



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SOLAR PROJECT AT FORMER STUDLEY GRANGE LANDFILL



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report assesses the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development of a small-scale solar farm at the former Studley Grange Landfill. Please refer to the Planning Statement prepared by Heatons which describes the development proposal in detail.

1.1.2 The application site, hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’, extends to c. 6.5ha of the restored landfill, management compound and access road.

1.1.3 This document is divided into the following sections:

- Introduction (Scope and Definitions, Methodology, and Consultations);
- Landscape Planning Context;
- The Development Proposal;
- Landscape Effects;
- Visual Effects; and
- Conclusions.

1.2 Scope and Definitions

1.2.1 Paragraph 1.1 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (hereafter referred to as “GLVIA 3”) states that *“Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people’s views and visual amenity”*.

1.2.2 Paragraph 5.1 of GLVIA3 describes how landscape effects are concerned with *“how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character”*.

1.2.3 Allied to this, paragraph 6.1 of GLVIA3 describes how visual effects are concerned with *“assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements”*.

1.2.4 This assessment considers landscape and visual effects separately, although where relevant and appropriate, cross references may be made to the same features or elements.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 The main source of guidance for this chapter has been GLVIA3 (*op. cit.*), and the method used in assessing landscape and visual effects is set out in Appendix 1.

1.3.2 The determination of potential landscape and visual effects follows the step-by-step process shown in Figure 3.5 of GLVIA3 and is based on the combination of the sensitivity of the receptor (susceptibility to type of change proposed and value) and the magnitude of effect (size/scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility).

1.3.3 The nature of effects is also described, including:

- adverse or negative effects, relating to the loss, deterioration or reduction of baseline landscape and visual conditions;
- beneficial or positive effects relating to the addition, enhancement or enlargement of baseline landscape and visual conditions (or by virtue of good design); and
- neutral effects include those changes which are neither adverse nor beneficial, or where there it is judged that there is a balance between adverse and beneficial (e.g. the proposal fits with existing character).

1.3.4 Mitigation measures, which are proposed to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant ‘adverse’ landscape and visual effects are also taken into account in the consideration of overall effects.

1.3.5 The Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development (hereafter referred to as “LI TGN 06/19”) has also been referenced in this

assessment as it sets out the basic types of visualisations that can be produced to support pre-application discussions and/or planning applications.

- 1.3.6 The Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing Landscape Value outside National Designations (hereafter referred to as “LI TGN 02/21”) has also been referenced in relation to the landscape value of the Site and study area.
- 1.3.7 Initially a desktop study was undertaken to review the relevant publications, maps and plans relating to the area within which the proposed development would occur. Use has been made of 3D computer models to generate Zone of Theoretical Visibility (‘ZTV’) mapping of the proposed development (as described in Appendix 4), with the intention of identifying representative viewpoints and informing an initial understanding of the extent of visibility.
- 1.3.8 As a result of the findings of the ZTV analysis, knowledge of the local landscape (gained through desk-based assessment and fieldwork), and experience of similar projects (such as other solar projects undertaken by the project team), a study area extending to c. 1.5km around the Site has been adopted for this assessment. Fieldwork to the Site and study area was carried out in March 2025. The weather conditions were suitable during the Site visit for assessing all views for this assessment.
- 1.3.9 Annotated baseline photography is included to show the horizontal extent and position of the Site and other existing features to act as an aid in assessing landscape and visual effects (defined as Type 1 in LI TGN 06/19). Photographs were taken using a Canon 6D camera, on a tripod with panoramic head. The camera was set to a focal length which is the equivalent of a 50mm lens for a 35mm format camera. The panoramic views consist of several photographic frames digitally merged using industry standard software.
- 1.3.10 The 3D models have also been used to create visualisations, including a “Type 2” non-photographic 3D model view and a “Type 3” photomontage to represent the appearance, context, form and extent of development (as defined in LI TGN 06/19).
- 1.3.11 Visual effects vary depending on light and weather conditions and also the time of day and year. Accordingly, this assessment takes account of the conditions in the photographs but also considers alternative conditions within the written assessment, where relevant.

1.3.12 No technical difficulties were encountered in assessing the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development.

1.4 Consultations

1.4.1 The scope of the assessment has been determined through a combination of professional judgement, reference to relevant guidance documents and the Screening Opinion received from Wiltshire Council (WC) in October 2025.

1.4.2 WC concluded that the project is not likely to have significant effects on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Assessment / Environmental Statement would not be required.

1.4.3 In response to the Screening Question 11.1, *“Are there any areas or features on or around the location which are protected for their landscape and scenic value, and/or any non-designated / non-classified areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project? 1 Where designated indicate level of designation (international, national, regional or local)”*, WC confirmed:

- *“B - Yes - The site is within 2km of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB). Views of the site from public footpaths within the National Landscape are likely possible.”*
- *“C - Is a Significant Effect Likely? - No Effects can be controlled and mitigated by appropriate measures. The submission of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would be expected.”*

1.4.4 In response to the Screening Question 11.2, *“Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people? (If so, from where, what direction, and what distance?)*, WC confirmed that:

- *“B - Yes - The site would be visible from the surrounding area and within longer views from public footpaths”.*
- *“C Is a Significant Effect Likely? - No Effects can be controlled and mitigated by appropriate measures. The submission of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) would be expected.”*

- 1.4.5 These comments have been considered within this assessment, including as part of the review of landscape value, the baseline description of the character and views of the Site, the changes to the landcover resulting from the proposals and inclusion of a landscaping scheme.

2 LANDSCAPE PLANNING

2.1 Landscape Planning Context

- 2.1.1 Details of the relevant planning policy context are contained in the Planning Statement prepared by Heatons and should be read alongside this LVIA.
- 2.1.2 The relevant landscape-related policies are also set out in Appendix 2 of this chapter. These include policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance, the Wiltshire Core Strategy.
- 2.1.3 The NPPF requires that planning policies and decisions ensure development is sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (para 135) and protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside (para 187).
- 2.1.4 NPPF states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues (para 189).
- 2.1.5 Wiltshire Core Strategy includes several landscape-related policies including Core Policy 51 Landscape, which requires development to protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures. Proposals should be informed by and sympathetic to the distinctive character areas identified in the relevant Landscape Character Assessment(s) and any other relevant assessments and studies.

2.2 Landscape-related designations

- 2.2.1 There are no national landscape designations within the Site or immediately surrounding area. The site is within c. 1.8km of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB).
- 2.2.2 The nearest Listed Building is Grade II listed 'Studley Grange Farmhouse' (Ref 1022664, Grade II) which is adjacent to the Site boundary, to the north of the existing gas compound.

- 2.2.3 There are several Listed Buildings within 500m including Upper Studley Farm (Ref 1022662, grade II) c. 250m to the north, Stable Range Immediately northwest of Great Chaddington Farm (Ref 1363675, grade II) c. 400m to the south, Great Chadderton Farm (Ref 1199821, grade II) c. 430m to the south and Can Court Farmhouse (Ref 1022663, grade II) c. 500m to the south. There is also a Scheduled Monument, Medieval rural Settlement (Ref 1018388) c. 800m to the west.

2.3 Planning Permissions

- 2.3.1 The Site is located within the former Studley Grange Landfill. The Site covers two field parcels which are restored to agricultural grassland, separated by a belt of tree planting and with hedgerows and trees around the boundaries, managed as per the approved landfill restoration scheme. Vehicular access from the public highway is restricted, however there is a public right of way which extends alongside the access track.
- 2.3.2 The Site also includes part of the electricity generating compound associated with the restored landfill site. In 2023 planning permission was granted for the Replacement of an Electricity Generating Engine with a Storage Battery (Ref: PL/2022/06399). The installation of a compound for the generation of electricity through the utilisation of landfill gas was originally established through the grant of planning permission in 2005 (N/05/07038/FCM).

3 THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Full details of the proposed development are described in the Planning Statement, prepared by Heatons and should be read alongside this LVIA.

3.1.2 The following items have been examined in detail due to their specific landscape and visual implications:

- Installation of a solar farm with photovoltaic (PV) panels, inverters and transformers on approximately 4.6ha of restored agricultural grassland on the former landfill;
- Installation of a small 0.1ha compound area with control building and switchgear, housed in prefabricated containers and associated cabling adjacent to the existing landfill compound;
- Racks of PV panels (each measuring 0.8m to 1.2m wide and 1.6m to 2m long), would be constructed on mounting frames, matt finished galvanised steel or aluminium placed onto the existing grassland surface / ground. These would be as a double row of 12 panels, set no more than 3m above ground level at the rear and c. 1m clearance at the front, angled at 30-40 degrees from the horizontal and facing south. 5m standoffs would be included to the perimeter fencing and 2m between rows, with associated cabling;
- 2m high deer / security fencing will be installed around the perimeter of the solar farm, sympathetic to the area, with pole mounted infra-red CCTV;
- Use and up-grading of the existing internal landfill haul road, as required, from the existing Site access onto B4005 Hay Lane (which to the north provides access to Junction 16 the M4) and extended across the restored landfill mounds;
- Temporary set down and construction compounds;
- Scheme of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement on c. 5.2ha around the Site perimeters and underneath and between the PV panels (as mainly grassland);

- Use of the existing electrical grid connection point in the vicinity of the landfill's Site access to the north of the Site, which is also used to distribute surplus energy generated from the landfill gas engines at the Site; and
- Following decommissioning of built elements at the solar farm, final restoration would be broadly in accordance with the currently approved restoration scheme for the former landfill site, with integration of the ecological enhancements.

3.2 Timescales and Permanency of Development

- 3.2.1 The proposed development is temporary in nature and would be operational for up to 25 years.
- 3.2.2 The construction and landscaping work would take place over an initial 3-month period and decommissioning and final restoration would also take around 3 months to complete, followed by a 5-year aftercare period.
- 3.2.3 GLVIA3 refers to effects that last for 10 to 25 years as long term, 5 to 10 years as medium term and those that last for less than 5 years as short-term. In view of this, the operational phases of the proposed development would be long-term. Any initial perimeter landscaping or final restoration would be permanent. Construction and decommissioning would be short-term.
- 3.2.4 The operations on the Site would continue to follow the approved operating hours at the former landfill site.

3.3 Design Development and Built-in Mitigation

- 3.3.1 The development proposals seek to mitigate any potentially adverse landscape and visual effects, either by avoidance, reduction or replacement / compensation; this is often referred to as the mitigation hierarchy.
- 3.3.2 The approach to design development and mitigation developed as part of the landscape strategy includes siting the PV panels on previously developed land (a former landfill site) and incorporating standoffs to the Site perimeters for hedgerow and tree retention and beneficial management.
- 3.3.3 All grassland around the field margins and beneath and between the proposed solar

panels would be enhanced for biodiversity interest (e.g. with additional wildflowers).

- 3.3.4 The proposal would ensure a minimum 700m standoff from the solar panels to the nearest residential properties at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel to the east, 450m away from Can Court Farm and Great Chaddington Farm to the south and 350m away from Padbrook Farm to the west. These stand-offs would reduce potential visual impacts by providing foreground corridors of undulating farmland, hedgerows and trees.
- 3.3.5 The proposed solar compound would be located on the lower part of the landfill site on an area of existing compound and hardstanding at c. 103m AOD.

3.4 Potential Sources of Landscape and Visual Effect

- 3.4.1 The landscape and visual components of the proposed development assessed include:
- Construction activity, including ground preparation, limited vegetation clearance prior to the installation of the security features, solar panels and associated infrastructure. Development of the landscape buffers, including ecological enhancement of species-rich grassland;
 - Operation of the solar farm and continuing landscape management of grassland and other habitats between, beneath and around the structures; and
 - Decommissioning of the security features, solar panels and associated infrastructure, followed by the restoration broadly in accordance with the agreed landfill scheme (grassland, with hedgerows and trees around perimeters), but with integration of the new habitats.
- 3.4.2 These components would result in direct effects upon landscape elements and features within the Site itself. The above changes would also influence the Site's appearance, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and therefore may also have potential effects on landscape character and the visual amenity of offsite receptors in the immediately surrounding area. The spatial extent of landscape and visual effects of this proposal are principally local.
- 3.4.3 For the purposes of this assessment, the development considers construction and decommissioning as part of the long-term operational phase, followed by final

restoration as a separate permanent phase.

3.5 Potential Indirect Effects

- 3.5.1 The main potential indirect effects would be from traffic generated to and from the development, as this would have a potential visual impact for other users of the local road network, and a general impact on the scenic quality of local views.
- 3.5.2 However, the vehicle movements associated with the project would be relatively limited, utilise an established access and would quickly disperse across the highway network. It is not envisaged that the proposals represent a significant additional indirect adverse visual impact for receptors positioned along the access routes.

4 LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section of the report assesses the landscape baseline and predicted effects of the proposed development.

4.2 Landscape Baseline

- 4.2.1 Baseline conditions for the Site, its local setting and wider surrounding study area have been assessed and described below. Appendix 3 provides additional detail relating to the baseline research undertaken including the relevant published national and local level landscape character assessments, landscape attributes of the Site and study area and analysis of factors influencing landscape value.

Character of the Landscape

- 4.2.2 The Site is located within the northern part of National Character Area (NCA) 108 - Upper Thames Clay Vales, *“broad belt of open, gently undulating lowland farmland on predominantly Jurassic and Cretaceous clays.”*
- 4.2.3 At a more local level the Site is located within Landscape Character Area (LCA) “11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland” in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005). This area is described as *“a long, narrow gently undulating area sandwiched between the uplands of 4A: Avebury Plain and 8A: Swindon-Lyneham Limestone Ridge. Views to the surrounding hills and chalk scarp emphasise the comparatively level and open character of the area. The Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland is a mix of arable and pasture with the former more prominent to the north above Swindon. The arable fields tend to be large scale and rectangular with a mix of medium sized irregular fields and small regular strips to the south. Fields are bounded by hedgerows although these have been replaced by fences in some areas and hedgerow trees are sparse. The hedges, scattered small woodland blocks (some ancient) and riparian vegetation particularly willows, give a more enclosed and rural feel to the landscape in some sections. There are also remnant areas of hay meadow of high ecological value such as Goldburgh Farm SSSI. Around Swindon large scale buildings on the outskirts dominate immediate views but the area to the north which is very sparsely settled retains a rural remote feel. To the south views of the modern built edges of Calne influence the surrounding landscape,*

although this is mitigated to some extent by woodland cover. Elsewhere there is little settlement and rural roads criss cross the area giving access to the uplands to east and west.”

- 4.2.4 The condition of the Rolling Clay Lowland landscape is described as Good, with reference to how *“These are areas of mixed pastoral and arable farmland with intact hedgerows, some woodlands and hay meadows of high ecological value and villages of vernacular materials. There are a few elements in poorer condition such as hedgerow trees that are over-mature with few replacement young trees”*.
- 4.2.5 The landscape strategy for Rolling Clay Lowland is *“to conserve the peaceful rural landscape with its hedgerow network, rich riparian vegetation, remnant meadows, ancient woodlands and pattern of small villages and scattered farmsteads and to strengthen its character through measures to minimise the urbanising influence of large towns, new settlement and transport routes and to improve the woodlands and farmlands by encouraging management to retain or enhance their biodiversity and historic character”*. This has been incorporated into the proposals, as described above, with new scrub planting to strengthen the perimeter vegetation and field pattern.

Natural Characteristics

- 4.2.6 The solar farm would be located on man-made landfill mounds which rise from 102m AOD to 115m AOD and forms part of a broad, gently undulating area, although the topography around Basset Down rises to above 195m AOD, at 2km to the south.
- 4.2.7 The former landfill mound to the northeast which rises to 112m AOD has been planted with mixed native woodland, whilst the mound to the east 107m AOD would be managed as grassland. The landfill site access point is located at 104m AOD, with the existing compound at 103m AOD.
- 4.2.8 The Old Canal towpath to the immediate south of the landfill mounds is at c. 99m AOD. This extends from the section of the Wilts and Berks Canal to the west.
- 4.2.9 The Site is previously developed land (restored landfill), consisting predominantly of a grassland field, which is grazed by sheep. There are native hedgerows with trees and scrub that are present around some of the field boundaries. There is a drainage ditch to the east.

- 4.2.10 The study area includes several mature woodland blocks, such as Lower Studley Copse to the west, areas around Upper Studly Farm to the north and around Great Chaddington Farm to the south.

Social and Cultural Aspects

- 4.2.11 Google Earth imagery shows the Site for the solar panels as grassland in 2012, whilst the mounds to the west and north were still active. The existing landfill monitoring infrastructure around the Site would be retained throughout the proposed development. The proposed solar farm Site compound would be located within the landfill gas and environmental management compound, which is an area of hardstanding connected to the former landfill site access, off B4005 Hay Lane, which to the north provides access to Junction 16 the M4. The existing compound has two generating engines, two gas flares and associated equipment all surrounded by a palisade fence.
- 4.2.12 The nearest building is Studley Grange Farmhouse with associated outbuildings, which is unoccupied and located at approximately 30m to the north of the Site.
- 4.2.13 There is a busy garden centre adjacent to the east of the Site and shares the Site access point from the public highway road.
- 4.2.14 There is a railway line c. 110m to the north, which is set down in a cutting, with the M4 a further 600m to the north and marking the edge of Swindon.
- 4.2.15 There are several relatively small-scale solar farm projects in the wider area, including:
- 9ha project south of Swindon Road (A3102) at c. 800m north of the Site;
 - 20ha project north of Swindon Road (A3102) at c. 1.7km to the northwest of the Site;
 - 11ha project east of Marlborough Road / Broadtown Road at c. 2km to the west of the Site; and
 - 18.5ha project east of Hay Lane at c. 1.3km to the southeast of the Site.
- 4.2.16 Morningside Farm Nature Reserve is an area of grassland which is open to the public,

to the west of Chaddington Lane, at c.700m away from the Site.

- 4.2.17 The study area is settled, urban fringe with transport infrastructure and commercial development to the north and east, whilst land to the south is more rural with open fields and woodland. A screenshot excerpt from the National Library of Scotland Side-by-Side Mapping OS 1945-65 and Contemporary Aerial Photography is included in Appendix 2 and shows the development which has taken place around the Site over the last 60-70 years.
- 4.2.18 The edge of Swindon is c. 500m to the north, whilst Royal Wootton Bassett is c. 2km to the west. There are isolated farmsteads and properties throughout the study area, with residential properties at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel at c. 400m to the east, Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm and Little Chaddington Farm at over 500m away to the south and Padbrook Farm at c. 700m away to the west, with Morningside Farm beyond. Bassett Down Golf Course is over 1km to the south.
- 4.2.19 There are public footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site, with more distant footpaths on elevated ground of Basset Down, such as LTRE56. A screenshot excerpt from Wiltshire Council's Public Rights of Way map is included in Appendix 2. There is also permissive access to the canal towpath (owned and managed by the applicant), which connects through to the garden centre.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Aspects

- 4.2.20 The Site has an overall medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure. There is localised influence of the landfill infrastructure, access and compound, which interrupt the overall gently undulating muted greens and browns of grassland on the former landfill mounds.
- 4.2.21 The wider study area also has an overall medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure. The undulating topography provides some extended visibility on elevated areas, but more restricted from lower-lying parts. There is also localised influence from transport infrastructure and commercial development to the north, as well as the garden centre to the east, which contrasts with the open fields and woodland to the south. The wider study area is settled urban fringe landscape and not particularly tranquil or wild. There are several existing, relatively small-scale solar projects in the

wider area.

Classification of the Existing Site and Immediate Surroundings

- 4.2.22 The analysis of existing landscape attributes has concluded that the Site, its local setting and wider study area is generally consistent with the key characteristics in the aforementioned published assessments and in particular “11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland”.
- 4.2.23 The overall character of the existing Site is of a series of broad grassland mounds, with some vegetation to the boundaries and a small compound, connected to the Site access. The wider area is undulating settled urban fringe, with farmland and woodland blocks, transport infrastructure and commercial development.

Landscape Value

- 4.2.24 The Site is not considered to be part of a valued landscape, for the purposes of paragraph 187 of NPPF. As set out in Appendix 3, there is little to no natural or cultural heritage interest which contributes positively to the landscape of the Site (being mainly restored grassland in a moderate condition, with vegetation to the boundaries), although Studley Grange Farmhouse Listed Building is just north of the Site compound. Experience of the landscape contributes to the recreational use and enjoyment of the public rights of way which cross the Site. The Site and study area have a variable perceptual (scenic) quality and are part of a settled urban fringe landscape, which is influenced by transport infrastructure and commercial development. There are several existing small-scale solar projects in the wider area.

Trends and Change

- 4.2.25 The overall change for NCA 108 - Upper Thames Clay Vales is defined as “mainly improving”, with drivers for change as follows:
- *“The Upper Thames Clay Vales is a broad belt of open, gently undulating lowland farmland, wet valleys, mixed farming with hedges, hedge trees and field trees, and more settled, open, arable lands. Wetter winters and drier summers may impact on the flow regimes of the area’s watercourses. More frequent storms and heavier downpours will increase flooding which could have significant implications for*

settlements. Settlement expansion, associated infrastructure development and mineral extraction could also affect landscape change.”

4.3 Prediction of landscape effects

- 4.3.1 As described in paragraph 5.34 of GLVIA3, landscape receptors that may be affected by the scheme include the overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.
- 4.3.2 Landscape effects can occur during the initial construction activity and operational phases but also following decommissioning of the solar project and final restoration.
- 4.3.3 The assessment of significance of residual landscape effects is carried out for each effect thought likely to occur and for the relevant receptor that may be altered by the scheme.

Criteria

- 4.3.4 The criteria for assessing the significance of residual landscape effects (i.e. after built-in mitigation) are described in GLVIA3 and set out in Appendix 1 to this chapter. They are based on the combination of sensitivity (susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed and the value attached to the receptor) and magnitude of change (size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility).
- 4.3.5 As described in paragraph 5.56 of GLVIA3, at opposite ends of the spectrum, the following may apply to landscape effects:
- major loss or irreversible negative effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes are likely to be of the greatest significance;
 - reversible negative effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to, but are not key characteristics of, the character of landscapes of community value are likely to be of the least significance and may, depending on the circumstances, be judged as not significant.

Physical Disturbance of Individual Elements and Features

4.3.6 The physical disturbance of individual elements and features resulting from the proposed development occurs at the Site level only (i.e. within the Site) and relates to the following:

- Landform: Sloping mound at the former landfill site;
- Landcover: Restored grassland and hardstanding within landfill compound;
- Access: Former landfill access track from Hay Lane; and
- Field Boundaries: Mixed native vegetation.

4.3.7 Landform: The sloping mound at the former landfill site is of low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change to landform during operational phases would be negligible (with a negligible change from panel module supports placed onto the ground surface and potential slab areas for other built elements, relating to a negligible part of the Site area). Overall, there would be a negligible and neutral effect upon landform during operational phases.

4.3.8 Landcover: The restored grassland and hardstanding within the landfill compound is of medium-low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change to landcover would be medium (with grassland retained and enhanced between and beneath the PV panels, whilst infrastructure elements either as small elements on grassland areas or located on hardstanding within the existing landfill compound and relating to only part of the Site area, with margins and buffers retained and enhanced). Overall, there would be a moderate-minor and adverse effect upon landcover during operational phases.

4.3.9 Access: The former landfill access track from Hay Lane is of low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change to the existing access would be slight (with a small alteration to the track, upgraded and extended across the restored landfill mound and with the introduction of vehicle movements, affecting only a negligible part of the Site area). Overall, there would be a minor and neutral effect to the access during operational phases.

4.3.10 Field Boundaries: The mixed native vegetation within and around the Site is of medium-

low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change to the boundaries would be slight (with standoffs to existing field boundaries, but with new fencing installed within part of the Site and installation of pole-mounted CCTV cameras). Overall, there would be a minor and neutral effect to the field boundaries during operational phases.

- 4.3.11 After decommissioning of the solar project, the elements and features at the Site would be reinstated broadly in accordance with the approved restoration scheme, with incorporation of the mitigation planting. Likely effects would therefore be broadly negligible and neutral for landform, landcover, access and boundaries at this stage.

Alterations to Aesthetic and Perceptual Aspects

- 4.3.12 Changes to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the baseline landscape would occur principally within the Site and its immediate landscape setting, with effects on the wider landscape setting being limited by the nature of surrounding landform and vegetation (refer to the 'Visual Effects' section in this chapter).
- 4.3.13 The aesthetic and perceptual aspects that may be affected by the proposals are the landscape's medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure. These characteristics are of medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be medium (with introduction of smaller scale elements, increase in enclosure and complexity affecting the Site and perceptible from its immediate setting only). Overall, there would be a moderate-minor and adverse effect during operational phases.
- 4.3.14 As part of restoration (after decommissioning of the solar project), the overall perception of scale would return to medium, with moderate complexity and enclosure. Likely effects upon aesthetic and perceptual aspects would therefore be broadly negligible and neutral at this stage.

Alterations to Overall Character and Key Characteristics

- 4.3.15 The alterations to overall landscape character and key characteristics result from a combination of changes to physical elements and features and the changes to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of views/inter-visibility. Such effects occur both within the Site and its local setting and can therefore influence the wider published

character areas or landscape designations.

- 4.3.16 The alterations to overall landscape character and key characteristics have been considered in relation to 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland.
- 4.3.17 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland is of medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be slight (with the introduction of additional urbanising features contrasting with some of the settled urban fringe baseline, affecting only a negligible geographical extent of the character area as a whole, on a long-term basis). Overall, there would be a minor and adverse effect upon this character area during operational phases.
- 4.3.18 As part of restoration (after decommissioning of the solar project), the built elements of the development would be removed, and the existing characteristics would be reinstated broadly in accordance with the approved landfill restoration scheme. Likely effects upon landscape character would therefore be broadly negligible and neutral at this stage.

North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB)

- 4.3.19 North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB) is located to the south of the Site at c 1.8km away at its nearest point. Most of the designated area is not covered by the ZTV, with the exception of a small area on the elevated north-facing slopes around Basset Down. However, this is of a low vertical angle and is likely to have visibility further restricted by intervening vegetation (as was noted during fieldwork). As such, there are little to no changes predicted to the character and limited changes to outward views predicted from localised parts of the designated area. Also refer to Viewpoint 2.

Cumulative landscape effects

- 4.3.20 No other proposed or consented solar developments were identified within the study area and potential cumulative landscape effects have therefore not been considered any further in this assessment.
- 4.3.21 The four existing small-scale solar projects have been incorporated into the baseline appraisal. Each project is less than 20ha in size and range between 800m and 2km away from the Site. They are wholly separate elements, within an urban fringe context. The

proposed addition of 4.6ha of solar panels at the Site would not result in a noticeably higher density or cluster that would transform the area into a different landscape character sub-type; it would be a small standalone addition, located within a discrete parcel of land.

4.4 Summary Statement of Landscape Effects

- 4.4.1 Table 1 presents a summary of the above landscape receptors and assessment of sensitivity, magnitude of change and effects, during operational phases. Moderate adverse effects are identified on aesthetic and perceptual aspects, with moderate-minor adverse effects upon landcover.
- 4.4.2 Following decommissioning and restoration broadly in accordance with the approved scheme and the integration of mitigation planting, the effects would become negligible and neutral upon all receptors, except for field boundaries, hedgerows and trees which would be beneficial.
- 4.4.3 Overall, this assessment has not identified any major or moderate/major landscape effects as a result of the proposed development.

Table 1 Summary of Landscape Effects, During operational phases

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effects	Nature of Effect
11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland	Medium	Slight	Minor	Adverse
Landform: Sloping mound at former landfill site	Low	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral
Landcover: Restored grassland and hardstanding within landfill compound	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate-Minor	Adverse
Access: Former landfill access track from Hay Lane	Low	Slight	Minor	Neutral
Field Boundaries: Mixed native vegetation	Medium-Low	Slight	Minor	Neutral
Aesthetic: Medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Adverse

5 VISUAL EFFECTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section of the report assesses the visual baseline and predicted effects of the proposed development.

5.2 Visual Baseline

- 5.2.1 Baseline conditions for the Site and surrounding study area have been assessed and are described below.

Visual receptors

- 5.2.2 Paragraph 6.13 of GLVIA3 defines visual receptors as people living in the area; people who work there; people passing through on road, rail, or other forms of transport; people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions; and people engaged in recreation of different types.
- 5.2.3 Initially, it is necessary to define the extent of visibility both within and outside the Site and how it relates to potential receptors. ZTV analysis has been undertaken in LSS software (McCarthy Taylor) of the more elevated parts of the Site, with the potential area of solar panels modelled at 3m high (to represent the tops of the structures). The ZTV results are shown on Drawing LVIA-1 and have been generated in accordance with the method statement in Appendix 4.
- 5.2.4 The ZTV assessment is limited to subtended vertical angles above 0.25°. Areas with less than this theoretical angle were considered unlikely to generate significant effects. Furthermore, the ZTVs are based on a bare terrain; that is, the computer model does not include any vegetation, structures or other buildings. As a result, the extent of theoretical visibility would be reduced when surrounding intervening vegetation, is taken into consideration. These elements are considered in the main assessment of changes to views, where appropriate.
- 5.2.5 The general theoretical visibility of the proposed solar panels can be summarised as follows:
- the area of visible vertical angle above 3 degrees is restricted to within c. 200m of

the panels and covering the adjacent restored /former landfill, canal and footpaths;

- the area of visible vertical angle between 1 and 3 degrees typically extends for c. 500m to the east, south and west and covers additional parts of the adjacent restored / former landfill, canal and footpaths and Studley Grange Farm, Can Court Farm and Great Chaddington Farm; and
- the areas of visible vertical angle of between 0.25 and 1 degree extends for over 1km to the southeast and southwest (including the garden centre and Hays Lane to the east and Chaddington Lane to the west) and over 2km to the south (including the elevated ground around Basset Down).

5.2.6 Following the initial desk-based modelling of theoretical visibility, fieldwork was carried out to verify the ZTVs and review the degree of additional screening provided by vegetation and/or built-up areas and buildings. This identified that the existing Site is visually well enclosed by undulating topography, in combination with intervening vegetation (hedgerows, trees and woodland), which restrict views to varying degrees. Glimpsed views of the restored landfill mounds are characterised by grassland, amongst hedgerows and trees. Potential changes to views would vary depending on position and orientation of viewer, with wider views over the surrounding area anticipated to be generally unrestricted / unaltered.

5.2.7 Key potential visual receptors in the area covered by the ZTVs include the following:

- local residents within properties at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel at c. 700m to the east, Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm, Little Chaddington Farm and Vowley Farm at over 450m away to the south;
- users of the local road network, such as Hay Lane to the east and Chaddington Lane to the west; and
- recreational users of the PRow network and footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site and more distant elevated positions at Basset Down, such as LTRE56. Visitors to the permissive access along the Old Canal towpath and also to the garden centre.

5.2.8 In order to provide proportionality within the assessment and to focus on likely effects of relevance to the decision-making authority the following visual receptors, which are not substantially covered by the ZTVs and/or have restricted visibility identified during the fieldwork due to vegetation or other features, are not considered in any more detail:

- Other local residents, including those at Swindon and Royal Wootton Bassett to the north, Padbrook Farm and Morningside Farm to the west;
- Other users of the wider road network, such as Junction 16 the M4, Swindon Road to the north, Marlborough Road / Broadtown Road to the west; and
- Users of the more distant PRow and visitors to Bassett Down Golf Course and Morningside Farm Nature Reserve.

Viewpoints – representative, specific, illustrative

5.2.9 As stated in paragraph 6.19 of GLVIA3, viewpoints can fall broadly into three groups: representative; specific; and illustrative. Paragraph 6.20 of GLVIA3, then describes how the selection of the final viewpoints used for the assessment has taken account of the following range of factors:

- accessibility to the public;
- the potential number and sensitivity of viewers who may be affected;
- the viewing direction, distance (i.e. short, medium, and long-distance views) and elevation;
- the nature of the viewing experience (for example static views, views from settlements and views from sequential points along routes);
- the view type (for example panoramas, vistas and glimpses); and
- the potential for cumulative views of the proposed development in conjunction with other developments.

5.2.10 Photography and fieldwork analysis of the views of the Site has been carried out from the surrounding landscape. This determined which locations offer the clearest views

of the Site and/or are most accessible to the public and provide representative viewpoints for detailed viewpoint analysis.

5.2.11 The selected representative viewpoints are listed below, with photographs of existing views from each of these locations shown on the accompanying drawing sheets:

- Viewpoint 1 – Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm (Drawing LVIA-2);
- Viewpoint 2 – PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, southeast of site (Drawing LVIA-3);
- Viewpoint 3 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site (Drawing LVIA-4);
- Viewpoint 4 – PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm (Listed Building) (Drawing LVIA-5);
- Viewpoint 5 – Chaddington Lane, adjacent to Old Canal footpath (Drawing LVIA-6);
- Viewpoint 6 – Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm (Drawing LVIA-7);
and
- Viewpoint 7 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at northwest corner (Drawing LVIA-8).

5.2.12 A more detailed description and analysis of the existing views and people that may appreciate the views are included in the individual viewpoint analysis in Appendix 4. Individual viewpoint locations are shown on the ZTV, Drawing LVIA-1.

5.3 Prediction of visual effects

5.3.1 As described in paragraph 6.26 of GLVIA3, changes in views and visual amenity may arise from built or engineered forms and/or soft landscape elements of the development. Visual effects can occur during the initial site and vegetation clearance, but also following eventual restoration once operations cease.

5.3.2 The assessment of significance of residual visual effects is carried out for each effect thought likely to occur and for the relevant receptor that may be altered by the scheme (such as the views of residents, users of roads, public rights of way, or other recreational facilities).

- 5.3.3 A detailed description of predicted changes to views from individual representative viewpoints is provided in Appendix 4, with the following part of the assessment referring to the predicted effects to visual receptors, more generally.
- 5.3.4 Visualisations have been prepared for Viewpoint 2, using a 3D digital terrain model of the development in LSS software (McCarthy Taylor) as model view and photomontage at Drawing LVIA-9. This is also as described in the method statement in Appendix 4.

Criteria

- 5.3.5 The criteria for assessing the significance of residual visual effects (i.e. after the built-in mitigation) are described above and in GLVIA3 and are based on the combination of the nature of the receptor likely to be affected (sensitivity) and the nature of effect(s) likely to occur (magnitude).
- 5.3.6 As described in paragraph 6.44 of GLVIA3, in making a judgement about visual effects the following should be noted:
- effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant;
 - effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant; and
 - large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic, discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present in the view.

Communities within Settlements and Residents of other properties

- 5.3.7 The Local residents at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel to the east of the Site would have a medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be negligible and adverse (with the development set back by c. 700m behind intervening vegetation and mostly hidden from view). Refer to Viewpoint 1, which is at an open position on Hays Lane. Overall, there would be a minor-negligible and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be limited to those parts of the dwellings where views are available and would be neutral when existing vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.8 The local residents at Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm, Little Chaddington Farm and Vowley Farm to the south of the Site would have a high sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be negligible (with the development set back by c. 450m and beyond intervening vegetation and mostly hidden from view). Refer to Viewpoint 5 which is at an enclosed part of Chaddington Lane and with views obscured. Overall, there would be a minor-negligible and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be limited to those parts of the dwellings where views are available and would be neutral when existing vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.9 There would be no change to these residential views after decommissioning and restoration of the solar project.

Users of road network

5.3.10 Users of Hay Lane would have a low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be negligible (with the development set back by c. 700m and beyond intervening vegetation it is mostly hidden from view). Refer to Viewpoint 1. Overall, there would be a minor-negligible and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be limited to those sections of the route where views are available and would be neutral when existing vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.11 Users of Chaddington Lane would have a low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be negligible (with the development set back by c. 400m and beyond intervening vegetation it is mostly hidden from view). Refer to Viewpoint 5. Overall, there would be a minor-negligible and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be limited to those sections of the route where views are available and would be neutral when existing vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.12 There would be no change to the views of these road users after decommissioning and restoration of the solar project.

Recreational users of PRoW network

5.3.13 Recreational users of footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site would have a medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be medium (with the introduction of urbanising features which would

contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline, perceived over a small extent of these routes). Refer to Viewpoints 3 and 4. Overall, there would be a moderate and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be neutral for certain sections, when vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.14 Recreational users of footpaths on more distant elevated positions at Basset Down to the south, such as LTRE56, would have a high sensitivity to the proposed development. The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB), albeit looking outwards from the designated area. The magnitude of change would be negligible (with the development set back by c. 1.8km and beyond intervening vegetation it is mostly hidden from view). However, localised areas may be able to perceive the scheme, such as at Viewpoint 2 where effects would be minor adverse. Overall, there would be a minor and adverse to neutral effect during operational phases for users of these routes as a whole.

5.3.15 Recreational users of permissive access to the Old Canal towpath, would have a medium sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be medium (with the introduction of urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline, perceived over a small extent of the route). Refer to Viewpoints 6 and 7. Overall, there would be a moderate and adverse effect during operational phases (although effects would be neutral for certain sections, when vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.16 Visitors to the garden centre would have a medium-low sensitivity to the proposed development. The magnitude of change would be negligible (with the development set back by c. 300m and beyond intervening vegetation and buildings it is mostly hidden from view, with the exception of the shared access off Hay Lane and associated vehicle movements). Overall, there would be a minor-negligible and neutral effect during operational phases (although effects would be neutral for certain sections, when vegetation is in leaf).

5.3.17 There would be no change to the views of these recreational receptors after decommissioning and restoration of the solar project.

Cumulative Visual Effects

- 5.3.18 No other proposed or consented solar developments were identified within the study area and potential cumulative visual effects have therefore not been considered any further in this assessment.
- 5.3.19 The four existing small-scale solar projects have been incorporated into the baseline appraisal. Each project is less than 20ha in size and range between 800m and 2km away from the Site. They are wholly separate elements, within an urban fringe context.
- 5.3.20 Whilst there is potential for combined visibility of the other projects in conjunction with the proposed 4.6ha of solar panels at the Site from elevated ground around Basset Down to the south, the distances away and between the projects are such that it would not be perceived as introducing a noticeably higher density or cluster. The proposals would be a small standalone addition, barely perceptible and located within a discrete and parcel of land.
- 5.3.21 Any potential sequential visibility would also be limited by the distances between the projects, as well as the influence of topography, vegetation and built forms, which provide substantial breaks along the road corridors and footpath.

5.4 Summary Statement of Visual Effects

- 5.4.1 Table 2 presents a summary of the above individual representative viewpoints and visual receptors and assessment of sensitivity, magnitude of change and effects. Where more than one receptor is represented at any individual representative viewpoint the higher sensitivity is assessed (e.g. residential receptors on Hay Lane at Viewpoint 1).
- 5.4.2 Overall, this assessment has not identified any major or moderate/major visual effects as a result of the proposed development.
- 5.4.3 There would be moderate adverse effects for recreational users of the footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site and the permissive access to the Old Canal towpath and certain sections where there are clear views of the solar panels, the effects would rise to moderate adverse (e.g. Viewpoint 6).
- 5.4.4 There would be minor adverse to neutral effects for recreational users of PRoW at more distant elevated positions at Basset Down, such as LTRE56 (and at localised points such

as at Viewpoint 2).

- 5.4.5 Visual effects for local residents and road users would be no more than minor-negligible and adverse.
- 5.4.6 However, these adverse visual effects would be limited to the operational period and there would be little to no perceptible change after decommissioning and restoration.

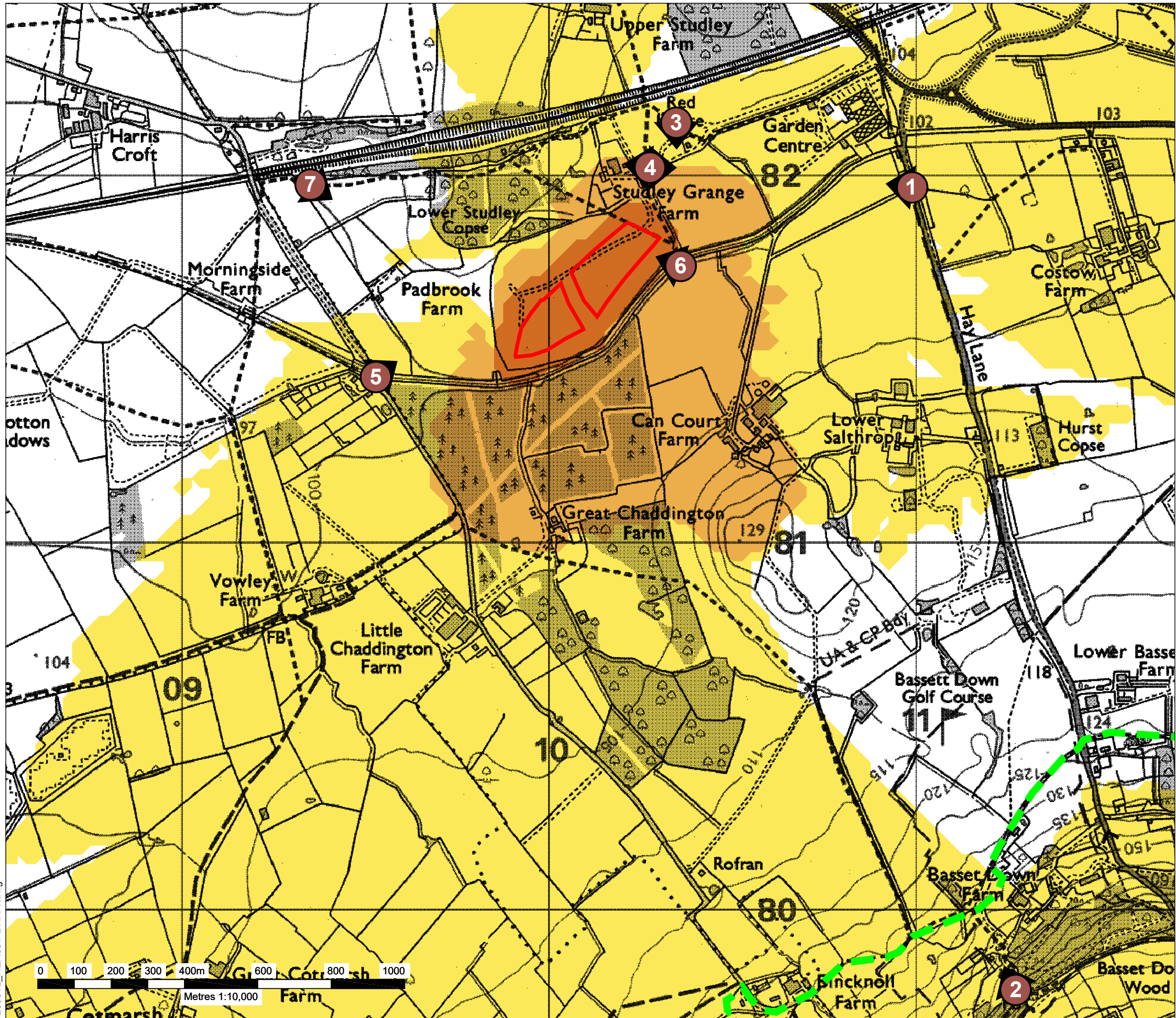
Table 2 Summary of Visual Effects, During operational phases

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Effects	Nature of Effects
Viewpoint 1 – Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm	Medium	Slight	Minor	Adverse
Viewpoint 2 – PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, southeast of site	High	Negligible	Minor	Adverse
Viewpoint 3 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site	Medium	Slight	Minor	Adverse
Viewpoint 4 – PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm	Medium	Slight	Minor	Adverse
Viewpoint 5 – Chaddington Lane, adjacent to Old Canal footpath	Medium	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Neutral
Viewpoint 6 – Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Adverse
Viewpoint 7 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at northwest corner	Medium	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Neutral
Local residents at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel to the east	Medium	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Adverse
Local residents at Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm and Little Chaddington Farm to the south	Medium	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Adverse
Users of the local road network - Hay Lane	Medium-Low	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Adverse
Users of the local road network - Chaddington Lane	Medium-Low	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Adverse
Recreational users of the PRoW footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Adverse
Recreational users of PRoW at more distant elevated positions at Basset Down, such as LTRE56	High	Negligible	Minor	Adverse
Visitors to the permissive access to the Old Canal towpath	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Adverse
Visitors to the garden centre	Medium-Low	Negligible	Minor-Negligible	Neutral

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 This LVIA has assessed the potential landscape and visual implications of the proposed development of a small-scale solar farm at the former Studley Grange Landfill. This has included a baseline study of the existing Site and its surroundings, a study of the landscape and visual characteristics of the proposed development, and an assessment of the residual landscape and visual effects likely to be generated after mitigation has been considered.
- 6.1.2 Overall, there are no major or major/moderate landscape and visual effects predicted as a result of the proposed development.
- 6.1.3 The Site does not form part of any national landscape designation and is not considered to be a valued landscape for the purposes of NPPF, paragraph 187.
- 6.1.4 North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB) is located to the south of the Site at c. 1.8km away at its nearest point. Most of the designated area is not covered by the ZTV, with the exception of a small area on the elevated north-facing slopes around Basset Down. However, this is of a low vertical angle and is likely to have visibility further restricted by intervening vegetation (as was noted during fieldwork). As such, there are little to no changes predicted to the character and limited changes to outward views predicted from only localised parts of the designated area. For example, views were noted at Viewpoint 2 on a short section of PRow LTRE56, Basset Down, to the southeast of site.
- 6.1.5 The addition of the proposed solar farm would alter only a small part of the published character area 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland and would not introduce a new key characteristic or change in its overall composition / balance. The potential changes to aesthetic and perceptual aspects resulting from the proposed solar farm would be limited to the Site and its immediate surrounding area.
- 6.1.6 Recreational users of the footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site and the permissive access to the Old Canal towpath would, in certain sections, have clear views of the solar panels, although the overall effect for these receptors would be no more than moderate and adverse.

- 6.1.7 The visual effects for local residents and road users during operational phases would be no more than minor-negligible and adverse, due to the limited visibility of the development from intervening vegetation.
- 6.1.8 All adverse effects would be limited to the operational period, and there would be little to no perceptible change after decommissioning and restoration.
- 6.1.9 There are four existing small-scale solar projects which have been incorporated into the baseline appraisal. Each project is less than 20ha in size range between 800m and 2km away from the Site. They are wholly separate elements within an urban fringe context. The proposed addition of 4.6ha of solar panels at the Site would not result in a noticeably higher density or cluster that would transform the area into a different landscape character sub-type; it would be a small, standalone addition, located within a discrete parcel of land.
- 6.1.10 It is not anticipated that the proposed development would give rise to any unacceptable effects on the landscape character of the locality or on the visual amenity of nearby receptors.



LEGEND

— Area assessed for ZTV

- - - North Wessex Downs National Landscape boundary

Zones of Theoretical Visibility:

Greater than 3 degrees visible vertical angle

Between 1 and 3 degrees visible vertical angle

Between 0.25 and 1 degrees visible vertical angle

Viewpoints

1 Viewpoint

Heatons

Planning Environment Design

FELSTONE CONSULTING



SITE

Studley Grange

PROJECT

Solar

DRAWING TITLE

ZTV and Viewpoint Locations

DATE

Mar 2026

REFERENCE

LVIA-1



SCALE

1:10,000 @ A3

STATUS

FINAL

contact@felstoneconsulting.co.uk

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260312_HEA064-LVIA-1.dwg



Viewpoint 1a: Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm

Grid Reference: E:410986, N:181963, Direction Of View: South
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 700m from solar panels



Viewpoint 1b: Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm

Grid Reference: E:410986, N:181963, Direction Of View: West
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 700m from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025



TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 1
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-2

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Viewpoint 2a: PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, south east of site

Grid Reference: E:411280, N:179787, Direction Of View: Northeast
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 2.1km from solar panels



Viewpoint 2b: PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, south east of site

Grid Reference: E:411280, N:179787, Direction Of View: Northwest
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 2.1km from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025

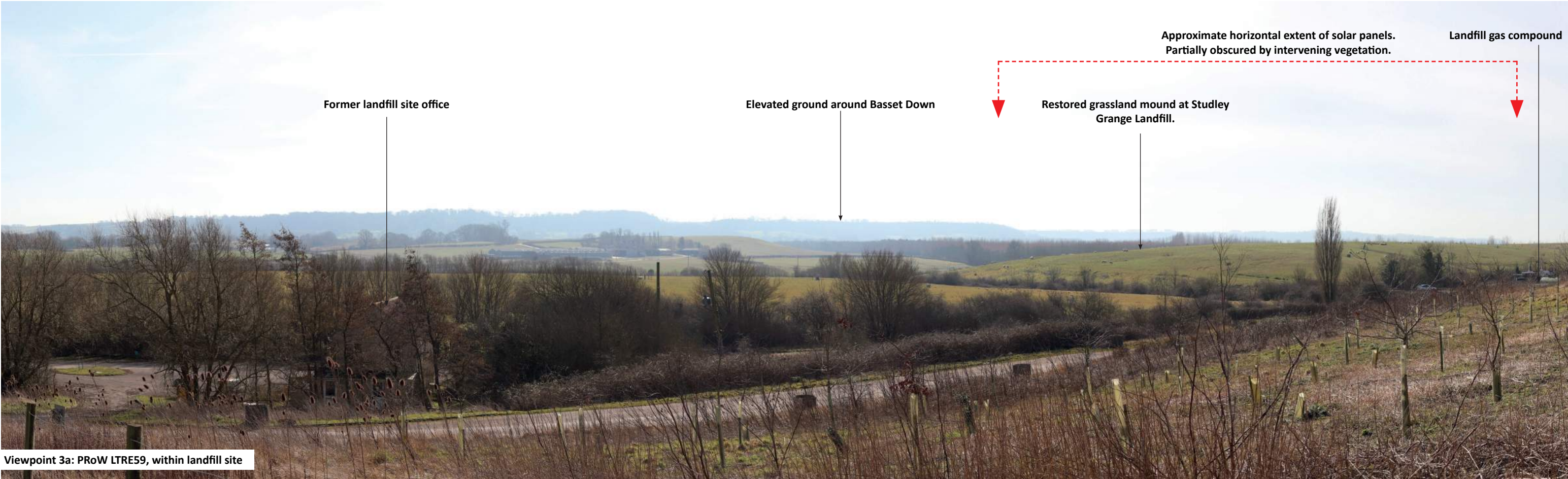


TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 2
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-3

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Viewpoint 3a: PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site

Grid Reference: E:410333, N:182154 Direction Of View: South
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 250m from solar panels



Viewpoint 3b: PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site

Grid Reference: E:410333, N:182154 Direction Of View: West
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 250m from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025



TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 3
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-4



Viewpoint 4a: PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm (Listed Building)

Grid Reference: E:410238, N:182004, Direction Of View: Southeast
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: On access road, adjacent to area of solar panels (<50m from nearest panel)



Viewpoint 4b: PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm (Listed Building)

Grid Reference: E:410238, N:182004, Direction Of View: Southwest
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: On access road, adjacent to area of solar panels (<50m from nearest panel)

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025



TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 4
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-5

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Grid Reference: E:409504, N:181480, Direction Of View: North
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 300m from solar panels



Grid Reference: E:409504, N:181480, Direction Of View: East
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 300m from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025



TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 5
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-6

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Viewpoint 6a: Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm

Grid Reference: E:410341, N:181770, Direction Of View: North
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 80m from solar panels



Viewpoint 6a: Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm

Grid Reference: E:410341, N:181770, Direction Of View: East
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 80m from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025



TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 6
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-7

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Viewpoint 7a: PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at north west corner

Grid Reference: E:409319, N:181984, Direction Of View: Northeast
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: 600m from solar panels



Viewpoint 7b: PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at north west corner

Grid Reference: E:409319, N:181984, Direction Of View: Southeast
Camera Elevation: 1.6m Above Ground Level. Distance From Nearest Edge of Proposed Development Site: c. 600m from solar panels

To be printed at A1 for assessment purposes
Make and Model of Camera: Canon 6D MKii
Make and Focal Length of Lens: Canon 50mm
Projection: Cylindrical

Enlargement factor: 96% AT A1
View at comfortable arm's length
Horizontal field of view 90°
Date of Photography: 6 March 2025

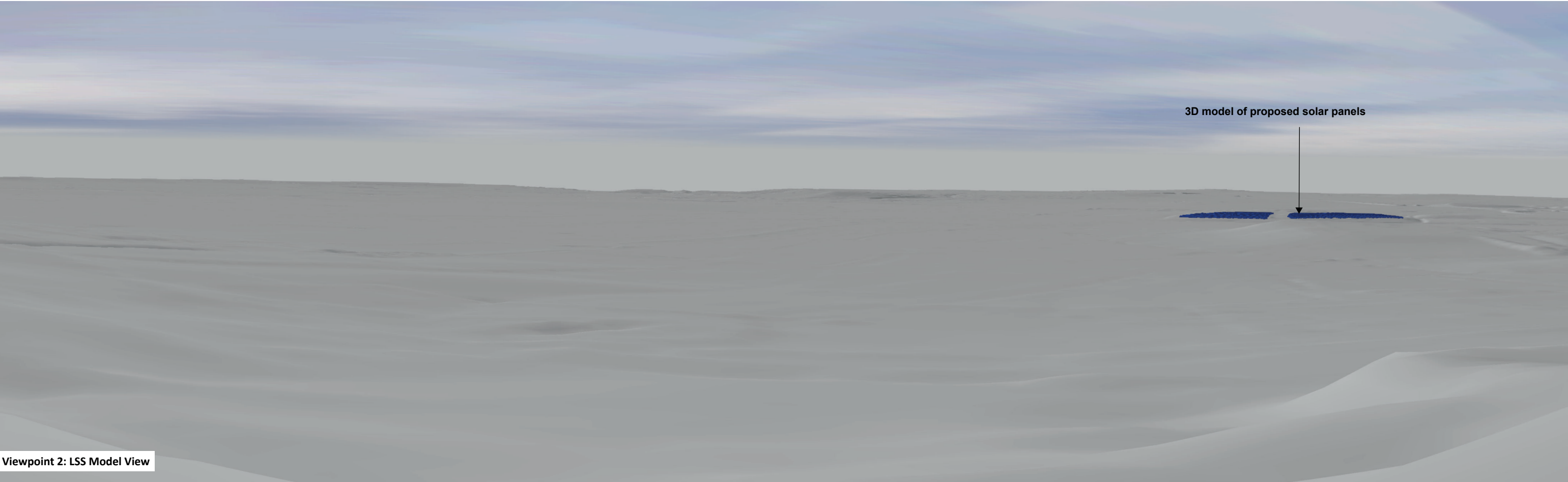


TYPE 1 PHOTOGRAPHY
Annotated Viewpoint Photography

SITE
STUDLEY GRANGE
PROJECT
Solar
DRAWING TITLE
Viewpoint 7
DATE
March 2026

Reference
LVIA-8

260324_HEA064_STU_LVIA_2_TO_8



Viewpoint 2: LSS Model View



Viewpoint 2: Photomontage of proposed Solar Farm

LVIA METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The methodology for this Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) follows the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition), published by Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (hereafter referred to as “GLVIA 3”).

In reading the following methodology, it is important to also refer to the detailed guidance and considerations set out in GLVIA 3.

As noted above, in response to a formal request for a screening opinion, it was confirmed by the Wiltshire Council (in October 2025) that an Environmental Statement would not be required, and the development does not constitute EIA development.

The determination of the level of effects follows the step-by-step process shown in Figure 3.5 of GLVIA3 and is based on the combination of the sensitivity of the receptor (susceptibility to the type of change proposed and value) and the magnitude of effect (size/scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility).

Landscape Effects

Paragraph 5.1 of GLVIA3 describes how landscape effects are concerned with *“how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character”*.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

In relation to sensitivity, Paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA states that *“Landscape receptors need to be assessed firstly in terms of their sensitivity, combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape.”*

The susceptibility to the type of change of each landscape receptor will be judged as either high, medium or low, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

Susceptibility to Type of Change Proposed	Considerations
High	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) has very limited or no ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

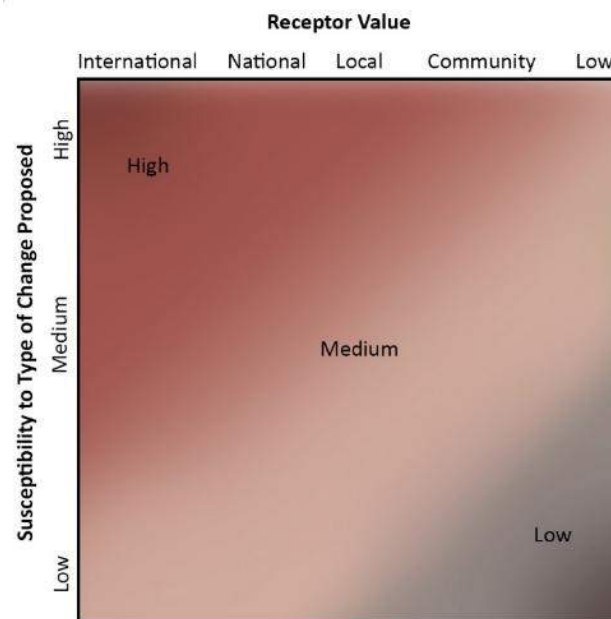
Medium	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) has some ability to accommodate the proposed development without negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.
Low	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) is generally able to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

The value of the landscape receptors will be judged as either international, national, local, community or as a low level, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below. This may reflect landscape designations and the level of importance which they signify, although there should not be an over-reliance on designations as the sole indicator of value. Other criteria such as those in Table 1 in the Landscape Institute's TGN-02/21 should also be considered (including landscape condition, natural heritage, cultural heritage, associative, distinctiveness, recreational, scenic, perceptual and spatial function).

Landscape Value	Considerations
International	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) are identified as being of international importance according to UNESCO criteria. This would include World Heritage Sites, candidate World Heritage Site. Consideration should be given to their settings especially where these contribute to the attributes of outstanding universal value for which such an area of landscape is valued.
National	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) is identified as being of national importance. This would include National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Scenic Areas (in Scotland) or equivalent areas. Gardens and designed landscapes included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as Grade I, II* or II or included in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland. Consideration should be given to their settings especially where these contribute to the special qualities for which the landscape is valued.
Local	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) is identified as having value, which are either recognised at the local

	authority level by a local designation or considered to be of equivalent value using other criteria.
Community	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) is not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level.
Low	The landscape receptor (including the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character) is not designated or has demonstrable physical attributes that elevates its value, which are in poor condition, or are degraded, or fundamentally altered by the presence of man-made structures (which are judged to be intrusive).

The overall sensitivity of each landscape receptor assessed will be judged by combining the considerations of susceptibility to the type of change proposed and value. The table below provides an indication of how these judgements might be combined and should be reviewed in conjunction with the more detailed guidance set out in GLVIA 3.



Magnitude of Landscape Effects

In relation to magnitude, Paragraph 5.48 of GLVIA states that *“Each effect on landscape receptors need to be assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility.”*

The size or scale of landscape effect will be recorded as large, medium, small, or negligible, in accordance with the considerations as set out in the table below. No change may also be recorded, where appropriate.

Size or Scale of Landscape Change	Considerations
Large	• large extent of loss of existing features or addition of new features, high proportion of the total extent that this represents and /or key contribution that the element makes to the character of the landscape; and/or • large degree of change to aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape as a result of removal of existing components or addition of new ones (e.g. removal of hedges may change a small-scale intimate landscape into a large-scale, open landscape) • direct and large degree of change (loss or addition) to key characteristics which are critical to distinctive character (e.g. development becomes a dominant feature in the landscape, changing the balance of landscape characteristics and/or would dominate important visual connections with other landscape types).
Medium	• medium extent of loss of existing features or addition of new features, medium proportion of the total extent that this represents and /or moderate contribution that the element makes to the character of the landscape; and/or • medium degree of change to aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape as a result of removal of existing components or addition of new ones (e.g. removal of hedges may change a small-scale intimate landscape into a medium-scale, more open landscape) • medium degree of change (loss or addition) to key characteristics which contribute to distinctive character (e.g. the proposed development would be prominent but would not change the overall balance or composition of the landscape; and/or key visual connections to other landscape types may be interrupted intermittently by the proposed development, but these connections would not be dominated by them.)
Small	• small extent of loss of existing features or addition of new features, small proportion of the total extent that this represents and /or limited contribution that the element makes to the character of the landscape; and/or • small degree of change to aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape as a result of removal of existing components or addition of new ones (e.g. removal of hedges may change a small-scale intimate landscape into a small-scale, more open landscape)

	• little to no change (loss or addition) to key characteristics which contribute to distinctive character (e.g. there would be no introduction of new elements into the landscape, and the proposed development would not significantly change the composition/balance of the landscape.)
Negligible	There would be a negligible level or no perceptible change to the extent of existing landscape elements, aesthetic and perceptual aspects, key characteristics or landscape character (e.g. the proposed development would be a small element and/or would be a considerable distance from the landscape receptor/ the proposed development would cause little to no change to the landscape).

The geographical extent of landscape change will be recorded at various scales, including large area, medium area, small area or negligible area and may be expressed as how it relates to the Site level, the Site and immediate setting, a landscape type or character area, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

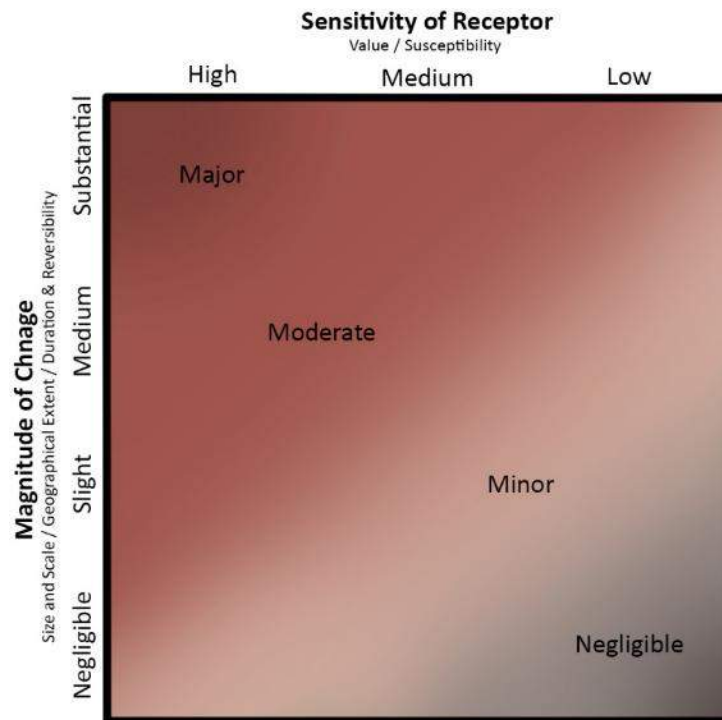
Geographical Extent of Landscape Change	Considerations
Large Area	The change may affect a large area and/or the majority of the landscape receptor under consideration (e.g. may influence several landscape types or character areas.)
Medium Area	The change may affect a medium area and/or approximately half of the landscape receptor under consideration (e.g. influence may extend beyond the Site and its immediate setting and include a landscape type or character area).
Small Area	The change may affect a small area and/or extent of the landscape receptor under consideration (e.g. influence may be restricted to the Site and its immediate setting only).
Negligible Area	The change will affect only a limited area and/or negligible extent of the landscape receptor under consideration (e.g. may be limited to the Site level only).

The duration and reversibility of landscape effect will be recorded at various scales, from short-term, medium-term, long-term and permanent, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

Levels of Landscape Effects

The separate judgements about sensitivity of landscape receptors and the magnitude of landscape effects will then be combined to allow a final judgement to be made about the level of each effect.

The table below provides an indication of how these judgements might be combined and should be reviewed in conjunction with the more detailed guidance set out in GLVIA 3.



A summary of considerations for each category of landscape effect is set out in the table below.

Significance of Landscape Effects	Considerations
Major	Large size or scale of change, over a large area, on a long-term or permanent basis, on landscape elements, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and/or distinctive character area that have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are nationally or internationally valued.
Moderate	Medium size or scale of change, over a medium area, on a medium to long-term basis, on landscape elements, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and/or distinctive character area that have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are of national or local value.
Minor	Small size or scale of change, over a small area, of short duration, on landscape elements, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and/or distinctive character areas

	that have a low susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are of local or community value.
Negligible	Negligible size or scale of change over a negligible area and of short duration, on landscape elements, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and/or distinctive character areas that have a negligible susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are of community or low value.

Visual Effects

Paragraph 6.1 of GLVIA3 describes how visual effects are concerned with *“assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements”*.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

In relation to sensitivity, Paragraph 6.31 of GLVIA states that *“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.”*

The susceptibility to the type of change of each visual receptor will be judged as either high, medium or low, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

Susceptibility to Type of Change Proposed	Considerations
High	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) has very limited or no ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for their occupation or activity. For example, residents at home, people engaged in outdoor recreation where their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views, visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience, communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area and travellers along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high)
Medium	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) has some ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for their occupation or activity. For example, people engaged in outdoor recreation where interest is focused on activity rather than primarily on views, visitors to heritage assets or other attractions where surroundings are not important to the experience and travellers on road, rail

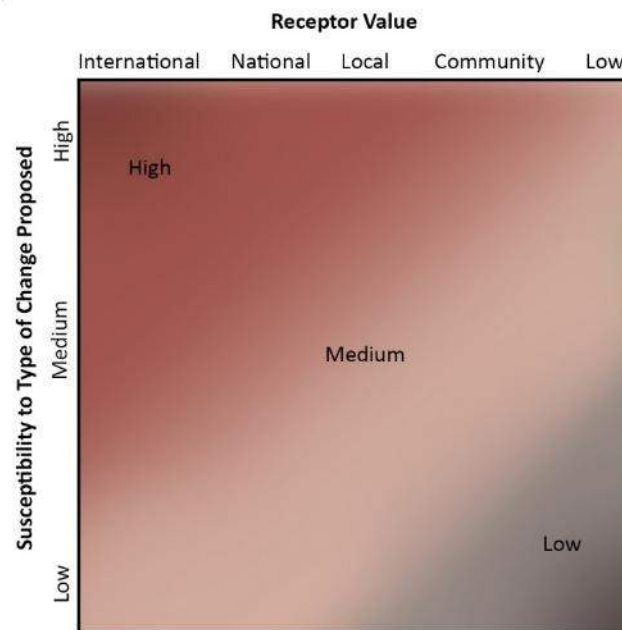
	or other transport routes where the attention of drivers and passengers may be focused on the landscape and on particular views.
Low	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) has the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences for their occupation or activity. For example, people engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views, people at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, and where the setting is not important to quality of working life and travellers, where the view is incidental to the journey.

The value attached to certain views and visual receptors will be judged as either international, national, local, community or as a low level, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below. This may reflect recognition through landscape designations or heritage assets or indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, through appearance in guidebooks, tourist maps or provision of facilities.

Value	Considerations
International	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) is at a viewpoint or experiencing a view which is identified as being of international importance according to UNESCO criteria. This would include World Heritage Sites, candidate World Heritage Site. Consideration should be given to their settings especially where these contribute to the attributes of outstanding universal value for which such an area of landscape is valued.
National	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) is at a viewpoint or experiencing a view which is identified as being of national importance. This would include National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Scenic Areas (in Scotland) or equivalent areas. Gardens and designed landscapes included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as Grade I, II* or II or included in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland. Consideration should be given to their settings especially where these contribute to the special qualities for which the landscape is valued. This may include popular tourist or visitor attractions, where the view forms a recognised part of the visitor experience and with provision of facilities for enjoyment. There may also be other cultural associations.
Local	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) is at a viewpoint or experiencing a view which is identified as being of value, either recognised at the local authority level by a local designation or considered to be of equivalent value using other criteria. This would include Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Great Landscape Value, etc. This may include local visitor attractions, where the view forms a recognised part of the

	visitor experience and with provision of facilities for enjoyment, such as seating or interpretation boards. There may also be other known cultural associations.
Community	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) is at a viewpoint or experiencing a view which is not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. This may include provision of facilities for enjoyment, such as seating or interpretation boards.
Low	The visual receptor (i.e. the person or group of people likely to be affected) is at a viewpoint or experiencing a view which is not designated or linked to a popular tourist attraction, has no demonstrable physical attributes that elevates its value and is in poor condition, or are degraded, or fundamentally altered by the presence of man-made structures (which are judged to be intrusive). No formal planning status or known cultural associations.

The overall sensitivity of each visual receptor assessed will be judged by combining the considerations of susceptibility to the type of change proposed and value. The table below provides an indication of how these judgements might be combined and should be reviewed in conjunction with the more detailed guidance set out in GLVIA 3.



Magnitude of Visual Effects

In relation to magnitude, Paragraph 6.38 of GLVIA states that *“Each of the visual effects identified needs to be evaluated in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.”*

The size or scale of visual effect will be recorded as large, medium, small, negligible, in accordance with the considerations as set out in the table below. No change may also be recorded, where appropriate.

Size or Scale of Visual Change	Considerations
Large	• large scale of change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of important features and complete changes in composition, including a high proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development • large degree of contrast of any new features or changes in the landscape (low degree of integration, non-characteristic or discordant) with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture • full view of the proposed development (rather than partial or glimpsed) and therefore a dominant feature
Medium	• medium scale of change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features and clearly noticeable changes in composition, including a moderate proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development • medium degree of contrast of any new features or changes in the landscape (some degree of integration) with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture • partial / intermittent view of the proposed development (rather than full or glimpsed) and therefore a noticeable feature
Small	• small scale of change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features and perceptible changes in composition, including a small proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development • small but perceptible degree of contrast of any new features or changes in the landscape (moderate degree of integration, involving features already present in the view) with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture

	• partial / restricted view of the proposed development (rather than full or glimpsed) and therefore a perceptible feature
Negligible	• negligible scale of change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features and barely perceptible changes in composition, including a very limited proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development • negligible degree of contrast of any new features or changes in the landscape (high degree of integration, involving features already present in the view) with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture • glimpsed view of the proposed development and therefore a barely perceptible feature

The geographical extent of visual change will be recorded at various scales including, large area, medium area, small area or negligible area and may be expressed in terms of the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, distance away and extent of the area over which changes would be visible, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

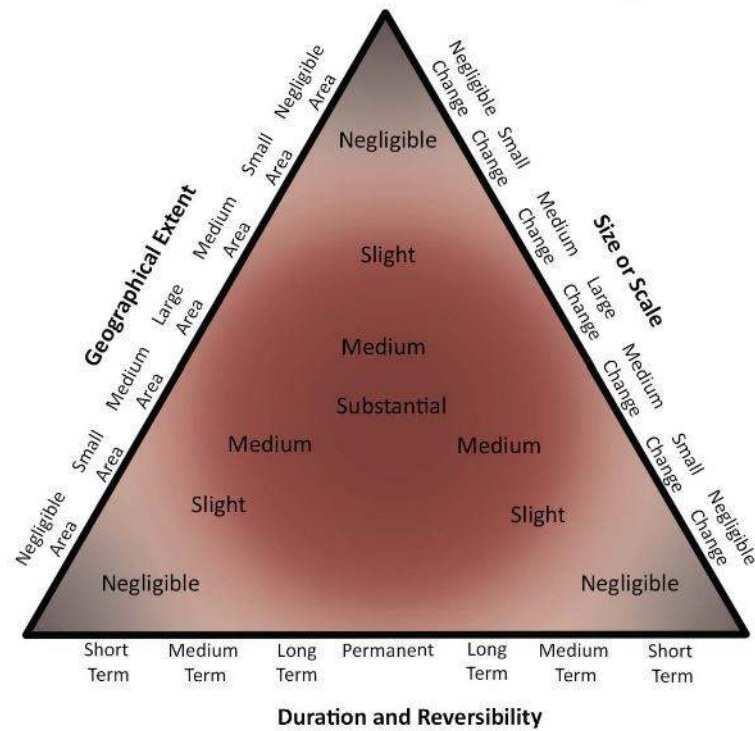
Geographical Extent of Visual Change	Considerations
Large Area	• large (wide) angle of view in relation to main activity of the receptor • short / close distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development (e.g. development would occupy the foreground) • large extent of the area over which the changes would be visible (the proposed development would be seen from many locations or from the majority, or a large proportion, of a linear route and/or by large numbers of viewers)
Medium Area	• medium (moderate) angle of view in relation to main activity of the receptor • medium distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development (e.g. development would occupy the middle-ground) • medium extent of the area over which the changes would be visible (the proposed development would be seen from several locations or from a moderate proportion, of a linear route and/or by moderate numbers of viewers)
Small Area	• small (narrow) angle of view in relation to main activity of the receptor

	• long distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development (e.g. development would occupy part of the background) • small extent of the area over which the changes would be visible (the proposed development would be seen from few locations or from limited proportion of a linear route and/or by small numbers of viewers)
Negligible Area	• negligible (very narrow) angle of view in relation to main activity of the receptor • considerable distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development (e.g. development would occupy part of the distant background) • negligible extent of the area over which the changes would be visible (the proposed development would be seen from few locations or from very limited proportion of a linear route and/or by very small numbers of viewers)

The duration and reversibility of visual effect will be recorded at various scales, from short-term, medium-term, long-term and permanent, in accordance with the considerations set out in the table below.

Duration and Reversibility of Visual Effects	Considerations
Permanent	Change that will last for over 25 years and is deemed permanent or irreversible. This may include development which is time limited, for 40 years but is reversible.
Long term	Change that will endure for between 10 and 25. This may include change which is deemed reversible.
Medium term	Change that will last from 5 to 10 years. This may include change which is deemed reversible.
Short term	Change that will last from 0 to 5 years. This may include change which is deemed reversible.

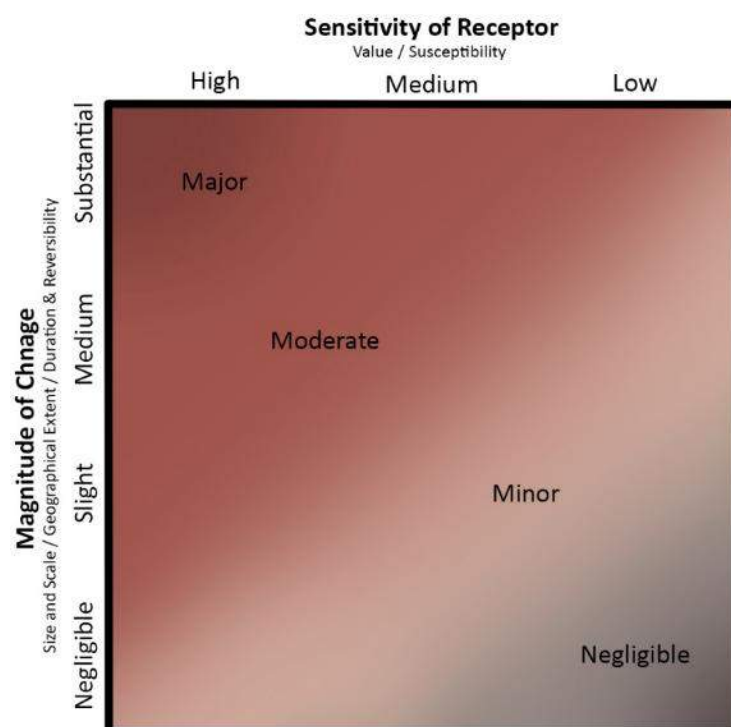
The overall magnitude of effect on visual receptor will be judged by combining the considerations of size or scale, geographical extent of the area influenced and duration and reversibility. The table below provides an indication of how these judgements might be combined and should be reviewed in conjunction with the more detailed guidance set out in GLVIA 3.



Level of Visual Effects

The separate judgements about sensitivity of visual receptors and the magnitude of visual effects will then be combined to allow a final judgement to be made about the level of each effect.

The table below provides an indication of how these judgements might be combined and should be reviewed in conjunction with the more detailed guidance set out in GLVIA 3.



A summary of considerations for each category of effect is set out in the table below.

Significance of Visual Effects	Considerations
Major	Large size or scale of change to views (introducing new, non-characteristic, discordant or intrusive elements), over a large geographical extent, on a long-term or permanent basis, on people who have a high susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are at recognised or important viewpoints (or scenic routes) which are nationally or internationally valued.
Moderate	Medium size or scale of change to views (introducing new elements which are similar to existing), over a medium geographical extent, on a medium to long-term basis, on people who have a medium susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are at recognised viewpoints of national or local value.
Minor	Small size or scale of change to views (involving features already present in views), over a small geographical extent, of short duration, on people who have a low susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are at viewpoints which are of local or community value.
Negligible	Negligible size or scale of change to views, over a negligible geographical extent and of short duration, on people who have a negligible susceptibility to the type of change proposed and are at viewpoints which are of community or low value.

LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICIES

Landscape Planning Policies

This appendix summarises the following planning documents which are considered relevant to the landscape and visual assessment:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance; and
- Wiltshire Core Strategy (2015).

National Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Policy guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF was accompanied by a 'Technical Guidance' document which provided guidance relating to Flood Risk (formerly contained in PPS25) and minerals (formerly contained in MPS1 and MPS2). This has since been revoked and replaced by the internet-based Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and there is reference to recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development.

Strategic policies should make sufficient provision for *"conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure"* (para 20). Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments *"function well and add to the overall quality of the area.....are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping...are sympathetic to local character and history..."* (para 135).

NPPF also makes reference to *"protecting and enhancing valued landscapes..."* (para 187) and *"recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services"*. The NPPF requires plans to *"plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries"*.

NPPF requires consideration of cumulative landscape and visual impacts for renewable projects (para 160), and *"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues"* (para 189).

Wiltshire Core Strategy

In Wiltshire, the current Local Plan is the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS), adopted in 2015. This incorporates Saved Policies from former District Local Plans that were not replaced by the WCS, and will continue to be saved until replaced as part of the Local Plan Review process. It also includes the following plans and policies: Chippenham Site Allocations Plan; Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan; and Minerals and Waste Policies.

There are several landscape-related policies which are of relevance to the assessment and should be read in conjunction with the planning statement which accompanies the application.

Core Policy 51 Landscape sets out the following requirements:

“Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape character and must not have a harmful impact upon landscape character, while any negative impacts must be mitigated as far as possible through sensitive design and landscape measures. Proposals should be informed by and sympathetic to the distinctive character areas identified in the relevant Landscape Character Assessment(s) and any other relevant assessments and studies. In particular, proposals will need to demonstrate that the following aspects of landscape character have been conserved and where possible enhanced through sensitive design, landscape mitigation and enhancement measures:

- i. The locally distinctive pattern and species composition of natural features such as trees, hedgerows, woodland, field boundaries, watercourses and waterbodies.*
- ii. The locally distinctive character of settlements and their landscape settings.*
- iii. The separate identity of settlements and the transition between man-made and natural landscapes at the urban fringe.*
- iv. Visually sensitive skylines, soils, geological and topographical features.*
- v. Landscape features of cultural, historic and heritage value.*
- vi. Important views and visual amenity.*
- vii. Tranquillity and the need to protect against intrusion from light pollution, noise, and motion.*
- viii. Landscape functions including places to live, work, relax and recreate.*
- ix. Special qualities of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and the New Forest National Park, where great weight will be afforded to conserving and enhancing landscapes and scenic beauty.*

Proposals for development within or affecting the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), New Forest National Park (NFNP) or Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site (WHS) shall demonstrate that they have taken account of the objectives, policies and actions set out in the relevant Management Plans for these areas. Proposals for development outside of an AONB that is sufficiently prominent (in terms of its siting or scale) to have an impact on the area’s special qualities (as set out in the relevant management plan), must also demonstrate that it would not adversely affect its setting.”

Core Policy 52 Green infrastructure sets out the following requirements:

“Development shall make provision for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire’s green infrastructure network, and shall ensure that suitable links to the network are provided and maintained.

Where development is permitted developers will be required to:

- i. retain and enhance existing on site green infrastructure*

ii. make provision for accessible open spaces in accordance with the requirements of the adopted Wiltshire Open Space Standards

iii. put measures in place to ensure appropriate long-term management of any green infrastructure directly related to the development

iv. provide appropriate contributions towards the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

v. identify and provide opportunities to enhance and improve linkages between the natural and historic landscapes of Wiltshire.

If damage or loss of existing green infrastructure is unavoidable, the creation of new or replacement green infrastructure equal to or above its current value and quality, that maintains the integrity and functionality of the green infrastructure network, will be required.

Proposals for major development¹⁰⁷ should be accompanied by an audit of the existing green infrastructure within and around the site and a statement demonstrating how this will be retained and enhanced through the development process. Development will not adversely affect the integrity and value of the green infrastructure network, prejudice the delivery of the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, or provide inadequate green infrastructure mitigation.

Green infrastructure projects and initiatives that contribute to the delivery of a high quality and highly valued multi-functional green infrastructure network in accordance with the Wiltshire Green Infrastructure Strategy will be supported. Contributions (financial or other) to support such projects and initiatives will be required where appropriate from developers.”

LANDSCAPE RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT TABLES

This appendix is divided into two parts:

- Firstly, additional detail relating to the landscape baseline research, including a summary of the relevant published assessments and additional elements and features, aesthetic and perceptual aspects from desk-based analysis and fieldwork; and
- Secondly, the impact assessment tables for the identified landscape receptors (elements and features, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and overall character).

The study area includes the Site and its surroundings out to 1.5km, focusing on those areas where there would be potential visibility of the proposals, changes to views and/or changes to landscape character.

Refer to zone of theoretical visibility ('ZTV') maps as set out in the Visual Research and Assessment Appendix.

Landscape-Related Designations

Table APP3/1 below summarises the landscape-related designations from MAGIC website (Multi-Agency Geographic Information), as accessed in January 2025.

Landscape Baseline Table APP3/1 – Summary of Landscape-Related Designations from MAGIC

	Location in Relation to Site
Land-Based Designations Statutory	• National Landscape – none in the vicinity, the nearest (North Wessex Downs AONB) is c. 1.8km to the south. • National Park – none within the vicinity, the nearest (New Forest National Park) is over 60km to the south. • SSSI's: - Goldborough Farm Meadows c. 1.2km to the southwest. - Wooton Bassett Mud Spring c. 1.5km to the west.
Land-Based Designations Historic Statutory	• Scheduled Monuments - Medieval rural Settlement (Ref 1018388) c. 800m to the west • Listed Buildings - Studley Grange Farmhouse (Ref 1022664, Grade II) within the Site. - Bridge Near Swindon Road (MLN18137) (Ref 1409188, Grade II) c. 100m to the west. - Upper Studley Farm (Ref 1022662, grade II) c. 250m to the north. - Stable Range Immediately Northwest of Great Chaddington Farm (Ref 1363675, grade II) c. 400m to the south. - Great Chadderton Farm (Ref 1199821, grade II) c. 430m to the south. - Can Court Farmhouse (Ref 1022663, grade II) c. 500m to the south. - Milestone Near Spittleborough Farm, at NGR SU095828 (Ref 1022661, grade II) c. 815 m to the north. - Lower Woodshaw Farm (Ref 1022691, grade II) c. 975m to the northwest. - Lantern Cottage (Ref 1023439, grade II) c. 2.3 km to the east. - Milestone at NGR SU 080831 (Ref 1283221, grade II) c. 1.7km to the northwest.

	- Noremarsh House & Gate Piers (Ref 1022710, grade II) c. 1.9km to the northwest. - Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse (Ref 1184322, grade II) c. 1.7km to the northwest. - Wincanton Transport Depot (Ref 1300187, grade II) c.2.2km to the west. - Milestone north of Wootton Fields Farm (Ref 1183918, grade II) c. 2.1km to the southwest. - Wootton Fields Farm (Ref 1363655, grade II) c. 2.1km to the southwest. - Barn on roadside southwest of Wootton Fields Farm (Ref 1022692, grade II) c. 2.1km to the southwest. - Little Cotmarsh Farmhouse (Ref 1022650, grade II) c. 1.9km to the south. - Great Cotmarsh Farmhouse (Ref 1363670, grade II) c.1.72km to the south. - Bincknoll Farm (Ref 1022645, grade II) c. 1.8km to the south - Roman Walk Farmhouse (Ref 1022713, grade II) c. 2km to the south. - Salthrop House (Ref 1299568, grade II) c. 2.1km to the southwest.
Land-Based Designations Historic Non-Statutory	• Nearest Registered Parks and Gardens: - Lydiard Park (Ref 1001238, grade II) at 1.8km to the north.
Land-Based Designations Non-Statutory	• The site falls within the Great Western Community Forest.
Habitats Living England Habitat Map	• Defines the Site as mainly acid, calcareous, neutral grassland.
Habitats Woodland	• Nearest Ancient Woodland - Quidhampton Wood (incl. Basset Down Wood) at 1.9km to the south.

National Character Areas

The Site lies within the northern part of National Character Area (NCA) 108 - Upper Thames Clay Vales, which has the following key characteristics:

- *'Low-lying clay-based flood plains encircle the Midvale Ridge. Superficial deposits, including alluvium and gravel terraces, spread over 40 per cent of the area, creating gently undulating topography. The Upper Jurassic and Cretaceous clays and the wet valley bottoms give rise to enclosed pasture, contrasting with the more settled, open, arable lands of the gravel.'*
- *The large river system of the River Thames drains the Vales, their headwaters flowing off the Cotswolds to the north or emitting from the springline along the Chilterns and Downs escarpments. Where mineral extraction takes place, pits naturally fill with water, and limestone*

gravels from the Cotswolds give rise to marl formation. There are a high number of nationally important geological sites.

- Woodland cover is low at only about 3 per cent, but hedges, hedgerow trees and field trees are frequent. Watercourses are often marked by lines of willows and, particularly in the Aylesbury Vale and Cotswold Water Park, native black poplar.*
- Wet ground conditions and heavy clay soils discourage cultivation in many places, giving rise to livestock farming. Fields are regular and hedged, except near the Cotswolds, where there can be stone walls. The Vale of White Horse is made distinct by large arable fields, and there are relict orchards on the Greensand.*
- In the river corridors, grazed pasture dominates, with limited areas of historic wetland habitats including wet woodland, fen, reedbed and flood meadow. There are two areas of flood meadow designated for their importance at a European level as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). There are also rich and extensive ditch systems.*
- Gravel extraction has left a legacy of geological exposures, numerous waterbodies and, at the Cotswold Water Park, a nationally important complex of marl lakes.*
- Wetland habitat attracts regionally important numbers of birds including snipe, redshank, curlew and lapwing and wintering wildfowl such as pochard. Snake's head fritillary thrives in the internationally important meadows. The area also supports typical farmland wildlife such as brown hare, bats, barn owl, tree sparrow and skylark.*
- Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site, including its Capability Brown landscape, is the finest of many examples of historic parkland in this NCA. There are many heritage features, including nationally important survivals of ridge and furrow, Roman roads, deserted medieval villages and historic bridges.*
- Brick and tile from local clays, timber and thatch are traditional building materials across the area, combined with limestone near the Cotswolds and occasional clunch and wickert near the Chilterns.*
- Settlement is sparse on flood plains, apart from at river crossings, where there can be large towns, such as Abingdon. Aylesbury and Bicester are major urban centres, and the outer suburbs of Oxford and Swindon spread into this NCA. Market towns and villages are strung along the springlines of the Chilterns and Downs. Major routes include mainline rail, canals, a network of roads including the M40 and M4 and The Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails.*

Local Landscape Character Assessments

The Site and immediate surrounding area are located within "11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland" in the Wiltshire Landscape Character Assessment (2005).

The key characteristics for Rolling Clay Lowland include the following:

- Gently rolling lowland based on Clay.*
- Mixed arable and pastoral land use with pasture concentrated around the water courses.*
- Variable field pattern with network of full hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees.*
- Presence of streams marked by lines of willows and crossed by modest bridges.*
- Woodland blocks including some ancient woodland and wet woodland of high ecological value plus scattered mature trees.*
- Small number of meadows of neutral and unimproved grassland.*

- *Scattered settlement of towns, small villages and farmsteads, many using vernacular materials of brick, half timber, stone, tiles and thatch.*
- *Roads largely minor and rural with a few trunk roads and sections of motorway.*
- *Views vary from semi-enclosed by intact hedgerows, riparian vegetation and woodland blocks to more open with views to the rising scarps of the chalk uplands.*
- *A largely peaceful, rural landscape.*

The Rolling Clay Lowland character area is divided into three separate areas and the proposed site falls within 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland, which extends for c.840m to the west, c. 1.8km to the north, over c. 2.5km to the east and c. 2.5km to the south.

Landscape Elements and Features

Figure APP3/1 below is a screenshot from Excerpt from National Library of Scotland Side-by-Side Mapping, OS 1945-65 and Contemporary Aerial Photography, originally accessed in November 2025. This illustrates the settled urban fringe context of the Site, with the addition of transport infrastructure, commercial development and solar farm to the north of the railway, as well as the garden centre to the east. Land to the south is more rural, with open fields and woodland.

Figure APP/2 is a screenshot from Wiltshire Council's definitive public rights of way map showing footpaths LTRE1 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site.

Figure APP/3 is a screenshot from CPRE's England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies map, where the night lights identified are in the Brighter categories.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Aspects

Table APP3/2 below summarises the aesthetic and perceptual aspects within the Site, its local setting and wider study area, using fieldwork, reference to OS Maps, from Google Earth Pro / Street View Side-by-side mapping, accessed in September 2025. The aesthetic and perceptual qualities are divided into the main categories identified within recognised guidance¹.

Landscape Baseline Table APP3/2– Aesthetic and Perceptual Aspects

Generic Aesthetic Attributes	Description of Attributes for Site and Study Area
Scale	• The Site – medium scale former landfill site, restored to grassland fields and compound, connected to the Site access. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – medium to large scale undulating area of settled urban fringe, with farmland and woodland, with transport corridors and commercial development (e.g. <i>"The arable fields tend to be large scale and rectangular with a mix of medium sized irregular fields and small regular strips to the south... Around Swindon large scale buildings on the outskirts dominate immediate views"</i> 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland). There are several existing small-scale solar projects in the wider area.

1 Landscape Character Assessment – Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (2002) – Paragraph 5.12

Enclosure	• The Site – moderate enclosure from vegetation around the Site boundaries and topography, with the former landfill mounds rising to a broad crest, offering some longer distance views, set amongst a typically undulating area. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – moderate enclosure (e.g. <i>“Views vary from semi-enclosed by intact hedgerows, riparian vegetation and woodland blocks to more open with views to the rising scarps of the chalk uplands”</i> Rolling Clay Lowland).
Diversity	• The Site – moderately complex appearance of the restored grassland, with the landfill infrastructure (monitoring well heads) and around the compound and Site access. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – moderate diversity from the mix of farmland and woodland, with transport corridors and commercial development. There are several existing small-scale solar projects in the wider area.
Texture	• The Site – smooth grassland established across most of the Site, with rougher edges of vegetation to the boundaries and around the compound and Site access. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – rough mix of farmland and woodland, with transport corridors and commercial development.
Form and Line	• The Site – broad, gently sloping crest of the restored landfill mounds, with straight line perimeters and embankments. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area- undulating landform, with linear field boundaries to farmland and woodland, with linear transport corridors and vertical, rectilinear commercial development.
Colour	• The Site – muted green and brown appearance of the grassland and other vegetation. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area- muted tones of agricultural land and darker tree blocks. Vehicles along the road corridors also bright in colour.
Balance	• The Site – relatively balanced appearance of the restored landfill mounds and smaller compound by the Site access is a separate element. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – balanced patchwork of farmland and woodland to the south, interrupted by transport corridors and commercial development to the north and east
Movement	• The Site – the Site is relatively still, being restored grassland. Movement is limited to sheep and occasional maintenance vehicles. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area – movement of vehicles road network can be busy at certain times and locations / routes and junctions, which reduces the sense of tranquillity. The agricultural and woodland areas are generally still, albeit with movement from occasional machinery carrying out maintenance.
Pattern	• The Site – organised field pattern on restored landfill mounds, with discrete compound by the Site access. • Local Setting and Wider Study Area –patchwork pattern of farmland and woodland, interrupted by transport infrastructure and commercial development. (e.g. <i>“Variable field pattern with network of full hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees - Rolling Clay Lowland</i>).

Overall Landscape Character

The analysis of existing landscape attributes has concluded that the Site, its local setting and wider study area is generally consistent with the key characteristics in the aforementioned published assessments and in particular “11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland”.

The overall character of the existing Site is of a series of broad grassland mounds, with some vegetation to the boundaries and a small compound, connected to the Site access. The wider area is undulating settled urban fringe, with farmland and woodland blocks, transport infrastructure and commercial development. There are several existing, relatively small-scale solar projects in the wider area.

Landscape Value

Table APP3-3 sets out an analysis of factors influencing landscape value from Table 1 in the Landscape Institute’s TGN-02/21, as relevant to the Site and its immediate context.

Table 3-3 Analysis of Factors Influencing Landscape Value

Landscape Factor	Description
Natural Heritage	Little to no ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contributes positively to the landscape at the Site location.
Cultural Heritage	Little to no historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape of the Site. The Site area has undergone change from past mineral extraction and landfill. Studley Grange Farm Listed Building is c. 30m to the north of the Site, although the landscape of the Site does not contribute to the enjoyment of this asset.
Landscape Condition	The Site is currently in a moderate condition, as restored grassland on the former landfill. The Site boundaries include mixed native vegetation, which provides landscape structure. The landscape condition of the wider study area is typically of a more variable settled, urban fringe character. There are areas of farmland and woodland to the south, as well as transport infrastructure and commercial development to the north and east.
Associations	No evidence of the landscape of the Site or its local setting being connected with notable people, events or the arts has been identified as part of this assessment.
Distinctiveness	The Site and local area are identified as “11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland”. The Site itself includes former landfill mounds, which have been restored in accordance with the approved restoration scheme, with limited distinctiveness, being a broad, gently sloping profile and returned to grassland.
Recreational	The Site and study area offers recreational opportunities along the public rights of way, where experience of landscape is important for users.
Perceptual (Scenic)	The settled urban fringe landscape appeals to the visual sense to varying degrees, due to the farmland and woodland to the south, but less so to the north and east with transport infrastructure and commercial development. There are some long-distance views from elevated positions and footpaths across farmland.
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	The perceptual value of the local landscape is influenced by the settled urban fringe character. There is no sense of wildness. Tranquillity is interrupted by vehicle movements on the road corridors. The night lights identified by CPRE are in the Brighter categories (see Figure APP3/3 below).

Functional	The Site and its local setting do not provide a particular or recognised spatial function. The landscape of the study has areas of woodland, which contributes to healthy functioning in terms of soils and carbon sinks.
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Landscape Impact Assessment Tables

This section sets out the landscape impact assessment tables for each of the landscape receptors identified (elements and features on the Site, aesthetic and perceptual aspects and overall character).

Table APP3-4 describes the landscape sensitivity, based on the susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed and the value attached to the receptor.

Table APP3-5 describes the magnitude of landscape change, based on the size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility, during operational phases.

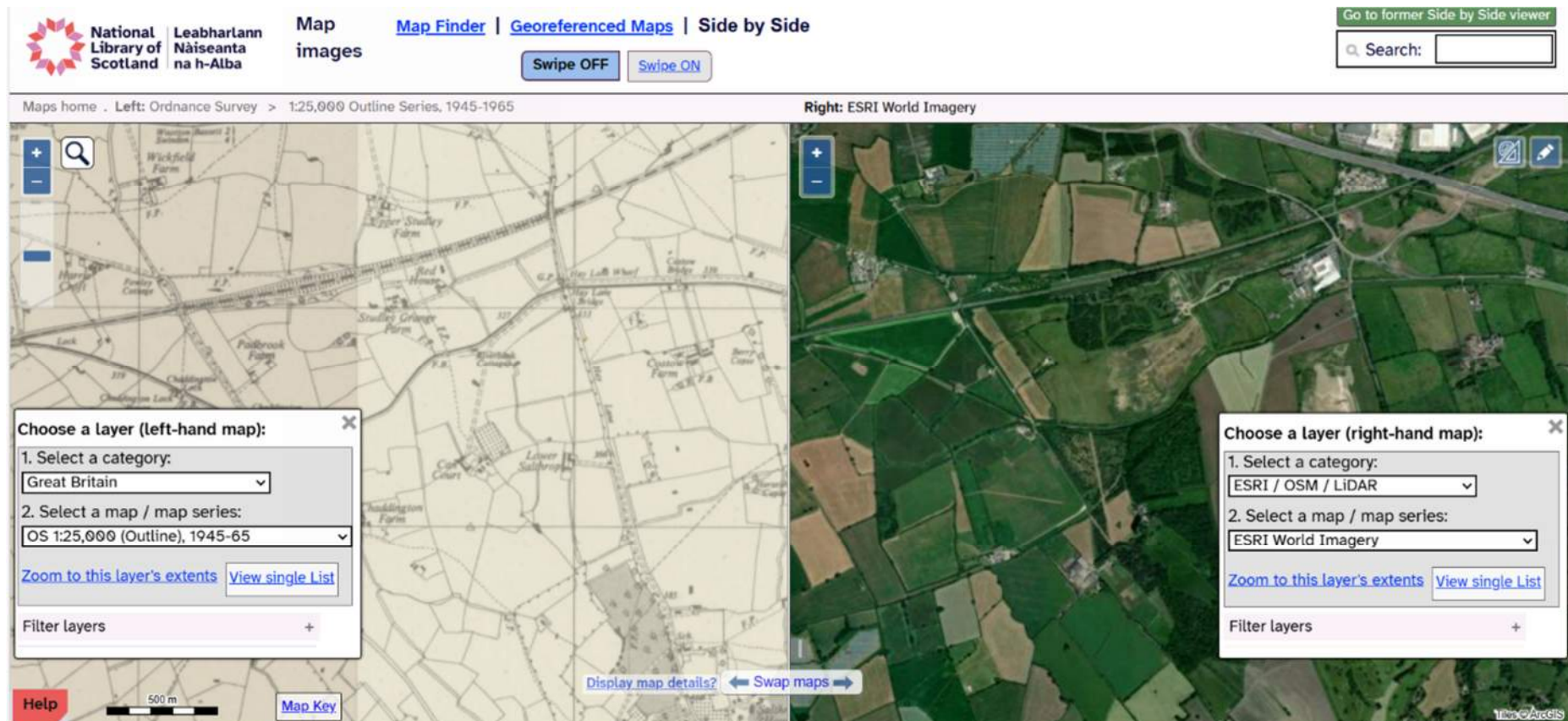


Figure 1 Excerpt from National Library of Scotland Side-by-Side Mapping (OS 1945-65 and Contemporary Aerial Photography)

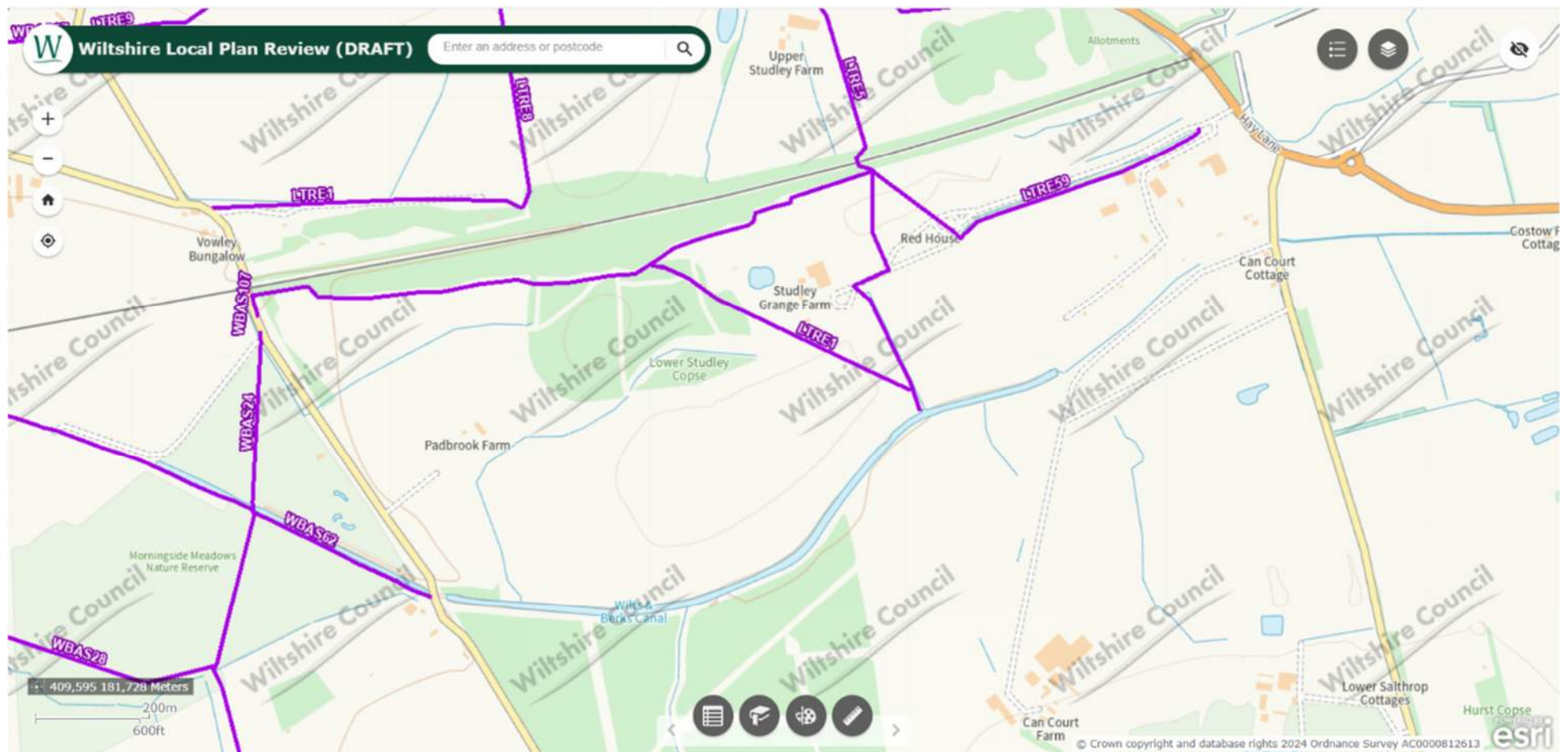


Figure 2 Excerpt from Wiltshire Local Plan Review (DRAFT) Public Rights of Way Map

England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies



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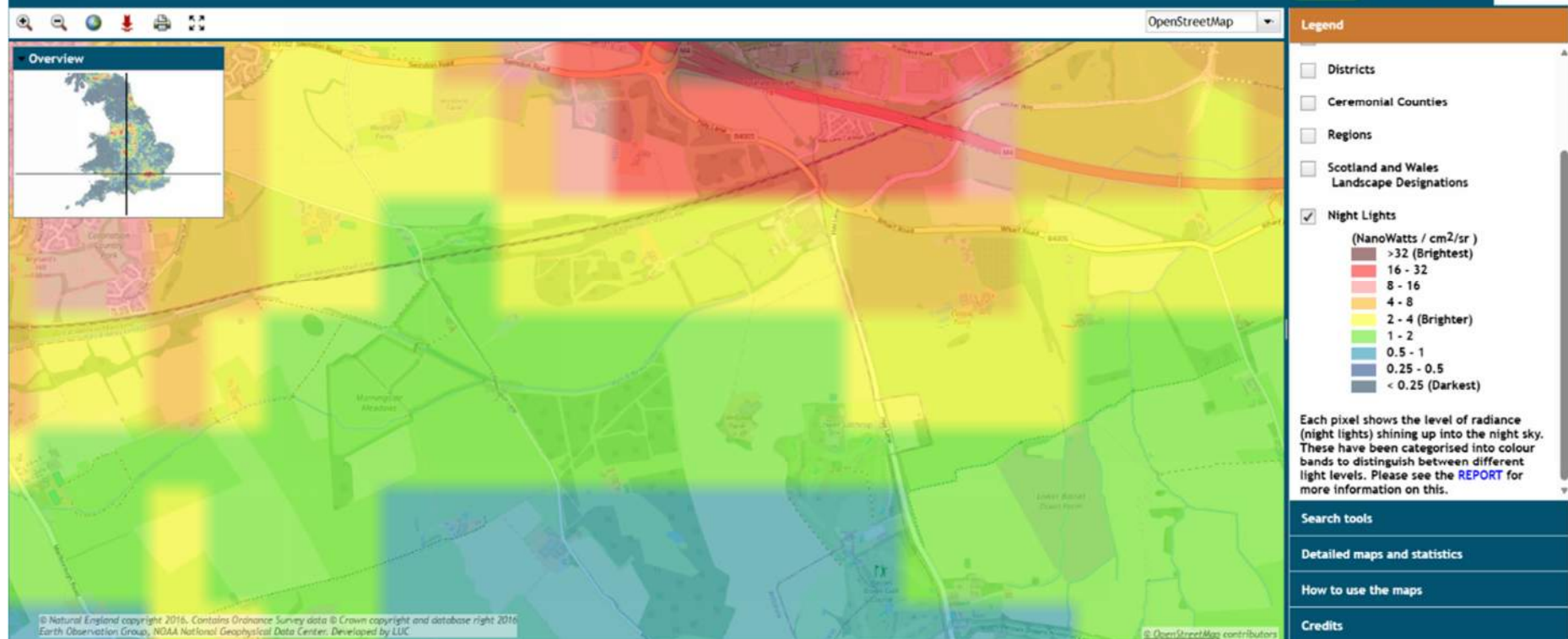


Figure 3 - CPRE England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies map of the study area. Source: www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk.

Table APP3-4 Landscape Sensitivity Table

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity	Notes
11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland	Local Authority	Medium	Medium	This character area is not nationally or locally designated and is therefore generally valued at a local authority level (featuring in Wiltshire Council's publication. This character area (within which the Site is located) has some ability to accommodate the proposed development without negative consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (this is due to the settled urban fringe quality of the area).
Landform: Sloping mound at former landfill site	Low	Low	Low	This element is not designated or has demonstrable physical attributes that elevate its value and therefore valued at a low level. This landscape element is generally able to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (as there will be no significant change to topography, other than localised construction work, which forms part of a restored landfill).
Landcover: Restored grassland and hardstanding within landfill compound	Community	Low	Medium-Low	These elements are not designated or have demonstrable physical attributes that elevate value above community level. These landscape elements are generally able to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (as the grassland cover, which forms part of a restored landfill, will be able to continue, albeit underneath / being visually covered by the panels).
Access: Former landfill access track from Hay Lane	Low	Low	Low	These elements are not designated or have demonstrable physical attributes that elevate value, and therefore valued at a low level. These landscape elements are generally able to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (the access was previously used for the landfill and connects to the existing road network).
Field Boundaries: Mixed native vegetation	Community	Low	Medium-Low	These elements are not designated or have demonstrable physical attributes that elevate its value and therefore valued at a community level. These landscape elements are generally able to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (through the maintenance of appropriate standoffs and additional planting and management via scheme of mitigation).

Aesthetic: Medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure	Community	Medium	Medium	These aesthetic aspects are not nationally or locally designated and are therefore generally valued at a community level. These aspects have some ability to accommodate the proposed development whilst ensuring the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies (the Site is previously developed land, now restored and within a settled urban fringe context).
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Table APP3-5 Magnitude of Landscape Change Table, during Operations

Receptor	Size and Scale	Geographic Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude	Notes	Nature of Effect
11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland	Medium	Negligible	Long Term	Slight	Medium change to key characteristics which contribute to distinctive character, with the introduction of solar panels, fencing and CCTV (and other infrastructure). These would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. However, the alteration to the composition/balance of the landscape overall would be limited, with this part of the area including previously disturbed and restored landfill. The proposed development would affect only a negligible area and extent of the character area as a whole. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Adverse
Landform: Sloping mound at former landfill site	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Negligible level of change from the solar panels mounting frames being placed onto the ground, and potential slab areas for other built elements and earthworks associated with the upgraded/extended track. Negligible alteration to the composition/balance of the topography within the Site overall. Any landform changes would be restricted to the Site level and a negligible part of the overall site area. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Neutral
Landcover: Restored grassland and	Medium	Small	Long Term	Medium	Medium alteration to landcover, with grassland (which contributes to the character of the landscape) retained and enhanced between and beneath the PV panels, whilst infrastructure elements introduced either	Adverse

hardstanding within landfill compound					as small elements (inverters and transformers, or up-graded/extended track) or would be located on hardstanding and within the existing landfill compound (control building and switchgear). There would be a small area of scrub removed but then replaced as part of the boundary planting around the solar panel area. The changes will be restricted to the Site level and affect only a part of the overall site area. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	
Access: Former landfill access track from Hay Lane	Small	Negligible	Long Term	Slight	Small alteration to private track which makes limited contribution to the character of the landscape, with civils works, including upgrading to extend across the restored mounds and introduction of vehicle movements (mainly during construction and decommissioning, with monitoring during operations). The changes will be restricted to the Site level and will affect only a negligible part of the Site area. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Neutral
Field Boundaries: Mixed native vegetation	Small	Small	Long Term	Slight	Negligible alteration to existing field boundaries which contribute to the character of the local landscape, but with new fencing to be installed within the site, with pole-mounted CCTV cameras. The changes will be restricted to the Site level and to limited parts of the Site area. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited, and the fencing and CCTV would be decommissioned).	Neutral
Aesthetic: Medium scale, moderate complexity and enclosure	Medium	Small	Long Term	Medium	Medium alteration to existing degree of enclosure and complexity which contributes to the character of the landscape. The addition of the PV panels, built elements, CCTV and fencing would increase complexity (colour, texture, line and form) and be of smaller scale. The change would affect a small area and/or extent of the landscape receptor under consideration (e.g. influence restricted to the Site and its immediate setting only). Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Adverse

VISUAL RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT TABLES

This appendix is divided into two parts:

- Firstly, additional detail relating to the production of ZTVs; and
- Secondly, the impact assessment tables for the identified visual receptors (individual viewpoints, local residents, users of recreational routes and visitors to facilities, as well as users of roads).

Method Statement for ZTVs

Initial Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) calculations have been undertaken of the area of proposed solar panels modelled at 3m high (to represent the tops of the structures), in combination with OS Terrain 5 (for the surrounding digital terrain in LSS software (McCarthy Taylor).

The ZTV results are based on topography only and do not take account of the screening effects of any buildings or vegetation.

The receptor point grid interval was set to 10m, with a 1.6 eye height (above the digital terrain model) and covered an area of approximately 4km radius from the Site boundary.

The following target points were positioned across the development area and used for the ZTV of the proposed development, as illustrated by Drawing LVIA1:

- E 410028.391, N 181692.487, 116.796 m AOD;
- E 410214.896, N 181863.579, 115.440 m AOD;
- E 410068.466, N 181740.269, 116.217 m AOD;
- E 410178.931, N 181771.097, 115.977 m AOD;
- E 410294.534, N 181827.614, 111.638 m AOD;
- E 410128.580, N 181628.777, 109.809 m AOD;
- E 410083.880, N 181579.967, 107.962 m AOD;
- E 409926.660, N 181513.174, 108.439 m AOD;
- E 409941.560, N 181598.977, 115.254 m AOD;
- E 409999.105, N 181586.132, 112.598 m AOD;
- E 410086.449, N 181691.459, 115.367 m AOD; and
- E 410239.558, N 181852.276, 114.722 m AOD.

The study area includes the Site and its surroundings, focusing on those areas where there would be potential visibility of the proposals, changes to views and/or changes to landscape character. The study area is refined by desk-based interpretation of the ZTVs and fieldwork to the Site and surroundings to focus on the actual extent of visibility and potential receptors.

The ZTVs are based on a bare terrain; that is, the computer model does not include any vegetation, structures or other buildings. As a result, the extent of theoretical visibility would be reduced when surrounding intervening vegetation is taken into consideration. These elements are considered in the main assessment of changes to views, where appropriate.

Method Statement for Visualisations

The visualisation of the development at Viewpoint 7 uses a 3D digital terrain model in LSS software (McCarthy Taylor) to create a 3D perspective view. This has been positioned and scaled to match the viewpoint location for the non-photographic model views (with reference to any existing features and landform have been used to ensure a best fit overlay). For the full photomontage, the LSS model view was then overlaid with the digital photograph of the existing view in Adobe Photoshop and the photomontage rendered using similar features to create a realistic image (to represent appearance, context, form and extent of development).

Description of Existing Views at Each Representative View

Tables APP4/1 to APP4/8 below summarises the baseline views for each of the representative viewpoints, as visited in March 2025 during fieldwork.

In summary, there is generally restricted visibility of the Site due to the undulating topography, well contained by hedgerows and other vegetation, albeit with potential views from recreational users of nearby footpaths and travellers along roads.

Visual Baseline Table APP4/1 – Viewpoint 1

Viewpoint Number	1	Drawing Number	LVIA-2
Viewpoint Name / Location	Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	Road users and local residents.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural area, minor road)		
Nature of Views	Transient (from moving vehicle)		
Distance from Proposed Development	Moderate distance (c. 700m from solar panels)		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland.		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Gently undulating farmland and mature trees / woodland vegetation on skyline in the direction of the Site. The restored grassland mound breaks part of the skyline.		
Visual Scale	Medium to long distance, relatively low-lying views, across undulating topography, with mainly medium to large scale arable fields.		
Visual Enclosure	Moderate enclosure, depending on frequency of cutting hedgerows.		
Visual Diversity	Relatively simple mix of urban fringe farmland, with the edge of the garden centre visible. The restored grassland landfill mounds are just visible in this view. Post and rail fencing and a few solar panels at the farm entrance are also visible adding to the overall visual diversity.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Balanced patchwork of mainly farmland and woodland blocks, with the edge of the garden centre visible.		
Colour	Muted fields and vegetation blocks, brighter occasional vehicles. Grey solar panels by farm entrance. Other colours associated with the edge of the garden centre.		
Movement	Movement of vehicles		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Main focus follows the road corridor, but with open views to sides, depending on hedgerow management, including longer distance views up to the higher ground around Basset Down to the south.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/2 – Viewpoint 2

Viewpoint Number	2	Drawing Number	LVIA-3
Viewpoint Name / Location	PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	People engaged in outdoor recreation using the footpath and local residents.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural area, footpath).		
Nature of Views	Transient (from footpath).		
Distance from Proposed Development	Long distance (c. 2.1km from solar panels).		
Landscape-related designations	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB), albeit looking outwards from the designated area. No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Long distance, panoramic view to lower-lying indistinct horizon.		
Visual Scale	Long distance, elevated views, across lower-lying undulating topography, with patchwork of mainly medium scale fields, woodland blocks and settlements, but with smaller scale elements such as solar and isolated farm buildings, etc.		
Visual Enclosure	Framed elevated position with open views, enclosed either side by woodland vegetation.		
Visual Diversity	Moderate mix of settled urban fringe farmland and woodland, with solar and isolated farm buildings.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Relatively balanced and patchwork of mainly farmland, woodland and major settlement, but with elements such as solar and isolated farm buildings, etc.		
Colour	Muted fields and vegetation blocks, grey solar panels, reds and whites of built forms.		
Movement	Movement of occasional vehicles difficult to perceive at this distance. Movement of vegetation in response to exposed and windy position.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Framed panoramic views, albeit primary focus also likely to be on footpath route.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/3 – Viewpoint 3

Viewpoint Number	3	Drawing Number	LVIA-4
Viewpoint Name / Location	PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	People engaged in outdoor recreation using the footpath.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural area, footpath).		
Nature of Views	Transient (from footpath).		
Distance from Proposed Development	Moderate distance (c. 250m from solar panels).		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Long distance, panoramic view to elevated indistinct horizon at Basset Down to the south, with trees / woodland vegetation on skyline to the west, broken by metal lattice tower.		
Visual Scale	Long distance, elevated views, across undulating topography, with mainly medium scale fields, restored mounds with grassland and tree planting.		
Visual Enclosure	Open elevated position with enclosure developing from new tree planting.		
Visual Diversity	Moderate mix of urban fringe farmland, with areas of woodland and isolated properties, as well as the former landfill in the foreground with elements such as restored mounds, access track, site office building and gas compound, fencing and tree planting protection guards.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Balanced and patchwork of mainly farmland and woodland, in the wider views, beyond the immediate foreground of the former landfill site which is more irregular.		
Colour	Muted fields and vegetation block, grey of access track and metal around the gas compound.		
Movement	Movement of occasional maintenance or farm vehicles and footpath users.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation. Also, availability of views dependant on height growth of the new tree planting.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Wide open and panoramic views, albeit primary focus likely to be on footpath route.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/4 – Viewpoint 4

Viewpoint Number	4	Drawing Number	LVIA-5
Viewpoint Name / Location	PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm (Listed Building)		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	People engaged in outdoor recreation using the footpath.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural area, footpath).		
Nature of Views	Transient (walkers along footpath)		
Distance from Proposed Development	On access road, adjacent to area of solar panels (<50m from nearest panel).		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland.		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Undulating former landfill mounds, restored as grassland, bordered by strips of vegetation, trees and shrubs breaking the skyline. Long distance, glimpsed panoramic view to elevated indistinct horizon at Basset Down to the south.		
Visual Scale	Mainly short-distance, relatively low-lying views, across undulating topography, with long distance, glimpsed panoramic view to elevated indistinct horizon at Basset Down to the south.		
Visual Enclosure	Moderate enclosure, looking up to the landfill mounds, restored as grassland, bordered by strips of vegetation, trees and shrubs.		
Visual Diversity	Moderate mix of former landfill in the foreground with elements such as restored mounds, access track and guard rail, gas compound, fencing and life-saving buoy.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Immediate foreground of the former landfill site is irregular.		
Colour	Muted grassland on former landfill mounds and vegetation blocks, brighter colours of access track and guard rail, gas compound, fencing and life-saving buoy.		
Movement	Movement of vehicles and walkers.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Main focus follows the track corridor, but with views available to the sides.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/5 – Viewpoint 5

Viewpoint Number	5	Drawing Number	LVIA-6
Viewpoint Name / Location	Chaddington Lane, adjacent to Old Canal footpath.		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	Road users.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (minor road).		
Nature of Views	Transient (road users).		
Distance from Proposed Development	Moderate distance (c. 300m from solar panels).		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Mixed native vegetation, extending along road corridor and canal. The higher, restored grassland mound immediately to the west of the Site also breaks skyline.		
Visual Scale	Short distance views, restricted to road corridor and canal, but with some filtered visibility beyond (especially during winter months).		
Visual Enclosure	Enclosed due to vegetation along road corridor and canal, but with some filtered visibility beyond (especially during winter months).		
Visual Diversity	Relatively simple mix of minor road and canal, with fringing vegetation and post and rail fencing to mark the bridge crossing. The restored grassland landfill is just visible as the green mounds in this view.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Balanced road and canal corridor.		
Colour	Muted vegetation blocks, with reflective linear water body. The restored grassland landfill is just visible as the green mounds in this view.		
Movement	Movement of vehicles.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation. Also, availability of views dependant on height and frequency of hedge cutting and regrowth.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Main focus follows the road corridor, but with views along canal to side, with other views out depending on hedgerow management.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/6 – Viewpoint 6

Viewpoint Number	6	Drawing Number	LVIA-7
Viewpoint Name / Location	Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	People engaged in outdoor recreation using the footpath.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural area, footpath).		
Nature of Views	Transient (from footpath).		
Distance from Proposed Development	Short distance (c. 80m from solar panels).		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland.		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Mixed native vegetation, extending along canal. The restored grassland mound breaks skyline.		
Visual Scale	Short distance views, restricted to canal and adjacent mounds, but with some filtered visibility beyond to the south (especially during winter months).		
Visual Enclosure	Relatively enclosed position from topography and vegetation.		
Visual Diversity	Moderate mix of canal, with fringing vegetation and post and rail fencing to mark the former landfill boundary. The restored grassland landfill is visible as the green mounds in this view, with gas infrastructure.		
Visual Balance and Pattern	Balanced canal corridor, flanked by a mix of vegetation and the restored grassland landfill mound.		
Colour	Muted grassland fields and vegetation blocks. Plastic landfill infrastructure and wooded post and rail fencing. Reflective linear water body.		
Movement	Movement of occasional farm vehicles and footpath users.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation. Also, availability of views dependant on height and frequency of hedge cutting and regrowth.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Enclosed views, primary focus likely to be on footpath route.		

Visual Baseline Table APP4/7 – Viewpoint 7

Viewpoint Number	7	Drawing Number	LVIA-8
Viewpoint Name / Location	PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at north west corner		
Visual Receptors			
Types of People Likely to be affected	People engaged in outdoor recreation using the footpath.		
Relative Numbers of People Likely to be affected	Medium (rural).		
Nature of Views	Transient (from footpath users).		
Distance from Proposed Development	Moderate distance (c.600m from solar panels).		
Landscape-related designations	No formal planning status or cultural associations at the Site or viewpoint location.		
Landscape Character Assessment	Looking over 11a Swindon-Calne Rolling Clay Lowland.		
Visual Characteristics (Baseline Conditions of Existing Views / Visual Amenity)			
Nature and Extent of Skyline	Generally undeveloped vegetation on crests of former landfill mounds in and more distant hills		
Visual Scale	Short distance, due to gently sloping landform and mixed vegetation around edges of fields in foreground, with more distant elevated landform.		
Visual Enclosure	Enclosed in middle ground by mixed vegetation.		
Visual Diversity	Simple mix of farmland with former landfill grassland and mixed vegetation around edges of fields		
Visual Balance and Pattern	The immediate foreground of the farmland has linear pattern of established vegetation to field edges		
Colour	Muted fields and vegetation blocks		
Movement	Movement of occasional maintenance or farm vehicles and footpath users.		
Likely Changes to Views	Seasonal variations from deciduous vegetation.		
Overall Composition and Key Focal Points	Main focus follows the footpath corridor, framed by mixed vegetation blocks and rising to restored landfill crests and distant hills.		

Visual Impact Assessment Tables

This section sets out the visual impact assessment tables for each of the visual receptors identified (individual viewpoints, local residents, road users and visitors to facilities).

Table APP4-8 describes the visual sensitivity, based on the susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed and the value attached to the receptor / views.

Table APP4-9 describes the magnitude of visual change, based on the size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility, during operational phases.

Table APP4-8 Visual Sensitivity Table

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity	Notes
Viewpoint 1 – Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated or judged to be of equivalent value but nevertheless valued at a community level. As residents at home, they have a limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area).
Viewpoint 2 – PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, southeast of site	High	High	High	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB), albeit looking outwards from the designated area. Recreational users of the footpath have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Viewpoint 3 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. Recreational users of the footpath have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Viewpoint 4 – PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated or judged to be of equivalent value but nevertheless valued at a community level. Recreational users of the footpath have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Viewpoint 5 – Chaddington Lane, adjacent to Old Canal footpath	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated or judged to be of equivalent value but nevertheless valued at a community level. As passers-by, they have the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views are incidental to the journey).

Viewpoint 6 – Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. Recreational users of the footpath have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Viewpoint 7 – PRow LTRE59, within landfill site at northwest corner	Community	High	Medium	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. Recreational users of the footpath have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Local residents at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel to the east	Community	High	Medium	The people at the properties are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As residents at home, they have a limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area).
Local residents at Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm, Little Chaddington Farm and Vowley Farm to the south	Community	High	Medium	The people at the properties are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As residents at home, they have a limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area).
Users of the local road network - Hay Lane	Community	Low	Medium-Low	The people at the properties are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As passers-by, they have the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views are incidental to the journey).
Users of the local road network - Chaddington Lane	Community	Low	Medium-Low	The people at the properties are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As passers-by, they have the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views are incidental to the journey).

Recreational users of the PRow footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site	Community	High	Medium	The people on these routes are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As recreational footpath users they have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Recreational users of PRow at more distant elevated positions at Basset Down, such as LTRE56	High	High	High	The people at this viewpoint are experiencing views which are part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape (AONB), albeit looking outwards from the designated area. As recreational footpath users they have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Visitors to the permissive access to the Old Canal towpath	Community	High	Medium	The people on these routes are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As recreational footpath users they have limited ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (their attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and views).
Visitors to the garden centre	Community	Low	Medium-Low	The people on these routes are experiencing views which are not nationally or locally designated, or judged to be of equivalent value, but nevertheless valued at a community level. As passers-by, they have the ability to accommodate the proposed development without undue negative consequences (views are incidental to the journey).

Table APP4-9 Magnitude of Visual Change Table, during Operational Phases

Receptor	Size and Scale	Geographic Extent	Duration and Reversibility	Magnitude	Notes	Nature of Effect
Viewpoint 1 – Hay Lane, by entrance to Can Court Farm	Medium	Negligible	Long Term	Medium	Whilst there would be potential for a medium scale of change with the solar panels (fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure), they would be set back and mostly hidden by intervening vegetation. In the winter months, when the deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, partial / filtered views of the solar panels may be possible, but not prominent. They would form	Adverse

					urbanising features which would contrast with the farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, occupying a very limited proportion of the view and offset to the direction of travel. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	
Viewpoint 2 – PRoW LTRE56, Basset Down, southeast of site	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	A negligible scale of change is predicted at this viewpoint from the distant introduction of solar panels within a settled urban fringe landscape, relating to negligible geographical extent / limited proportion of the view. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Adverse
Viewpoint 3 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site	Medium	Negligible	Long Term	Slight	Whilst there would be potential for a medium scale of change with the solar panels (fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure), they would be set back and likely to be hidden by intervening planting (as it matures). In the winter months, when the deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, partial / filtered views of the solar panels may be possible, but not prominent. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with the farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline, although set within the context of a restored landfill. Vehicle movements along the upgraded internal access track would be visible from this location. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and partially visible. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, occupying a very limited proportion of the view and offset to the direction of travel. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Adverse
Viewpoint 4 – PRoW LTRE5, within landfill site, near Studley Grange Farm	Medium	Negligible	Long Term	Slight	Whilst there would be potential for a medium scale of change with the solar panels (fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure), they would be set back and partially hidden by intervening vegetation. In the winter months, when the deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, partial / filtered views of the solar panels may be possible, but not prominent. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with the farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline, albeit within the context of a restored landfill. Vehicle movements along the upgraded internal access track would be visible from this location. The solar compound would be set	Adverse

					down within the existing landfill compound and partially visible. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, occupying a very limited proportion of the view and offset to the direction of travel. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	
Viewpoint 5 – Chaddington Lane, adjacent to Old Canal footpath	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	This viewpoint location was originally selected in relation to an alternative project layout. However, following design revisions, the solar panels would be set down and back behind intervening topography and hidden from view. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. There would be a negligible scale of change to views at this location, relating to a negligible geographical extent / limited portion of the view. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit vehicle movements during the construction phase would be short term and the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Neutral
Viewpoint 6 – Old Canal footpath, south of Studley Grange Farm	Medium	Small	Long Term	Medium	There would be a medium scale of change with the solar panels (fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure), set back on the rising landfill mound, with some intervening vegetation. In the winter months, when the deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, partial / filtered views of the solar panels may be possible, but not prominent. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with the farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline, albeit in the context of a restored landfill. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a small geographical extent, occupying a proportion of the view and offset to the direction of travel. Operational phases 25 years in duration and long-term (albeit the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	Adverse
Viewpoint 7 – PRoW LTRE59, within landfill site at northwest corner	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	This viewpoint location was originally selected in relation to an alternative project layout. However, following design revisions, the solar panels would be set down and back behind intervening topography and hidden from view. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. There would be a negligible scale of change to views at this location, relating to a negligible geographical extent / limited portion of the view. Operational phases 25	Neutral

					years in duration and long-term (albeit vehicle movements during the construction phase would be short term and the project is time limited and would be decommissioned and restored).	
Local residents at The Wharf, Can Court Cottage and Hay Lane Chapel to the east	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from these properties by c. 700m. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, for example altering views for only a limited proportion of these residential receptors. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoint 1.	Adverse
Local residents at Can Court Farm, Lower Salthorpe, Great Chaddington Farm, Little Chaddington Farm and Vowley Farm to the south	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from these properties by c. 450m. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, for example altering views for only a limited proportion of these residential receptors. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoint 5.	Adverse
Users of the local road network - Hay Lane	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from this road corridor by c. 700m. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, for example altering views for only a limited proportion of these residential receptors. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoint 1.	Adverse

Users of the local road network - Chaddington Lane	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from this road corridor by c. 400m. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, for example altering views for only a limited proportion of these residential receptors. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoint 5.	Adverse
Recreational users of the PRow footpaths LTRE1, LTRE5 and LTRE59 extending across part of the Site	Medium	Small	Long Term	Medium	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a medium scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from the footpath routes, to varying degrees. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled rural baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound, with visibility limited to certain sections of these routes. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a small geographical extent, altering views for only a limited proportion of these routes. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoints 3 and 4.	Adverse
Recreational users of PRow at more distant elevated positions at Basset Down, such as LTRE56	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from these properties by c. 2km. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled urban fringe baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the existing landfill compound and hidden from view. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, for example altering views for only a limited proportion of these routes. Refer to Viewpoint 2.	Adverse
Visitors to the permissive access to the Old Canal towpath	Medium	Small	Long Term	Medium	Where views are possible, there would be no more than a medium scale of change with the solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure set back from the footpath routes, to varying degrees. They would form urbanising features which would contrast with farmland aspects of the settled rural baseline. The solar compound would be set down within the	Adverse

					existing landfill compound and hidden from views. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, altering views for only a limited proportion of this route. Adverse overall, especially in Winter views when the vegetation is not in leaf, but likely to be neutral over certain sections, when existing vegetation is in leaf. Refer to Viewpoint 6.	
Visitors to the garden centre	Negligible	Negligible	Long Term	Negligible	Views of the development for visitors to the garden centre are restricted to vehicle movements along the shared access road. Where views are possible, there would be no more than a negligible scale of change. The solar panels, fencing, CCTV and other infrastructure, including the solar compound would be set back by c. 300m and hidden from views by intervening buildings and vegetation. The visibility of the proposals would relate to no more than a negligible geographical extent, altering views for only a limited proportion of visitors (at the access road and car park).	Neutral

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