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Environmental Statement

Interim Environmental Report (IER), Volume 1, Chapter 9: Historic Environment

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9 Historic environment

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of effects on the environment with respect to the historic environment as a result of the Scheme.

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

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

9.2 Scope of assessment

9.2.1 Chapter 13 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.

9.2.2 Through the adoption of the Scoping Opinion[2], the Secretary of State has confirmed that the historic environment assessment should be included in the ES and must assess the scope set out in Table 9-1.

Table 9-1 Historic environment topics scoped in / out

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
Solar Panel Sites, BESS, Sub-Station				
Indirect impacts to designated assets	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped out	There are eight scheduled monuments, two registered parks and gardens, nine conservation areas and 322[3] listed buildings within the Study Area. It is anticipated that elements of the Scheme may result in changes to the settings of these designated assets and may impact archaeological remains present within the Sites associated with these designated assets during construction, and operation. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts similar to those of construction, with mitigation in place under the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP). Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.

[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

[3] The Scoping Report identified 222 listed buildings within the study area. Following consultation with host authorities and Historic England, the study area was revised and expanded, resulting in a total of 322 listed buildings being identified as requiring some level of assessment for impacts that may be caused by the Scheme.

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
Direct and Indirect impacts to non-designated assets	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped out	There are 826 non-designated assets within the Study Area, of which 81 are located within the Order Limits Search Area. It is anticipated that elements of the Scheme may result in changes to settings of these non-designated assets, and may impact archaeological remains present within the Order Limits indicated by these non-designated assets. Effects could arise during construction, and operation. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts no worse than those of construction, with mitigation secured via the oDEMP. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.
Direct Impacts to archaeological remains	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped out	There is potential for unknown archaeological remains to be present within the Order Limits that would be physically impacted by elements of the Scheme during construction. Where the setting of archaeological remains is important, the operational phase could result in adverse effects. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts no worse than those of construction, with mitigation secured via the oDEMP. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.
Historic landscape	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped out	It is anticipated that the Scheme will constitute a change to the Historic Landscape within which the Scheme is located, and which contributes towards the significance of some of the designated and non-designated assets within the Study Area. Aspects of the historic landscape that have been considered during the assessment process include: historic land use, landscape character and field pattern with scope for additional landscape features that are established to be relevant during the assessment process. Effects could arise during construction, and operation. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts no worse than those of construction, with mitigation secured via the oDEMP. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.
Cable Route Corridors (CRC)				
Indirect impacts to designated assets	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out	There are eight scheduled monuments, two registered parks and gardens, nine conservation areas and 322[3] listed buildings within the Study Area. It is anticipated that the works associated with constructing the CRC may constitute a temporary change to the settings of these designated assets. There would be no impact during operation. Decommissioning would either retain the setting created during construction and operation or restore the previous surroundings, therefore having no additional impacts. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.
Direct impacts to non-designated assets	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out	There are 826 non-designated assets within the Study Area, of which 81 are located within the Order Limits Search Area. It is anticipated that elements of the Scheme may result in changes to settings of these non-designated assets and may impact archaeological remains present within the Order Limits indicated by these non-designated assets. Effects could arise during construction, but there would be no impact during operation. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts no worse than those of construction, with mitigation secured via the oDEMP. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.

Topic	Scoped in / out			Justification
	Construction phase and panel/battery replacement	Operational phase (routine maintenance)	Decommissioning phase	
Direct Impacts to archaeological remains	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out	There is potential for unknown archaeological remains to be present within the CRC that would be physically impacted by elements of the Scheme during construction. Effects could arise during construction. There would be no impacts during operation. Decommissioning is expected to have impacts no worse than those of construction, with mitigation secured via the oDEMP. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.
Historic landscape	Scoped in	Scoped out	Scoped out	It is anticipated that the works associated with the construction of the CRC sections may constitute a temporary change to the Historic Landscape within which the Scheme is located, and which contributes towards the significance of some of the designated and non-designated assets within the Study Area. Aspects of the historic landscape that have been considered during the assessment pattern with scope for additional landscape features that are established to be relevant during the assessment process. There would be no impacts during operation. Cables connecting to the Feckenham sub-station will be left in situ so there would be no further impacts during decommissioning. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, no further changes to the scope above are proposed.

9.3 Consultation

Consultation to date

9.3.1 Table 9-2 provides a summary of all the consultation and engagement undertaken to date relevant to this assessment.

Table 9-2 Consultation to date

Stakeholder	Date consulted	Issue consulted on	Addressed in the ES
Historic England	26/06/2026	Heritage / Archaeology Comments on Scoping	As part of their scoping response, Historic England requested that the study area be expanded up to 1.5 km to better capture the potential impacts to designated and non-designated built heritage assets where their setting in the landscape would contribute to their heritage value. Consultation resulted in the expansion of the study area and consideration of how landscape and visual impact would be addressed in combination with Heritage.
Historic England Warwickshire County Council (WaCC) Worcestershire County Council (WoCC) Wychavon District Council (WyDC)	10/07/2026	Comments on Desk Based Assessment (DBA)	Comments on DBA have been incorporated into the document as part of an iterative update process. Initial discussions dealt with identifying an appropriate and proportionate study area and creating a strong evidence base for understanding of archaeological sensitivity and contribution of setting to significance.

9.4 Legislation, policy and guidance

Legislation

9.4.1 The below listed legislation has been taken into account in the historic environment assessment. Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 Legislation, policy, and guidance relevant to the historic environment assessment provides further detail on how the below listed legislation has informed the historic environment assessment:

- Planning and Infrastructure Act (2025)[4];
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) (as amended)[5];
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)[6];
- Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953)[7];
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended)[8];
- Treasure Act 1996[9] & Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023[10]; and
- Burial Act 1857 (as amended)[11].

Policy

9.4.2 The below listed policy has been taken into account in the historic environment assessment. Volume 3, Appendix 9.1 Legislation, policy, and guidance relevant to the historic environment assessment provides further detail on how the below listed policy has informed the historic environment assessment:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)[12];

[4] The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/34/enacted
[5] Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents
[6] Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents
[7] Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/49/contents
[8] Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents
[9] Treasure Act 1996. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/contents
[10] The Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348244854
[11] Burial Act 1857. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/20-21/81/contents
[12] 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

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)[13];
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)[14];
- National Planning Policy Framework (2026)[15];
- South Worcestershire Councils (SWC: Malvern Hills District Council, WyDC and Worcester City Council) (2026) South Worcestershire Development Plan Review 2021 – 2041[16];
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2016) Stratford-on Avon District Core Strategy 2011-2031[17];
- South Warwickshire Local Plan[18]; and
- Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4, Adopted (2017) ReBC[19].
- Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Plan (2017)[20]
- Cleeve Prior Neighbourhood Plan (2018)[21]
- Pebworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan (2019)22
- Salford Seven Neighbourhood Development Plan (2015-2031)23

Guidance documents

9.4.3 The historic environment assessment has been undertaken with reference to the following guidance documents:

- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (2024)[24];
- Code of Conduct (CIfA 2023)[25];
- Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA, 2020)[26];
- Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment (CIfA 2020)[27];
- Archaeology and Solar Farms Good Practice Guide: Advice for developers, archaeological advisors, consultants and contractors (ALGAO et al. 2026)[28];
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England, 2008)[29];
- Managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (Historic England, 2015)[30];
- Preserving Archaeological Remains, Decision-taking for Sites under Development (Historic England, 2016)[31];
- The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Historic England, 2017)[32];
- Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12 (Historic England, 2019)[33];

[13] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2026) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025
[14] 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
[15] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2026) National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[16] South Worcestershire (2026) South Worcestershire Development Plan. Available at: https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/south-worcestershire-development-plan-review-2021-2041
[17] 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
[18] Warwick District Council (2026) Stratford-on-Avon emerging Local Plan. Available at: https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/publication-regulation-19-consultation.cfm
[19] 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)
[20] Bidford-on-Avon Parish Council (2017) Bidford-on-Avon Neighbourhood Development Plan. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/bidford-on-avon-neighbourhood-plan.cfm
[21] Cleeve Prior Parish Council (2018) Cleeve Prior Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2031. Available at: https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/cleeve-prior-neighbourhood-plan
[22] Pebworth Parish Council (2019) Pebworth Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Adopted Version. Available at: https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning/pebworth-parish-neighbourhood-plan
[23] Salford Priors Parish Council (2017) Salford Seven Neighbourhood Development Plan 2015-2031. Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/208631/name/Made%20Version%20July%202017.pdf
[24] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2016) Planning Practice Guidance. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
[25] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2022) Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-Code-of-Conduct-2022.pdf
[26] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, (2020) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf
[27] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-Archaeological-Consultancy-2020.pdf
[28] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2025) Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice (Draft). Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2026-04/Archaeology-and-Solar-Farms-GPG---FINAL-2026-04-14.pdf
[29] Historic England (2008) Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/constructive-conservation/conservation-principles
[30] Historic England (2015) Managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/
[31] Historic England (2016) Preserving archaeological remains: Decision-taking for sites under development. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/preserving-archaeological-remains/
[32] Historic England (2017) The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/
[33] Historic England (2019) Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12. Swindon. Historic England.

- Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment, Historic England Advice Note 15 (Historic England, 2021)[34];
- Delivering Clean Power: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment, Historic England Advice Note 15 (Historic England 2026)[35];
- LCA Supplementary Guidance (WoCC, 2012)[36];
- Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire (South Worcestershire Councils, 2025)[37];
- Stratford-on-Avon District Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study (SoADC, 2014)[38]; and
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA104[39] and LA106[40].

9.5 Method of assessment

Establishing the baseline

Study Area

9.5.1 The historic environment assessment has two study areas, comprising an outer 1.5 km study area from the Order Limits for important designated historical and archaeological assets including Grade I and II* listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments, and an inner study area of 1 km from the Order Limits for all other historical and archaeological assets including Grade II listed buildings. This reflects an update to the study proposed at EIA Scoping, following comments from and correspondence with Historic England and host authority archaeological advisors. The updated and agreed study area was designed to more fully encompass the area around the confluence of the River Arrow and River Avon, and to allow a more relational landscape assessment among assets, especially prehistoric assets, in this area. The study area was also expanded at the request of Historic England and the host authorities to better capture the potential impacts to designated and non-designated built heritage assets where a wider landscape setting was thought to potentially contribute to their heritage value.

Desk study

9.5.2 The following data sources have been used to identify the built heritage assets within the two study areas:

- National Heritage List for England (NHLE);
- Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WoHER); and
- Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (WaHER).

9.5.3 The above data sources have also informed the archaeological baseline. Further studies were undertaken including a review of aerial photography and historic mapping, the results of which are reported in Volume 3, Appendix 9.2 Desk based assessment. All of the evidence, including the survey results described in the following section, were gathered and analysed to inform the DBA reported in Volume 3, Appendix 9.2 Desk based assessment.

Surveys

9.5.4 Site visits were undertaken by the assessment author on 11 and 12 May 2026. The purpose of the visit was to gain an understanding of the historical context of the Order Limits, the surrounding area, and of the heritage assets within the two study areas.

9.5.5 Archaeological surveys in the form of geophysical surveys have been undertaken across the Sites. This will be supplemented through multispectral surveys of the Sites, that will be undertaken prior to application submission. Geophysical surveys of the CRC are currently being undertaken.

9.5.6 Volume 3, Appendix 9.3 Geophysical survey report sets out the survey methodology for the geophysical surveys.

[34] Historic England (2021) Commercial renewable energy development and historic environment Historic England Advice Note 15. Swindon. Historic England. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/
[35] Historic England (2026) Delivering Clean Power: Commercial Renewable Energy Development and the Historic Environment, Historic England Advice Note 15. Available at: https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment-advice-note-15/
[36] Worcestershire County Council (2026) Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/planning-and-developments/environmental-policy/landscape-character-assessment
[37] South Worcestershire Councils (2025) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Projects in Worcestershire. Available at: https://www.explorethepast.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/WASG_Aug_2025_.pdf
[38] White Consultants (2014) Stratford-on-Avon District Renewable Energy Landscape Sensitivity Study Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/renewable-energy.cfm
[39] Highways England, Transport Scotland, Welsh Government, Department for Infrastructure (2020) DMRB LA 104 Environmental assessment and monitoring. Available at: https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/0f6e0b6a-d08e-4673-8691-cab564d4a60a
[40] Highways England, Transport Scotland, Welsh Government, Department for Infrastructure (2020) DMRB LA 106 Cultural heritage assessment. Available at: https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/search/8c51c51b-579b-405b-b583-9b584e996c80

Determining value

9.5.7 Section 5.9 of EN-1 notes "[t]hose elements of the historic environment that hold value to this and future generations because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called 'heritage assets'. Heritage assets may be buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes, or any combination of these. The sum of the heritage interests that a heritage asset holds is referred to as its significance. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting."

9.5.8 The Historic Environment Assessment Principles identified in EN-1 do not go into detail regarding methodologies for determining the value of heritage assets. Corresponding details from NPPF and a variety of professional guidance papers are therefore used to develop a methodology for determining the value of the historic environment.

9.5.9 Annex B of the NPPF[15] defines 'Significance (for heritage policy)', (hereafter referred to as heritage value) as: "*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest*".

9.5.10 The NPPF identifies that heritage interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historic. Section 5.9 of EN-1 mirrors that language, noting that the terms used in EN-1 are defined in Annex B of the NPPF[15]. The NPPF also identifies that value can be derived from an asset itself and can include any contribution made by its setting.

9.5.11 The contribution of the setting of each asset to its value has been assessed in accordance with the relevant guidance. The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3[32] sets out the following staged approach:

- Identifying the heritage asset and understanding its heritage value.
- Identifying the existing setting and historic setting of the heritage asset, to understand how its setting has changed over time.
- Assessing whether, how and to what degree the existing setting makes a contribution to the value of the heritage asset.
- Assessing the impact of the proposed development on the heritage asset's setting, and the resulting implications for the value of the heritage asset
- Maximising enhancements to the value of heritage assets and minimising harm through mitigation.

9.5.12 Table 9-3 sets out the general criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets, using a tool adapted from DMRB LA 104[39] and DMRB LA 106[40]. Although originally designed for the assessment of road-related development, DMRB is now recognised as best practice for a wide range of development proposals across sectors, including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). Professional judgement is also applied in each case, so that individual examples of heritage assets may be of greater or lesser value than the examples shown in Table 9-3.

Table 9-3 Determination of receptor value

Value	Criteria
Very high	Internationally important or significant assets. **Archaeological remains:** World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives. **Historic buildings:** Structures recognised as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings of recognised international importance. **Historic landscapes:** World Heritage Sites recognised for their historic landscape qualities. Historic landscapes of international value, whether designated or not. Extremely well-preserved historic landscapes with exceptional coherence, time-depth, or other critical factors.
High	Nationally important heritage assets generally recognised through designation as being of exceptional interest and value. **Archaeological remains:** Scheduled monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives. **Historic buildings:** Scheduled monuments with standing remains. Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II listed buildings. Conservation areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national importance. **Historic landscapes:** Designated historic landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of outstanding interest. Undesignated landscapes of high quality and importance and of demonstrable national value. Well preserved historic landscapes, exhibiting considerable coherence, time-depth or other critical factors.

Value	Criteria
Medium	Regionally important heritage assets recognised as being of special interest. **Archaeological remains:** Non-designated assets that contribute to regional research objectives. **Historic buildings:** Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Conservation areas containing buildings which contribute significantly to their historic character. Listed structures such as historic milestones which are not in their original location might warrant this value. **Historic landscapes:** Designated special historic landscapes. Undesignated historic landscapes that would justify special historic landscape designation, landscapes of regional value. Averagely well-preserved historic landscapes with reasonable coherence, time-depth or other critical factors.
Low	Assets that are of interest at a local level primarily for their contribution to the local historic environment. **Archaeological remains:** Non-designated assets of local importance. Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives. **Historic buildings:** 'Locally listed' buildings. Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association. **Historic landscapes:** Robust undesignated historic landscapes. Historic landscapes with importance to local interest groups. Historic landscapes whose value is limited by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations.
Negligible	Elements of the historic environment which are of insufficient significance to merit consideration in planning decisions and hence be classed as heritage assets. **Archaeological remains:** Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological importance. **Historic buildings:** Buildings of no architectural or historical note. **Historic landscapes:** Landscapes with little or no significant historical interest.

Determining impact magnitude

9.5.13 The magnitude of impact is determined by identifying the scale of change that the Scheme will have on the aspects that contribute to the value of a heritage asset.

9.5.14 Table 9-4 identifies the criteria for establishing the magnitude of impacts on heritage assets, based on the criteria set out in the Scoping Report[1] methodology, and following EIA guidance. It also identifies which magnitudes of impact potentially correlate to various levels of harm as identified in paragraphs 5.9.33 to 5.9.34 of EN-1[12] and further defined in Policy HE5, paragraph 2 of the NPPF[15]. An assessment of substantial harm is applicable where the development proposal would seriously affect a key element of the asset's significance or cause the total loss of the significance of a heritage asset. Whilst magnitude is indicative, professional judgment has been applied to determine where on the scale of harm any impact sits. This has been reflected in the assessment method.

Table 9-4 Impact magnitude

Impact magnitude	Description of impact
Major	Change such that the heritage significance of the asset is totally altered or destroyed through physical impact. Comprehensive change to setting affecting its heritage significance, resulting in a serious loss in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset. This can also include substantial enhancement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form or setting, including major changes that conserve or restore elements of high significance and alterations to the setting of an asset that very substantially improve our appreciation of it and its significance.
Moderate	Change such that the heritage significance of the asset is affected but not destroyed through physical change (including partial loss). Noticeably different change to setting affecting significance, resulting in erosion in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset. This can also include notable enhancement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form or setting such as physical alterations that conserve or restore elements of significance and alterations to the setting of an asset that improve our appreciation of it and its significance.
Minor	Change such that the heritage significance of the asset is slightly affected through physical alteration. Slight change to setting affecting its heritage significance resulting in a change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset. This can also include limited improvement of an asset's significance as a result of changes to its physical form and setting.
Negligible	Changes to the asset that hardly affect heritage significance. Minimal change to the setting of an asset that have little

Impact magnitude	Description of impact
	effect on its heritage significance resulting in no real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the asset.

Determining effect significance

9.5.15 The significance of effect is determined by considering the relationship between the value of the receptor and the impact magnitude. Table 9-5 sets out this criteria. Where there is potential for differing levels of impact (e.g., moderate or major), professional judgement is used to determine the suitable significance of effect based on the evidential baseline and knowledge of the likely activities or types of changes that would cause the impact. Effects assessed as Moderate, Large, or Very Large are considered to be significant, as denoted by the grey cells in Table 9-5. Effects assessed as Slight or Neutral are not considered significant.

Table 9-5 Likely significant effects relating to the Historic Environment

		Impact magnitude				
		No change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Value	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

9.6 Baseline conditions

9.6.1 A full Desk Based Assessment (DBA) of designated and non-designated assets is included in Volume 3, Appendix 9.2 Desk based assessment. Designated assets include world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, and protected wrecks. Non-designated assets include known buried archaeological deposits and built heritage assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) for the relevant council.

9.6.2 This baseline is supported by the following figures:

- Volume 2, Figure 9.1 Designated heritage assets;
- Volume 2, Figure 9.2 Non-designated heritage assets; and
- Volume 2, Figure 9.3 Events; and
- Volume 2, Figure 9.4 Historic landscape character.

9.6.3 Within the Study Area there are eight scheduled monuments, 322 listed buildings[3], two registered parks and gardens, and nine conservation areas. There are no protected wrecks or registered battlefields identified within the Study Area.

9.6.4 There are eight scheduled monuments within the Study Area. These comprise:

- Moated site 150 m north east of Inkberrow Church (NHLE 1018543) – a well-preserved example of a medieval moated settlement including associated fish ponds and agricultural systems located 345 m to the south-west of the Order Limits;
- Medieval settlement at Ullington (NHLE 1017246) – the buried and earthwork remains of the medieval settlement at Ullington, located 375 m to the south of the Order Limits;
- Cookshill Nunnery (NHLE 1005300) – a Cistercian nunnery also known as Cookhill Priory located 435 m to the north of the Order Limits;
- Oversley Castle (NHLE 1005750) – a motte and bailey castle dating from the 12th to 13th centuries located 520 m north-east of the Order Limits;
- Churchyard cross in St Milburga's churchyard (NHLE 1019760) – a medieval standing stone cross located 535 m to the east of the Order Limits;
- Moated site immediately adjacent to St Peter's Church (NHLE 1016940) – a moated site likely serving as an aristocratic residence during the medieval period located 785 m to the west of the Order Limits;
- Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bennett's Hill (NHLE 1020258) – an early medieval cemetery site on the crest of a hill located 975 m to the west of the Order Limits; and
- Enclosures 3/4 mile (1200m) North of Salford Priors (Scheduled Monument NHLE 1005721) are located immediately south of Site 2, though outside of the Order Limits.

9.6.5 Of the 322 designated heritage assets comprising listed buildings and registered parks and gardens within the Study Area, five are Grade I and 18 are Grade II*. None of the designated heritage assets are within the Order Limits. The remaining 299 listed buildings are Grade II. Grade I and II* listed buildings warrant particular consideration due to the weight afforded to them under NPS EN-1. The following Grade I and II* assets are located within the Study Area:

- Church of St Peter (Grade I, NHLE 1350229);
- Church of St Peter, Church Close (Grade I, NHLE 1350279);
- Ragley Hall (Grade I, NHLE 1355348);
- Church of St Matthew (Grade I, NHLE 1355366);
- Bidford Bridge (Grade I, NHLE 1355318);
- Moor Hall (Grade II*, NHLE 1024655);

- Ragley Hall Stable Block (Grade II*, NHLE 1024692);
- Ragley Hall Principal Entrance Lodge (North) (Grade II*, NHLE 1024694);
- Ragley Hall, Principal Entrance Lodge (South) (Grade II*, NHLE 1024695);
- The Manor House (Grade II*, NHLE 1081265);
- Church of St Michael (Grade II*, NHLE 1081303);
- Former Manor House (Grade II*, NHLE 1081308);
- Dovecote to rear of former Manor House (Grade II*, NHLE 1081310);
- Church of St Andrew (Grade II*, NHLE 1081345);
- Rous Lench Court (Grade II*, NHLE 1081656);
- Cookhill Priory (Grade II*, NHLE 1096283);
- Chapel Attached to Cookhill Priory (Grade II*, NHLE 1096284);
- Shurnock Court (Grade II*, NHLE 1099994);
- Wood Bevington Manor (Grade II*, NHLE 1355368);
- Church of St John the Baptist (Grade II*, NHLE 1167686);
- Old Falcon Inn (Grade II*, NHLE 1355315);
- The Manor (Grade II*, NHLE 1348645); and
- Church of St Milburga (Grade II*, NHLE 1355369).

9.6.6 There are nine conservation areas located within the Study Area, but none are within the Order Limits. It is possible that these areas may be subject to impacts to their character and appearance along with changes to their setting. The conservation areas within the Study Area are:

- Abbots Morton;
- Bidford on Avon;
- Broom;
- Cleeve Prior;
- Inkberrow;
- North and Middle Littleton;
- Rous Lench;
- Salford Priors; and
- South Littleton.

9.6.7 There are two registered parks and gardens located within the Study Area, neither within the Order Limits. These are:

- Rous Lench Court (Grade II*, NHLE 1000893); and
- Ragley Hall (Grade II*, NHLE 1001196).

9.6.8 The former is approximately 80 m from the Order Limits at its closest point at sub-Site 1(a), and the latter is approximately 10 m from the Order Limits at its closest point at sub-Site 2(a). Both registered parks and gardens are associated with listed buildings.

9.6.9 Within the Study Area there are 826 known non-designated records. Of these, 81 are located within the Order Limits. These comprise a range of heritage assets and find spots ranging from the Palaeolithic to the modern period. Find spots are not considered heritage assets under planning considerations, as they are usually removed from their original contexts and are therefore limited in the information they can provide about the past. However, they may be used to identify archaeological sensitivities and potential for buried remains.

9.6.10 Of particular note within the Order Limits are multiple areas of extant ridge and furrow (including WSM47161, WSM 57500), a variety of cropmarks suggestive of prehistoric settlement (including MWA1496, MWA6731, MWA6744, MWA12374, MWA30576) as well as identified domestic activity dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age (MWA7454 and MWA7229).

9.6.11 There is further possibility for archaeological remains of the medieval settlements of Bevington (MWA1560), Broom (MWA9027), and Kingley (MWA6358) to extend into the Order Limits.

9.6.12 Remains of post medieval date, largely consisting of post medieval farmsteads and trackways, railway lines and associated infrastructure (including MWA7233, MWA7238, WSM53188, WSM53116, WSM60766) are also present within the Order Limits.

9.6.13 The Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) within the Study Area indicates a diverse rural landscape shaped by long-term woodland management, evolving enclosure patterns, changing agricultural practices, and settlement development. A total of 16 broad historic landscape types are distributed across the Study Area. Much of the historic landscape is characterised by fieldscapes formed by distinct field patterns and morphology illustrating continued development over time. Exceptional time-depth can be recognised in irregular piecemeal enclosures, assarts taken from Feckenham Forest, and burgage plots within historic village centres. Most of the historic landscape within the Order Limits consist of later, Parliamentary Enclosures, reorganised enclosures, and the results of modern agricultural requirements. Hedgerows provide characteristic definitions between individual fields throughout the Order Limits.

9.6.14 Baseline assessment has identified potential for geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains within the Study Area and also the Order Limits, particularly surrounding CRC1 and sub-Site 1(e). These areas include deposits identified as geologically significant with the potential for Palaeolithic remains including gravel members and head deposits. There is further potential for palaeochannels in the area, which may retain waterlogged and organic-rich sediments of significant palaeoenvironmental value.

9.6.15 Previous archaeological investigations conducted within the Order Limits and the geophysical surveys for the Scheme suggest potential for as-yet unknown archaeological remains within the Order Limits. Some possible archaeological anomalies have been detected, possibly relating to enclosures and field boundaries, and there is potential for further unknown remains to be identified during ground works or archaeological investigation. Possible archaeological anomalies exist across all of the Sites with clusters thought to relate to late prehistoric settlement in Sites 3 and 4. The results of the geophysical investigations are shown in Volume 3, Appendix 9.3 Geophysical survey report.

Assets scoped out of further assessment

9.6.16 Based on the work undertaken as part of Volume 1, Chapter 10 Landscape and visual considering the potential impacts of the Scheme on the wider setting of the surrounding area, the following assets were scoped out of further assessment. These assets primarily hold their value (sensitivity) in their age and materials, with minimal contribution from a wider setting. The following Conservation Areas with relatively tight, focused centres consisting of low-profile built heritage and constrained green spaces are considered to be of sufficient distance to the Order Limits to protect them from impacts to their heritage values or setting:

- Inkberrow Conservation Area;
- North and Middle Littleton Conservation Area;
- South Littleton Conservation Area;
- Salford Priors Conservation Area;
- Broom Conservation Area; and
- Bidford-on-Avon Conservation Area.

9.6.17 An initial assessment of the heritage values of the listed buildings within the study area has determined that a total of 274 listed buildings would not have their value (sensitivity) impacted owing to their distance from the Order Limits and their constrained settings that do not extend into the Order Limits. This assessment is detailed in the Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 3, Appendix 9.2 Desk based assessment).

Assessment of heritage value and contribution of setting

9.6.18 A full assessment of the heritage value and contribution of setting for those heritage assets impacted by the Development is reported in the Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 3, Appendix 9.2 Desk based assessment) following the methodology set out above. A summary of the anticipated significant effects is presented in this chapter.

9.6.19 The contribution of setting to the significance of an asset is assessed in accordance with the guidance provided by Historic England[32] and following the additional recent advice note on renewable energy developments[26]. Setting has been fully considered in the assessments in the Desk-Based Assessment and is incorporated into the assessments of significant effect presented in this chapter.

Embedded mitigation

9.6.20 The development of the historic environment 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-HE.1 - Implementation of the outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (oAMS);
- E-HE.2 - Limit areas of excavation;
- E-HE.3 - Reducing developable area to minimise heritage impacts;
- E-B.4 - Buffer zones between sensitive environmental features and the developable area;
- 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

9.6.21 The key receptors which have been assessed in the Historic Environment chapter are described in Table 9-6. This table is limited to those receptors that are most likely to be subject to significant adverse effects as a result of the Scheme. The value of the asset has been determined through the methodology proposed in the Scoping Report (see Table 9-3) and the assessments undertaken in the Desk-Based Assessment. A full list of receptors that have been assessed, but which are unlikely to be subject to significant effects, can be found in Volume 3, Appendix 9.4 Full list of heritage receptors.

Table 9-6 Description of the key historic environment receptors that have been assessed

Designation	Name	Distance from Order Limits	Detail	Value
Grade II listed building	1024653 Church Of James	Approximately 300m east of sub-Site 1(e)	Grade II listed church located within Weethley, east of Site 1. 1857-58 by Edward Haycock. Lias ashlar with limestone dressings, and tile roof. An inexpensive small church, but a well-considered design with high-quality detailing. The church occupies a prominent position overlooking the Cotswolds.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1081657 Tower About 100 Metres East of Rous Lench Court	Approximately 600m west of sub-Site 1(a)	Grade II listed tower located within Rous Lench, west of Site 1. c1860's - 1870's, by Dr W K W Chafy.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1200618 Ragley Park, Evesham Lodge	Approximately 80m north of sub-Site 2(a)	Grade II listed lodge located north of Dunnington. Dated 1872 on porch.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1355367 Turnpike Cottages	Approximately 20m north of sub-Site 1(c)	Grade II listed pair of cottages located south of Weethley between Sites 1 and 2. C17	Medium
Registered Park and Garden	1001196 Ragley Hall Park and Garden	Approximately 10m north of sub-Site 2(a)	A mid-C18 park landscaped by Lancelot Brown, with late-C19 formal gardens and pleasure grounds laid out by Robert Marnock; with a small detached area under Oversley Castle, c 2.5km to the east, an eyecatcher to Ragley Hall.	High
Grade II* listed building	1355368 Wood Bevington Manor	Approximately 30m north of sub-Site 1(c)	Grade II* listed house east of Site 1 within Wood Bevington. Converted into flats. Early or mid C16, possibly for William Grey. Drastically remodelled 1821 by Pain, an architect or builder.	High
Scheduled monument	1005721 Enclosures 3/4 mile (1200m) N of Salford Priors	Immediately south of sub-Site 2(d)	Located immediately south of Site 2, adjacent to the A46. An area of cropmarks seen in aerial photographs representing a likely late prehistoric to Romano-British settlement. Nearby excavations of similar non-designated cropmarks at Marsh Farm identified an extensive area of settlements from the period that was likely a continuation of the remains seen at the Scheduled Monument.	High
Non-designated heritage asset	WSM48169 Peat deposits, Feckenham and Astwood Bank	Within CRC1 south of Feckenham Substation	Area of peat identified on British Geological Survey map located with CRC1 south of Feckenham.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1024652 The Orchard	Approximately 30m north of sub-Site 1(c)	Grade II listed pair of cottages, now one. C17 or early C18. Located east of Site 1 in Wood Bevington.	Medium

Designation	Name	Distance from Order Limits	Detail	Value
Grade II* listed building	1024655 Moor Hall	Approximately 170m east of sub-Site 2(e)	Grade II* listed house located east of Site 2 within Wixford. C15/C16 with C17, C19 and C20 additions and alterations.	High
Grade II listed building	1024685 Forest Thatch	Approximately 170m north of sub-Site 2(d)	Grade II listed cottage located within Dunnington between Sites 1 and 2. C17/early C18, with later additions and alterations.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1024686 Bevington Lodge	Approximately 300m east of sub-Site 1(c)	Grade II listed house located within Dunnington. Latterly two houses. Late C16/C17 with C19 and late C20 alterations and additions.	Medium
Grade II* listed building	1081303 Church of St Michael	Approximately 470m east of sub-Site 1(c)	Grade II* listed church located within South Littleton, north of Site 4. C13 and C15 heavily restored 1883 by F Preedy, alterations in C13, C15, C16.	High
Grade II* listed building	1081345 Church of St Andrew	Approximately 150m west of sub-Site 3(a)	Grade II* listed church located within Cleeve Prior, west of Site 3. C12 to C14 restored 1863 by E Christian. Alterations C15 and C20	High
Grade II listed building	1096310 Barn About 20 Metres South-East of Wrens Nest Farmhouse	Approximately 110m northwest of sub-Site 1(e)	Grade II listed barn located north of Inkberrow, northwest of Site 1. Late C17 to early C18.	Medium
Grade II* listed building	1099994 Shurnock Court	Approximately 130m northwest of sub-Site 1(e)	Grade II* listed house located in Shurnock, north of Site 1. C16 rebuilding of older structure, altered, and extended in early C17 with further mid-C19 alterations.	High
Grade II listed building	1155507 Sharrow	Approximately 60m west of sub-Site 3(a)	Grade II listed house located in Cleeve Prior, west of Site 3. C17, modern rear extension.	Medium
Grade II listed building	1179868 White Cottage	Approximately 70m northwest of sub-Site 1(e)	Grade II listed house located in Inkberrow, north of Site 1. C17 with mid-C20 alterations.	Medium

Arrow Valley Solar