woodland and field boundary vegetation limits views into the Site. There may be views over the vegetation towards the Cotswolds Hills.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Assessment ID VRs4d - Properties in South Littleton Conservation Area	Viewpoints VP4(a) & (c) represent the properties within the South Littleton Conservation Area around Site 4. Views are well screened by intervening buildings or dense vegetation to garden, field and stream boundaries. There may be very filtered views though gaps or less dense vegetation in the winter for some properties within the conservation area, but it is anticipated that views into the Site are very limited with no obvious change anticipated.	High
Assessment ID VRs4e - Properties off Withy Trees Road, South Littleton	Viewpoint VP4(ka) represents the properties off Withy Trees Road, South Littleton around Site 4. Views are well screened by intervening buildings or dense vegetation to field and stream boundaries. There may be very filtered views though gaps or less dense vegetation in the winter for some properties on Withy Trees Road, but most views are orientated away from the Site.	High
Assessment ID VRs4f - Properties on Long Hyde Road, South Littleton	Viewpoint VP4(h) represents the properties on Long Hyde Road, South Littleton, around Site 4. The properties along Shinehill Road are set higher above South Littleton as they rise up Bennetts Hill. They are generally orientated to look south away from Site 4 but there are oblique views albeit well filtered by intervening garden, road and field boundary vegetation. The key focus of their view is south towards the Cotswolds.	High
Assessment ID VRs4g - Properties at Bennetts Hill, South Littleton	Viewpoints VP4(c) & 4(h) represent the properties at Bennetts Hill, South Littleton around Site 4. The properties at Bennetts Hill are set higher above South Littleton. They are generally well screened by evergreen garden vegetation but there are views into Site 4 although the Site fields will be seen as narrow strips between vegetation with long views to the Cotswolds beyond.	High
Assessment ID VRs4h - Properties along Blakes Hill/School Lane, North Littleton	Viewpoints VP4(j) &4(l) represent the properties along Blakes Hill and School Lane, North Littleton around Site 4. There are 3 routes running between Shinehill, South Littleton and Blakes Hill, North Littleton. Views from these properties towards Site 4 are screened by intervening buildings and vegetation. Even from the higher ground at Blakes Hill tall trees and buildings screen any view into the Site. There are long range views to the Cotswolds but the land in between is screened by the flat landscape.	High
Assessment ID VRs4i - Properties at Bretforton	Viewpoints VP4(e), 4(f) & 4(g) represent the properties at Bretforton around Site 4. The majority of views for properties, and within the conservation area, towards Site 4 are screened by other buildings. Where there are more open views out, such as at Clayfield Farm and Clayfield Barn, views are heavily restricted by the flat topography and intervening dense field, railway and stream vegetation. Bennetts Hill can be seen rising above the vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRr3 - Local roads around Site 3	Viewpoint VP3j/h represent the views from local roads around Site 3.	Medium
Assessment ID VRp3(a) - Shakespeare's Avon Way Cleeve Prior to Marlcliff	Viewpoint VP3(a) represents the PRoW (Shakespeare's Avon Way) between Cleeve Prior and Marlcliff around Site 3. This long-distance route that generally follows the River Avon. It passes north out of woodland to the west of Cleeve Prior on the Marlcliff escarpment. Views open up with long distance views west and north over the heavily wooded River, floodplain and gently undulating landscape. Fields are generally seen as narrow or short sections between vegetation and the business estate and sewage works at Salford Prior can be made out, along with settlement clusters also visible peeking between the vegetation and topography. Views east are limited to short range hedge bound fields as the topography dips slightly to the east, although there are longer distance views of Meon Hill rising above the hedge line. The route then heads back down to the river and views are constrained by the valley sides.	Very High
Assessment ID VRp3(b) - PRoW crossing/surrounding sub-Site 3(a)	Viewpoints VP3(k) & (3(l) represent the PRoWs crossing and surrounding sub-Site 3(a) around Site 3. These routes criss-cross around the field boundaries between Cleeve Road, Froglands Lane, Marlcliff and Cleeve Prior. Views are generally limited to one side due to the PRoW running along tall hedgerows. Views are also quite short-range as the land dips away or there is intervening buildings and vegetation. Views are otherwise of horse pasture or towards/within the conservation area of Cleeve Prior.	High
Assessment ID VRp3(c) - PRoW Cleeve Prior to Clink Cottages	Viewpoints VP3(m) & (l) represent the PRoW between Cleeve Prior and Clink Cottages around Site 3. Views for this PRoW are curtailed west by the buildings at Froglands Farm and the ridge of Marlcliff Hill, as well as by the roadside hedge and field hedges. Towards the top of Green/Clink Hill there are long distance views of wooded hills on the horizon. Views east are prevented by a tall dense hedge.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRp3(d) - PRoW Cleeve Prior/Green Hill/Gliding Club	Viewpoints VP3(o) & 3(p) represent the PRoWs linking Cleeve Prior, Green Hill and the Gliding Club around Site 3. Views towards the Scheme are only possible as this route heads north from Hoden Lane where there are views east to the gently rising Hoden Hilland around north over the flatter areas towards the gliding and flying club. The route follows the stream north towards the gliding and flying club area, with open views east towards Buckle Street and views west limited by the hedge but the rising land of Green Hill can be seen in gaps.	High
Assessment ID VRp3(e) - PRoW Cleeve Prior/Hoden Ln to N Littleton	Viewpoint VP3(n) represents the PRoW between Cleeve Prior, Hoden Lane and North Littleton around Site 3. The topography at Green Hill and Hoden Hill along with dense intervening vegetation results in no open views towards the Scheme.	High
Assessment ID VRp3(f) - PRoW Hoden Ln to Buckle Street	From Hoden Lane this bridleway passes along a hedge and ditch heading east towards Buckle Lane. Views south are prevented by the top of Hoden Hill and hedges. Views north are across the very gently undulating almost flat fields of Bickmarsh with Green Hill to the west and longer-range views to higher ground to the north and east. The gliding and flying club buildings are obvious in the far corner of the fields.	High
Assessment ID VRp3(g) - PRoW Hoden Ln to Ullington	Viewpoint VP3(q) represents the PRoW between Hoden Lane and Ullington around Site 3. From North Littleton views for this route only open up as it rises east up Hoden Hill with views across the flat Bickmarsh plain intermittently blocked by hedges and small woodland blocks. As the route rises to the top of Hoden Hill the view is wider and as the ground more gently descends north the intervening fields are less obvious as they become more strip like. The view is wide and long ranging to higher ground over 3km away. The bridleway heads south through a wooded walkway and the pedestrian route continues east heading down the hill into Ullington where views north are prevented by the topography and woodland here.	High
Assessment ID VRp3h - Heart of England PROW (VP3(d)/e/f - VP2l/c/)	Viewpoints VP3(d)/e/f -VP2l/c/ represent the Heart of England Way PRoW around Site 3. This long-distance route passes close to Sub-Sites 2 and 3. From the north it passes around the top of Oversley Hill with long, wide panoramic views southwest (see VP2u). The views are filtered by intervening trees and hedges but are of agricultural hedge bound fields gently undulating south with the Cotswolds on the very distant horizon and scattered settlements and woodland between. The route then heads through Wixford to Broom through fields east of the River Arrow with views west heavily filtered by river vegetation with glimpses through to the floodplain fields beyond. After Broom, it follows the road to Bidford-on-Avon with no or very limited views out. Views towards the Scheme are only then really possible as it approaches the top of Barton Hill south of the River Avon. Views are south over Bickmarsh and the Heart of England Forest. Woodland areas filter views but the arable fields can be seen between and beyond. The route passes through the Heart of England Forest with areas of new and mature woodland before heading east into Dorsington and beyond.	Very High
Assessment ID VRp3i - PRoW Bickmarsh to Barton and Dorsington (VP3(c)/g)	Viewpoint VP3(c)/g represents the PRoWs between Bickmarsh, Barton and Dorsington around Site 3. This bridleway is quite well screened from views towards the Site due to undulating landscape and dense woodland blocks for most of the route. There are more open views south near Bickmarsh Hall and Farm over the flat Bickmarsh fields.	High
Assessment ID VRp3j - PRoW Bickmarsh Hall to Pebworth/Dorsington (VP3(g)/i/t)	Viewpoint VP3(g)/i/t represents the PRoWs between Bickmarsh Hall and Pebworth/Dorsington around Site 3. This route passes south from Bickmarsh Hall across the gently undulating wide open fields of Bickmarsh. At little Dorsington it splits, with one route heading northeast up the Pebworth Downs and back down into Dorsington. The other split continues southeast towards the more gently rising slopes north of Pebworth. Views become restricted north of Little Dorsington and near Dorsington Road due to woodland and the undulating topography.	High
Assessment ID VRp3k - PRoW Pebworth to Ullington (VP3s)	Viewpoint VP3s represents the PRoW between Pebworth and Ullington around Site 3. Given the topography and field hedgerows, views from the PRoW north are limited and only really open up as it rises up/from Pebworth, where, prior to disappearing into Pebworth, views are panoramic over the gently undulating fields of Bickmarsh and towards the Heart of England Forest and Green Hill, though filtered by intervening trees and blocks of woodland.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRp3l - PRoW Dorsington Manor - Bunkers Hill (VP3u)	Viewpoint VP3u represents the PRoW between Dorsington Manor and Bunkers Hill around Site 3. Given the topography and intervening vegetation and buildings, views southwest from the PRoW are limited and only really open up as it rises up/from Bunkers Hill, where views are panoramic over the Heart of England Forest and gently undulating fields of Bickmarsh and towards Green Hill, though still filtered by intervening trees and blocks of woodland.	High
Assessment ID VRp3m - Heart of England Forest permissive paths (VP3(e))	Viewpoint VP3(e) represents the permissive paths within the Heart of England Forest around Site 3. The topography of Barton Hill as well as the trees within the forest tend to screen views towards the Scheme. Views open up a little where the permissive routes pass along Dorsington Road south and then back into the wooded stream that flows along near Colletts Farm. Views are intermittent of undulating open fields bound by woodland or hedges.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(a) - Cleeve Prior Properties & Conservation Area (VP3o/m/k)	Viewpoint VP3o/m/k represents the properties and the Conservation Area in Cleeve Prior around Site 3. The majority of properties in this attractive village have no or limited views out, being constrained by the topography, buildings and vegetation within and around the village. Where there are views out east towards the Site, they are generally of gently rising land at Green Hill with intervening hedgerow vegetation. Views north are of flatter landscape again with intervening hedgerows and distance views curtailed by Marlcliff Hill. The conservation Area extends north over a ridge and furrow field adjacent to sub-Site 3(a).	High
Assessment ID VRs3(b) - Properties at Green Hill and Hoden Ln (VP3o)	Viewpoint VP3o represents the properties at Green Hill and Hoden Lane around Site 3. Views for these properties are curtailed by Green Hill and Hoden Hill, and blocks of woodland in between these. There may be glimpses across this lower ground through/over the intervening vegetation onto the open fields at the northern edge of Hoden Hill/Bickmarsh plain.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(c) - Froglands Farm (VP3k)	Viewpoint VP3k represents the Froglands Farm around Site 3. Views for this farm property are curtailed west by woodland along the Shakespeare Way. Views east are over hedge bound fields towards the hedged ridgeline of Clink/Green Hill. The views are generally well filtered by property vegetation but surrounding horse pasture fields have slightly more open views.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(d) - Properties along Cleeve Road (VP3m/l)	Viewpoint VP3m/l represents the properties along Cleeve Road around Site 3. Views for these properties are curtailed west by the buildings at Froglands Farm and the ridge of Marlcliff Hill, as well as by the roadside hedge for ground floor views.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(e) - Clink Cottages (VP3l)	Viewpoint VP3l represents the Clink Cottages around Site 3. These properties have views south-east over the flat landscape of Bickmarsh – wide open fields cut across by a distinctive line of trees along Buckle Street with the landscape of fields and woodland rising gently to the east beyond.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(f) - Clay Hall/Brookleys Farm/Bickmarsh Hall/Bickmarsh (VP3(b)/g)	Viewpoint VP3(b)/g represents the Clay Hall, Brookleys Farm, Bickmarsh Hall and Bickmarsh around Site 3. These properties are quite well screened from views towards the Site due to undulating landscape and dense woodland blocks as well as intervening vegetation. Bickmarsh Hall may have views in a gap south over the Bickmarsh fields.	High
Assessment ID VRs3(g) - Properties on Evesham Road (VP3o)	Viewpoint VP3o represents the properties on Evesham Road around Site 3. These properties have quite wide long ranging views east curtailed in the mid ground by the topography at Green Hill and Hoden Hill, with the hills of the Cotswolds emerging above.	High
Assessment ID VRs3h - Hoden Farm (VP3p)	Viewpoint VP3p represents the Hoden Farm around Site 3. These properties are assumed to have views north intermittently blocked by hedges and small woodland blocks. There may be glimpses through vegetation to the slopes of Green Hill and the Bickmarsh plain.	High
Assessment ID VRs3i - Gliding and Flying Club - leisure use (VP3v/h)	Viewpoint VP3v/h represents the Bidford Gliding and Flying Club around Site 3. The gliding and flying club have views south and east over the Bickmarsh field landscape.	Medium
Assessment ID VRs3j - Ullington Hall (VP3r/q)	Viewpoint VP3r/q represents the Ullington Hall around Site 3. The Hall sits within an area in a dip in the landscape and surrounded by dense woodland. There are no open views towards the Scheme.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRs3k - Bickmarsh Lodge/Ullington House Farm/1-4 Buckle St (VP3r/q)	Viewpoint VP3r/q represents the Bickmarsh Lodge, Ullington House Farm and 1–4 Buckle Street around Site 3. These properties are quite well screened from views towards the Site due to the undulating landscape and dense tall vegetation to the property boundaries blocks as well as intervening vegetation. However, there are views south over the gently undulating Bickmarsh field landscape towards Pebworth.	High
Assessment ID VRs3l - Properties at The Rough (VP3h/j)	Viewpoint VP3h/j represents the properties at The Rough around Site 3. These properties are quite well screened from views towards the Site due to undulating landscape and dense tall vegetation to the property boundaries blocks as well as intervening vegetation. However, there are views northeast in gaps over the gently undulating Bickmarsh field landscape towards the Heart of England Forest.	High
Assessment ID VRs3m - Properties adjacent Little Meadow Farm (VP3s/i)	Viewpoint VP3s/i represents the properties adjacent to Little Meadow Farm around Site 3. Given the topography and field hedgerows views from these properties are limited there may potentially be views over the gently undulating fields of Bickmarsh and towards the Heart of England Forest, although filtered by intervening trees and blocks of woodland.	High
Assessment ID VR3n - Pebworth inc Hill house (VP3s/t)	Viewpoint VP3s/t represents the Pebworth including Hill House around Site 3. Given the topography and intervening buildings and vegetation, views from most properties within Pebworth are not possible or very limited. The edge of Pebworth and properties along Dorsington Road do have views NW from elevated locations over the gently undulating fields of Bickmarsh and towards the Heart of England Forest and Green Hill, though filtered by intervening trees and blocks of wood.	High
Assessment ID VRs3o - Bunkers Hill (VP3u)	Viewpoint VP3u represents the Bunkers Hill around Site 3. Given the topography and intervening vegetation and buildings, views SW from the properties here are limited but where afforded are panoramic over the Heart of England Forest and gently undulating fields of Bickmarsh and towards Green Hill, though still filtered by intervening trees and blocks of woodland	High
Assessment ID VRs3p - Elmcroft (Dorsington Road) (VP3(e))	Viewpoint VP3(e) represents the Elmcroft on Dorsington Road around Site 3. This property has direct short-range views west over the rising fields at Barton Hill. The roadside hedge provides some screening for lower floor views built there are oblique views.	High
Assessment ID VRs3q - Fox Covert Farm + cottages (VP3(f))	Viewpoint VP3(f) represents the Fox Covert Farm and associated cottages around Site 3. These properties are well screened by dense woodland and hedgerow vegetation however there are views in gaps over fields between the woodland blocks.	High
Assessment ID VRs3r - Dorsington Manor/Crabtree Farm inc The Grange (VP3(e)/u)	Viewpoint VP3(e)/u represents the Dorsington Manor, Crabtree Farm and The Grange around Site 3. These properties are set low in the landscape and together with intervening topography and vegetation they do not have views towards the Scheme.	High
Assessment ID VRs3s – Barton Hill House and Old Stable Barn (VP3(d))	Viewpoint VP3(d) represents Barton Hill House and Old Stable Barn. Views where available for these properties are south over Bickmarsh and the Heart of England Forest. Woodland areas filter views but the arable fields can be seen between and beyond.	High
Assessment ID VRr2 – Local roads around Site 2	Viewpoint represents various views from local roads around Site 2.	Medium
Assessment ID VRp2(a) – Ragley Hall RPG and permissive paths	The dense vegetation within and around this RPG prevent views out onto the Sites.	High
Assessment ID VRp2(b) – PRoW Tothall to Salford Priors	Viewpoints VP2(k) & 2(g) represent the PRoW between Tothall and Salford Priors around Site 2. This route has intermittently wide open views from high ground near Tothall and more constrained intimate views in the valley area at Marsh Farm. Views are mainly arable fields with tall hedgerows and woodland blocks. At Salford Priors the PRoW passes allotments and views out from here are filtered by dense vegetation along the stream. At Tothall there are views west over fields.	High
Assessment ID VRp2(c) – Tothall to Dunnington	Viewpoints VP2(a)& 2(g) represent the PRoW between Tothall and Dunnington within Site 2. The route has long-ranging panoramic views east. Short-range is arable fields edged by hedgerow. Mid-range is largely screened by the dip in the landscape towards the A46. Views west are largely prevented by the hedgerow running along the PRoW but there are gaps over the intervening field to properties along Tothall Lane.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRp2(d) – Dunnington to Ragley (2 routes)	Viewpoints VP2(b), 2(f) & 2(r) represent the PRoW between Dunnington and Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden within Site 2. As these routes emerge from the hedgerow north of Dunnington Court Farm there are wide attractive views north over rolling fields towards the woodland of Ragley Hall RPG. The route follows the steep landform down with enclosed intimate sense of place and then up again with views south long distance over Bidford-on-Avon and the Cotswolds beyond.	High
Assessment ID VRp2(e) – Salford Priors to Wixford	Viewpoints VR2(c), 2(nb), 2(o) & 2(q) represent the PRoW between Salford Priors and Wixford around Site 2. This is a visually attractive route running low in the landscape from Salford Priors to pass along the A46 then under the A46, with views out west constrained by dense vegetation to streams and ponds and views east by the A46 vegetation. The route passes under the A46 along a wooded track with views again prevented west by the A46 embankment and vegetation and east by linear woodland. there are large gaps however with views east over the wetland flood plain of the River Arrow. The route passes over Broom High Street and in a more open field landscape that gently rolls up to form the A46 embankments. The route passes through a linear wood and again with views out either side over flat floodplain before emerging out at Wixford. Despite the visually attractive route the experience is somewhat spoilt by the deafening noise of the A46.	High
Assessment ID VRp2(f) – Salford Priors to Arrow Pit	Viewpoint VP2€, 2(na) & 2(nb) represent the PRoW between Salford Priors and Arrow Pit within Site 2. This route continues from where the VRp2(e) passes under the A46 to run along the western side of the A46. There is an attractive open field currently used for model airplanes, adjacent to a scheduled monument site, and long view out over the gently undulating fields up towards Dunnington. The fields appear intensive with few intervening hedgerows. The route navigates around a well vegetated lake and woodland scrub area to then run along the A46 again with new linear woodland planting to the west beginning to limit views west. The views are attractive though flat and uninspiring and the noise of the A46 dominates.	High
Assessment ID VRp2(g) – Bridleway Broom–Marriage Hill	Viewpoints VP2(d), 2(la), 2(lb0 & 2(m) represent the bridleway between Broom and Marriage Hill around Site 2. This bridleway passes through a woodland adjacent to the River Arrow from Broom, then emerges to twist into more open fields heading up and along Marriage Hill. At the woodland and base of the hill there are filtered then more open views west over towards Dunnington. The route passes on the east of a hedge as it rises up the hill limiting views west but there are gaps which are long and panoramic, though often filtered by woodland or tall trees.	High
Assessment ID VRs2(a) – Dunnington properties & Toothall Farm	Viewpoints VP2(a), 2(g) & VP2(p) represent the Dunnington properties and Toothall Farm around Site 2. These properties along Tothall Lane are generally two-storey and have views east and west due to their relative high elevation and little tall garden vegetation. Views east are long-range largely beyond the A46 as the land in between is screened by the curve of the landform. There are glimpses through however where the land slopes more gently enabling views towards the sand and gravel pit area east of Marsh Farm. Views west are similarly long range, but generally also have more intervening buildings and vegetation further restricting views. The properties to the south of this group have a slightly different orientation with views more southwest. All views are attractive within near view arable fields and long views to wooded slopes of the Cotswolds.	High
Assessment ID VRs2(b) – Dunnington Heath Farm / Berry's Cottage / Hillers Shop & facilities	Viewpoint VRs2(b) represents the Dunnington Heath Farm, Berry's Cottage and Hillers Shop and associated facilities around Site 2. The majority of the properties here do not have extensive views towards the Site. The main house of Dunnington Heath Farm can be seen in many views back towards it from high ground, but it is expected that the land in between will be hidden from view for the property. Views are long ranging encompassing rolling countryside, scattered properties and woodland blocks. Views north are towards the dense wood of Ragley Hall RPG and the coppice woodland between.	High
Assessment ID VRs2(c) – Dunnington Cottage and Lodge and neighbours	Viewpoints VP2(a), 2(b) & 2(f) represent the Dunnington Court, Dunnington Lodge and neighbouring properties around Site 2. These properties are set in a small dip in the landscape and for the most part are well enclosed. However, properties by Dunnington Lodge on the south of the road have more open views from south and east over undulating field towards the woodland around the quarry fishing lake.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRs2(d) – Holly Cottage / The Heath Lodge and adjacent properties	Viewpoints VP2(b) & 2(a) represent Holly Cottage, The Heath Lodge and adjacent properties around Site 2. This small group of properties are on a tight road junction at one of the entrances to the Ragley Hall Registered Park and Garden. Evesham Lodge is the gatehouse – a listed property – with very short range views over the road to the boundary vegetation and buildings of Hollybush Farm opposite and then views into Ladies Wood within Ragley. Hollybush Farm has dense garden vegetation but it is assumed that there are glimpses out from this southeast over the Site of rolling arable fields undulating down to Bidford-on-Avon and beyond. The cottage at no. 22 will have similar views though much more open due to little screening vegetation on the eastern side.	High
Assessment ID VRs2(e) – Kingley Farm and Gatehouse	Viewpoint VP2(s) represents views for these properties. These properties to the SE of Ragley RPG have views towards the Scheme prevented by both the topography and vegetation - especially Ennister Wood and vegetation along the A46. The intervening rise of land keeps views short range to road and field boundaries with longer range views over this to Oversley Castle and higher ground east of Wixford and Bideford-on-Avon.	High
Assessment ID VRs2(f) – Dunnington North	Viewpoint VP2(a) and 2(b) represent properties in Dunnington North. These properties at the north of Dunnington generally have no or very limited views due to topography and intervening buildings. However the properties on the northern edge and along the road to Ragley do have some mainly upper floor views north and east across the Order Limits area here. Views are of rolling arable fields undulating down to Bideford-on-Avon and beyond, although most of the land in between is hidden by topography or vegetation.	
Assessment ID VRs2(g) – Properties on B4088 at Lime Bridge	Viewpoint VP2h represents the properties on the B4088 at Lime Bridge around Site 2. These properties are quite well screened by existing vegetation along the B4088 and to their gardens. Views west are of rolling arable fields towards Cock Bevington and Mudwalls with intervening dense woodland stream blocks. Views east are heavily filtered by roadside vegetation onto a rolling arable field.	High
Assessment ID VRs2h – Properties at Iron Cross	Viewpoint VP2(j) represents the properties at Iron Cross around Site 2. This small group of properties lie in a dip in the landform with views out further constrained by dense vegetation to their properties and along field and stream boundaries. There are assumed filtered views north towards Dunnington.	High
Assessment ID VRs2i – Salford/Piddlebrook/Lower Farms (VP2j)	Viewpoint VP2(j) represents the Salford, Piddle brook and Lower Farms around Site 2. This small group of properties lie in a dip in the landform with views out further constrained by dense vegetation to their properties and along road and stream boundaries. There are filtered views north towards Dunnington.	High
Assessment ID VRs2j – Properties at Rushford (VP2i)	Viewpoint VP2(i) represents the properties at Rushford around Site 2. The topography along with hedgerows and woodland vegetation prevent views towards the Scheme.	High
Assessment ID VRs2k – Marsh Farm & adjacent properties	This small group of properties lie in a dip in the landform with views out further constrained by dense vegetation to their properties and along field and stream boundaries. However, there are filtered views out towards the Sites.	High
Assessment ID VRs2l – Salford Priors	Viewpoint VP2(k) represents Salford Priors around Site 2. The majority of properties do not have views due to intervening buildings, vegetation and landform. Properties on the edge and the Park Hall Farm do have views towards the Site though well filtered by woodland along the stream.	High
Assessment ID VRs2m – Wixford	Viewpoint VP2(c) represents Wixford around Site 2. The majority of Wixford does not have views due to landform and intervening buildings and vegetation. Properties on the very western edge do have views in gaps in vegetation onto the wetland floodplain by the River Arrow. Views beyond are restricted by the vegetation to the A46.	High
Assessment ID VRs2n – Oversley Castle	Viewpoint VP2(u) represents Oversley Castle around Site 2. Oversley Hill is prominent in many views, but views from this property towards the Site are curtailed by dense evergreen vegetation to the property and views thus orientated away from the Site.	High
Assessment ID VRs2o – Moor Hall / Crabtree Farms	Viewpoint VP2(w) represents the Moor Hall and Crabtree Farms around Site 2. Views for these properties are heavily filtered by dense vegetation to the properties and/or along the River Arrow.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Assessment ID VRs2p – Broom	Viewpoints VP2(d), 2(m) & 2(v) represent Broom around Site 2. The majority of Broom does not have views due to the landform and intervening buildings and vegetation. Properties on the very western edge do have views in gaps in vegetation onto the wetland floodplain by the River Arrow. Views beyond restricted by the vegetation to the A46.	High
Assessment ID VRs2q – Bideford on Avon	Viewpoints VP2(f) & 2(v) represent Bidford-on-Avon around Site 2. There are views from higher ground at Dunnington towards Bidford-on-Avon and it is assumed there will be glimpsed views back from Bidford-on-Avon. However, these are highly varied and over at least 2km away, as well as being well filtered by vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRs2r – Visitors and users of Arrow Valley quarry fishing and other facilities	Viewpoints VP2(e), 2(na) & 2(nb) represent these receptors. There are at least 2 fishing ponds in the Arrow Valley quarry area. One north of the Dunnington-Broom Road and one to the south. With further ponds in this area whose use is uncertain at this time. The pond to the north side is well screened to the south by the slight elevation of the road and its vegetation, but there are filtered views north-west through riparian pond edge vegetation up the landform towards Ennister Wood. The ponds in to the south are also well screened by existing pond vegetation but the approaches to the ponds are through degraded flat open landscape. The noise from the A46 is apparent.	High
Assessment ID VRr1 – Local roads around Site 1	Viewpoint represents the various views from local roads around Site 1.	Medium
Assessment ID VRp1(a) – PRoW Weethley - Weethley Wood (3 routes)	Viewpoints VP1(n), 1(o), 1(p) & 1(p) represent the PRoWs between Weethley and Weethley Wood within Site 1. There are three PRoW that connect Evesham Road to Weethley Wood traversing different sections of Weethley Hill. The northern route runs from opposite the layby near the highest point on Evesham Road. From here views south are of an agricultural field in the foreground, mid ground views are hidden by the topography as it dips away and long distance views are therefore possible towards the Lenches and the Cotswolds beyond. Views west/north are restricted by the dense woodland of Weethley. The PRoW hugs the woodland edge and heads down the hillside. The undulating land means views are constantly changing between intimate and enclosed by near view ridgelines to more open with views out and up over the rolling land towards Weethley. Mid way along there is a PRoW that leads out of Weethley Wood and up to Weethley Manor along existing field hedgerows; and at the southern end there is another that heads up to Weethley St James. Both have increasingly more open long distance views as they rise up the land. The mid PROW hugs the hedgerows whereas the southern route cuts through more open fields.	High
Assessment ID VRp1(b) – PRoW Morton Spirit - Morton Spiert Farm	Viewpoint VP1(o) represents the PRoW between Morton Spirit and Morton Spiert Farm within Site 1. The PROW crosses a field from a wooded access track at Morton Spiert towards Weethley Wood. It then follows the woodland edge along fields to join Alcester Road. Views are limited views due to the flat land and the intervening hedgerows and stream and woodland vegetation. The ridge between Commissioners and Poole wood can very occasionally be glimpsed over intervening trees and the pylons cross past and over the PRoW.	High
Assessment ID VRp1(c) – PRoW Alcester Road to Abbots Morton	Viewpoint VP1(g) represents the PRoW between Alcester Road and Abbots Morton around Site 1. The majority of the PROW between Alcester Road and Abbots Morton do not have views towards the Scheme due to the flat landscape and intervening field and roadside vegetation. There are glimpses of the pylons and ridgeline between Poole and Commissioners Wood but most views are well contained to immediate field boundaries.	High
Assessment ID VRp1(d) – PRoW Abbots Morton - Gooms Hill	Viewpoint VP1(e) represents the PRoW between Abbots Morton and Gooms Hill around Site 1. Views from this PROW are generally directed north away from the Site over gently rising landscape. Views southeast only really open up as it approaches Gooms Hill where there is a glimpse of the pylons and ridge between Poole and Commissioners Wood. The land in between is blocked by the topography.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRp1(e) – PRoW Gooms Hill/Abbot Morton Ln - Rough Hill/Rous Lench	Viewpoints VP1(c), 1(d), 1(f) & 1(j) represents the PRoWs between Gooms Hill, Abbots Morton Lane, Rough Hill and Rous Lench around Site 1. This route connects Gooms Hill to Slade Wood/Rous Lench. Part of it is designated as bridleway. Along the full length views west are prevented by dense hedgerow or woodland. At Gooms Hills views east encompass the adjacent field and the ridgeline between Poole and Commissioners Wood, with the pylons highlighting the ridgeline feature. Only narrow strips of the fields in between are visible due to the flat topography and hedgerows and intermittent trees. VP01F indicates this view. The route then heads down towards Slade Wood and views are further constrained due to the flat topography, field hedgerows and trees along a small stream coming out of the wood. Another PRoW branches off here back towards Abbots Morton. On the south side of the stream a bridleway branches off to Morton Wood and views east are available again of the pylon ridgeline, though the lower flatter fields are not visible. The PRoW becomes bridleway heading up the hill within the edge of the RPG at Slade Wood before heading deeper into Morton Low Wood where views out are heavily restricted by the vegetation and topography. The bridleway continues through and along the wood edge. Glimpses can be seen of the existing solar farm and then as the bridleway emerges from the wood there is a crossroads of bridleways and there are views over newly planted wood to the existing solar farm and surrounding fields and out to the lower fields at Weethley, Wood Bevington Farm and Dunnington. VP01c indicates this view. The bridleway continues south with views prevented by Rough Hill.	High
Assessment ID VRp1(f) – Rous Lench RPG/ Slade Wood	Viewpoints VP1(b) & 1(d) represent the Rous Lench RPG and Slade Wood permissive paths around Site 1. Despite the high ground views out from the RPG are blocked by the woodland at Slade and Morton Wood. Views from within the woodland are very well screened or where at the edge the landscape is in a dip and views towards the Site are blocked. VP1b and 1a indicate the views.	High
Assessment ID VRp1g – PRoW Alcester Road to "Bevington Cottages"	Viewpoints VP1(h(, 1(J0, 11(k) & 1(t) represent the PRoW between Alcester Road and "Bevington Cottages" around Site 1. There are 4 rights of way from Alcester Road that traverse the landscape to the south connecting into a single route at Morton Low solar farm and heading over Bevington Waste to the cottages here and the road to Cock Bevington. Views vary but are generally well contained by the flat landscape and field hedgerows, woodland and stream vegetation. From the Cock Bevington end views west are curtailed by the Poole - Commissioners Wood ridgeline and the high ground at Wood Bevington and Cock Bevington. Views are of expansive flat field with the woodlands on the horizon and the pylons crossing the land to the west. Heading west the bridleway passes beneath the first set of pylons and up onto slightly higher ground. There are views back east and north with views west prevented by the ridge hedge line. Once past the hedge views west open up and down towards Morton Wood and Abbots Morton, although they are well hidden within the flat hedge rowed landscape here. The higher ground of Goom's Hill can be seen beyond. The bridle way then passes to the south of a tall hedge and views north are curtailed except in intermittent gaps. Views west sweep down to encompass Morton Wood solar farm and the rising land at Slade Wood/Rous Lench RPG. This area is much more enclosed with views south also curtailed by the high ground and woodland. The bridleway continues past the solar farm and through Morton Wood Farm with a PRoW branching off north across the fields. The PROW criss crossing this land have limited views due to the flat land and the intervening hedgerows and stream vegetation. The ridge between Commissioners and Poole wood can often be seen with view beyond blocked. The PROW passes through linear woodland for some time which further limits views out but these views are attractive in their own right.	High
Assessment ID VRp1h – PRoW "Bevington Cottages" to King Edward's Plantation to Commissioners Wood	Viewpoints VP1(k) & 1(t) represent the PRoW between "Bevington Cottages", King Edward's Plantation and Commissioners Wood around Site 1. Views from this PRoW are limited to the north by the ridgeline between Commissioners and Poole Wood. The overhead electricity lines and associated towers are a distinctive feature in this direction. The route heads up to high ground at King Edward's Plantation where views open up towards Wood Bevington and Weethley between woodland blocks. The route then passes along Commissioners Wood before connecting to the bridleway back to Cock Bevington.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Assessment ID VRp1i – Cock Bevington to Wood Bevington	Viewpoint VP1(u) represents the PRoW between Cock Bevington and Wood Bevington around Site 1. This PRoW connects Wood Bevington to Cock Bevington. From Wood Bevington the PRoW is initially well contained by dense vegetation and the lower properties of Wood Bevington. Views west then open up though still through a line of willow along the field outside the RLB, with views beyond this field curtailed by the rise of the land. The PRoW then emerges to run alongside the Order Limits with views west open over the rising fields northwest and south down to the vegetation at Ban Brook. South of the brook the land rises again and there are views west and north. Views east are well screened by dense vegetation and topography.	High
Assessment ID VRp1j – Wood Bevington to Alcester Road	Viewpoint VP1(m) represents the PRoW between Wood Bevington and Alcester Road around Site 1. This PRoW is well contained near Alcester Road by Pool Wood, Alcester Road and the rising land up to Bush Wood. It passes through a hedge at the edge of Poole Wood into a narrow field between tall vegetation along the brook and field hedge here. It emerges into a slightly larger field with views up to Wood Bevington Farm on the horizon but generally curtailed by tall field vegetation. It passes through a gap along a track to Wood Bevington and up towards the farm. Views remain well contained by topography and vegetation until the PRoW meets the farm where it turns and a wide sweeping view is obtained from Poole Wood in the north across towards Slade Wood and Morton Wood and further south to King Edward's Plantation. The overhead electricity lines and associated towers and hedgerow ridge between the woods can be seen rising over the horizon with gently rolling fields in between and beyond.	High
Assessment ID VRp1k – Weethley Gate to Mudwalls	Viewpoint VP2(h) represents the PRoW between Weethley Gate and Mudwalls around Site 1. This PRoW runs along access tracks from the B4088 at Dunnington/Lime Bridge to Weethley Gate. Much of the route is bound by tall evergreen or dense deciduous hedgerows which together with the topography and buildings dotted along the route (see VPs1(f)) greatly restrict views. There are gaps however enabling views at various points. Views south/west are quite wide and long range out to the Cotswolds and the woods of King Edward's Plantation. Views north and east are curtailed by gentle rising land. The PRoW runs along the road to Wood Bevington then cuts north again through a field to Weethley Gate. Views west are filtered by a tall hedge.	High
Assessment ID VRp1l – Cock Bevington to Mudwalls	Viewpoint VP2(h) represents the PRoW between Cock Bevington and Mudwalls around Site 1. This PRoW connects Cock Bevington to Dunnington. From Cock Bevington the PRoW crosses a field behind the farm with views largely blocked/filtered by woodland around the farm. There are glimpses towards the ridgeline and overhead electricity lines and associated towers crossing sub-Site 1(c) and Weethley St James can be seen to the north. The PRoW passes through the Hall properties and emerges just as the land dips down to the north with views opening up across the landscape. Wood Bevington, Weethley St James, Mudwalls and Dunnington can all be seen between the undulating agricultural fields and dense tall woodland blocks. There are limited glimpses out west as the PRoW heads down to an attractive water meadow area before rising again to head through the garden area of Limebridge House and emerges on to the B4088, where views east are well screened by dense tall roadside vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRp1m – Knighton to Morton Spiert	Viewpoint VP1(q) represents the PRoW between Knighton and Morton Spiert around Site 1. This PRoW emerges from the farm track to a field that drops away south opening up panoramic views across the countryside. Poole Wood and Morton Woods can be seen on the horizon along with the overhead electricity lines and associated towers crossing this landscape. The route then heads down the hillside with views becoming more enclosed by topography and vegetation though there are intermittent views out towards the overhead electricity lines and associated towers ridge area.	High
Assessment ID VRp1n – PRoW crossing Knighton Ln/quiet lane	Viewpoint VP1c represents the PRoW crossing at Knighton Lane along the CRC1 with views towards Site 1. There are intermitted views out from the routes where gaps in vegetation allow that are panoramic views across the countryside. Poole Wood and Morton Woods can be seen on the horizon along with the overhead electricity lines and associated towers crossing this landscape.	High
Assessment ID VRs1a – Weethley/Ridgeway Farms	Viewpoint VP1(p) represents the Weethley and Ridgeway Farms around Site 1. These two farm properties sit either side of Evesham Road. Ridgeway Farm is a cluster of residential buildings, whilst Ragley Farm is a farmhouse with several outbuildings. Views toward the Site for all properties are heavily restricted due to topography, intervening buildings and orientation of properties. VP1p is from north of these receptors on higher ground but indicates how the land rises by Evesham Road hiding the majority of Site 1 with longer distance views towards Rous Lench Court RPG. It is assumed there are no views onto the Site, or if there are views they are very oblique.	High

Name Landscape Receptors	Detail	Sensitivity
Assessment ID VRs1b – Weethley	Viewpoints VP1(o) & 1(s) represent Weethley around Site 1. A cluster of properties sit on a knoll on the rising land along the west side of Evesham Road, with two other properties set slightly lower on the east side. These two properties have views over the roadside hedgerow with panoramic long-range views encompassing the lower fields by Bush Wood and extending out towards Slade Wood and the Cotswolds. VP1o provides an indication of this view. The properties to the west tend to have views north and west with views south restricted by dense vegetation/buildings. Views are of undulating fields down to Weethley Wood with possible glimpses over this towards the Malvern Hills. Weethley St James Church sits on the south of the knoll. Its spire can be seen in several long-distance views across the area and there are views from the grounds and adjacent field south. The views are panoramic and long distance as indicated by VP1o.	High
Assessment ID VRs1c – Weethley Bank	Viewpoint VP1(o) represents Weethley Bank around Site 1. These properties at Weethley Bank are located along Evesham Road just before it begins to rise up the hill. The majority are on the east side with tall dense garden and roadside vegetation screening most views west, although there are views over this for a couple of properties. One property is on the west of the road and has more open views west, especially from the garden. The views are of the flatter fields running up to Bush and Weethley Wood, with views north constrained by Weethley and the rising land. Longer distance views over Bush Wood and south are possible but filtered by vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRs1d – Weethley Gate	These properties sit at the Y junction of Evesham Road and Alcester Road. They are heavily screened by garden and roadside vegetation generally restricting views north/west and there are few if any windows facing this side. However, it is assumed that there are filtered views at least from the garden areas. The views are however then restricted by the embankment and trees to the pond to the northwest corner of sub-Site 1(f), but there are likely views of the land as it rises up towards Weethley St James Church. Turnpike Cottages on the south of Alcester Road also have views south and west, though filtered by garden vegetation, over fields towards Wood Bevington and the access road here.	High
Assessment ID VRs1e – Wood Bevington	Viewpoint VP1(m) represents this receptor. Wood Bevington is a hamlet of 9 properties scattered along an access road off the B4088. Wood Bevington Manor and Farm sit at the crest of small spur at 80mAOD, the other properties lying further east along the access road around 5-10m lower. These lower properties have quite short distance views, constrained by both topography and garden and roadside vegetation. The Manor and Farm however are more open with views almost 360deg with long distance views south to the Cotswolds, west to Rough Hill/Slade Wood and north to Poole/Weethley Wood. The views are of agricultural fields bound by hedgerows and clustered or linear trees along streams and ponds. Views west also encompass a line of pylons between King Edwards Plantation and Poole Wood. The manor is Grade I Listed; the lower properties are Grade II listed.	High
Assessment ID VRs1f – Bevington Lodge and Mudwalls Farm	Mudwalls Farm, Old Mudwells Cottage and Bevington Lodge all sit on high ground between Wood Bevington and Dunnington. The latter two properties are Grade II listed. They also sit along a PRoW (VPp1k) which has similar views.	High
Assessment ID VRs1g – Cock Bevington	Viewpoints VP2(h) & 1(u) represents Cock Bevington around Site 1. This cluster of properties associated with Bevington Hall (Manor) and a deserted settlement sit on a small rise in the landscape between Sites 1 and 2. The Farm and the Hall, which consists of several individual residences, have varying views out, often blocked by intervening buildings or filtered by garden vegetation but otherwise views in the direction of the Scheme at both Sites 1 and 2 over rolling agricultural landscape towards Weethley, Dunnington and the Cotswolds. The property at the corner of Sagpool Cottages has views east restricted by Bevington Hall but does have views west over large open fields and the overhead electricity lines and associated towers rising on the horizon between King Edward's Plantation and Poole Wood.	High
Assessment ID VRs1h – "Bevington Cottages"	Viewpoint VP1(t) represents the "Bevington Cottages" around Site 1. These two semi-detached properties have mainly only views northwest due to a small dip in the landscape and boundary vegetation. The views are of gently rising ground to the saddleback between King Edward's Plantation and Poole Wood with the overhead electricity lines and associated towers dominant traversing this landscape. There are ground floor views and from the garden areas north over large flat agricultural fields to the higher ground at Weethley and Dunnington, with several intervening blocks of woodland.	High

Name	Detail	Sensitivity
Landscape Receptors		
Assessment ID VRs1i – Rous Lench	Viewpoint VP1(a) represents the Rous Lench around Site 1. The majority of Rous Lench properties and Conservation Area lie off Radford Road as it falls west from its junction with Low Road. Views east towards the Site are therefore not possible, being heavily constrained by the higher ground at Slade Wood and Rough Hill and the intervening woodlands. Views may be possible from the Grade II listed Tower About 100 Metres East of Rous Lench Court that sits on the edge of Rous Lench Court kitchen garden. Originally a folly, this has since been converted to a residential property. Views from the windows are uncertain and the tower is surrounded by dense trees that seem to screen it from most views to the northeast. Any views out are therefore likely to be well filtered and not all encompassing of the Site.	High
Assessment ID VRs1j – Morton Wood Farm	Viewpoint VP1j represents Morton Wood Farm around Site 1. These properties have views over the flat fields with longer distance views curtailed by the woodlands at Slade, Pool and Long/Commissioners, and the ridge between Poole and Commissioners. The overhead electricity lines and associated towers are obvious features in views but the fields between are generally seen as strips between hedges and linear stream woodland.	High
Assessment ID VRs1k – Goom's Hill	Viewpoints VP1(e) &1(f) represent Goom's Hill around Site 1. The majority of properties within Goom's Hill do not have views towards the Scheme due to being on the west side of the hill or intervening buildings and dense vegetation. However, some at the northeast do have oblique views of the overhead electricity lines and associated towers and ridgeline between Poole and Commissioners Wood. The land in between is not visible due to topography and dense vegetation.	High
Assessment ID VRs1l – Abbots Morton	Viewpoint VP1(g) & 1(e) represent the Abbots Morton around Site 1. Abbots Morton sits within a dip in the landscape bound to the north and west by higher ground. The land south and east is flat but very slightly higher than the village itself meaning that together with field and roadside vegetation views out towards the Site are prevented.	High
Assessment ID VRs1m – Lower Barn Farm and adjacent	Viewpoints VP1(h) & 1(j) represent the Lower Barn Farm and adjacent properties around Site 1. These five two-storey properties along Alcester Road and the properties on the junction with Village Road to Abbots Morton, have mainly views south over the roadside hedgerow and through garden vegetation. Ground floor views are generally screened by the hedgerow which is generally kept maintained at over 2m. The views are of the fields immediately beyond the roadside hedge, and the overhead electricity lines and associated towers ridge between Poole and Commissioners Wood, with the fields in between seen as narrow strips between field boundaries.	High
Assessment ID VRs1n – Morton Spiert Farm	Viewpoint VP1(l) - Morton Spiert Farm appears to have two residential properties. One adjacent to the main outbuildings and one further north. The first appears to be well screened by dense vegetation and is low to the ground. The second is a 2/3 storey property screened in part by the buildings and vegetation at the main outbuilding area but with upper and oblique views SE over the fields along Alcester Road. Views beyond this are considered unlikely due to woodland at Poole Wood.	High
Assessment ID VRs1o – Morton Spirit & adjacent	This cluster of properties sit within the woodland either side of Alcester Road. For the majority views are very restricted by the woodland and topography. There are possible views immediately west for a couple of properties with views likely to include glimpses of Alcester Road and land to the north of this.	High

Arrow Valley Solar