

Green Hill Solar Farm Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter 08 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Prepared by: Lanpro Services

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8 Landscape and Visual

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken to date concerning the potential landscape and visual impacts of the Scheme during the construction, operational (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases. The following aspects will be considered within the Landscape and Visual Impact assessment (LVIA) process:

- The existing landscape and visual baseline scenario within a defined Study Area, and the nature of change.
- The effects upon landscape and visual receptors arising as a result of the Scheme and the significance associated with identified effects based on the sensitivity of these receptors to change and the magnitude of any change that will likely occur. It also defines whether an effect is beneficial, adverse, or neutral.
- Embedded mitigation proposals established in response to design proposals to date and identified landscape and visual receptors.

8.1.2 For more details about the Scheme, refer to **Chapter 4: Scheme Description** of this PEIR.

Appendices and Figures

8.1.3 This chapter is supported by the following appendices in **PEIR Volume 3**:

- **Appendix 8.1** LVIA Methodology
 - **Appendix 8.1.1** LVIA Methodology;
 - **Appendix 8.1.2** CIA Methodology;
 - **Appendix 8.1.3** RVAA Methodology; and
 - **Appendix 8.1.4** ZTV Methodology;
- **Appendix 8.2** Scoping LVIA Receptor Sheets
 - **Appendix 8.2.1** Scoping Landscape Receptor Sheets; and
 - **Appendix 8.2.2** Scoping Visual Receptor Sheet.
- **Appendix 8.3** PEIR LVIA assessment sheets
 - **Appendix 8.3.1** PEIR Landscape assessment sheets; and
 - **Appendix 8.3.2** PEIR Visual assessment sheets.
- **Appendix 8.4** Character Area Descriptions
- **Appendix 8.5** Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP)

8.1.4 This chapter is supported by the following figures in **PEIR Volume 2**:

- **Figure 8.1** Site Locations and Study Area:
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8.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following tables:

- **Table 8.1:** Summary of Consultation and Responses;
- **Table 8.2:** Matrix for Determining Landscape Sensitivity;



- **Table 8.3:** Matrix for Determining Visual Sensitivity;
- **Table 8.4:** Matrix for Determining Significance of Landscape and Visual Effects;
- **Table 8.5:** Proposed Viewpoint Locations;
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- **Table 8.12:** Potential Significant Cumulative Development Effects – Landscape Receptors; and
- **Table 8.13:** Potential Significant Cumulative Development Effects – Visual Receptors.

8.2 Consultation

8.2.1 An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in July 2024, with a formal request for a Scoping Opinion. PINS subsequently issued the Scoping Opinion on 30th August 2024. Consultation undertaken throughout the pre-application and scoping phase for the Scheme has informed the approach to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and the information provided within this chapter.

8.2.2 A summary of consultation and response to the Scoping Report are outlined below in **Table 8.1**.

Table 8.1: Summary of Consultation and Responses

Consultee and Date	Comment	Outcome and any further steps anticipated
North Northamptonshire Landscape Officer In person meeting - 15th April 2024	Agreement of viewpoint locations for Green Hill A-E Introduction of 11 additional viewpoint locations recorded as NN1 – NN11.	See Section 8.6. See Table 8.4: Proposed Viewpoint Locations.
North Northamptonshire Landscape Officer In person meeting - 17th July 2024	Agreement of Photomontage location and Type for PIER submission. Provision for 21 photomontages within summer photography at Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) Level 1, including block representation of proposed infrastructure.	See Appendix 8.3. See Figure 8.14 Baseline Photography and Summer Photomontages.
The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024 ID 3.2.1	(Paragraphs 7.4.27 and 7.6.1 and Table 7.7 of Scoping Report) Landscape receptors Appendix 7.4 includes a table of scoped in and scoped out receptors and refers to several landscape receptors scoped out; however, no landscape receptors are shown as scoped out within Table 7.7. In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the	The Applicant will agree with the relevant consultation bodies the scope of receptors to be included within the final ES submission and will support this with ZTV's.



Consultee and Date	Comment	Outcome and any further steps anticipated
	<p>Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope out the landscape receptors listed in paragraph 7.4.27 and Appendix 7.4 from the assessment. The ES should include a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) supported by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of an LSE.</p>	
<p>The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024 ID 3.2.2</p>	<p>(Table 7.7 and Paragraphs 7.1.11 and 7.1.12 of Scoping Report)</p> <p>Cable Corridor - landscape and visual effects beyond 0.5km</p> <p>The Scoping Report states that, due to being barely perceptible further than 0.5km away and only involving the construction phase, receptors beyond 0.5km will not be scoped into the LVIA when considering the Cable Corridor.</p> <p>The Inspectorate considers that receptors beyond 0.5km of the Cable Corridor should be included in the LVIA and the study area boundaries should be fully representative of the Proposed Development. In the absence of information on the infrastructure which would be present within the Cable Corridor once operational, the Inspectorate is not in a position to scope this matter out of further assessment. Furthermore, considering the duration of the construction phase (anticipated programme of approximately 2 years, as stated in paragraph 4.4.1 of the SR) the Inspectorate considers that there is potential for significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity to occur. In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope out these matters from the assessment. The ES should include an LVIA supported by a ZTV, or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of an LSE.</p>	<p>The Applicant will agree with the relevant consultation bodies the scope of receptors associated with the Cable Corridor to be included within the final ES submission.</p>
<p>The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024 ID 3.2.3</p>	<p>(Table 7.7 of Scoping Report)</p> <p>Visual receptors between 1km and 2km wider study area with no direct, extensive and/ or open views towards the Proposed Development</p> <p>The Scoping Report study areas do not take into consideration the Cable Corridor when applying the buffer areas. The</p>	<p>The Applicant will agree with the relevant consultation bodies scope of visual receptors to be included within the final ES submission.</p>



Consultee and Date	Comment	Outcome and any further steps anticipated
	<p>Inspectorate is therefore unable to confirm that the identified receptors can be scoped out of the ES as the whole of the Proposed Development has not been considered. The ES should evidence how the study area has been derived to ensure it is representative and it should be agreed with relevant consultation bodies where possible.</p>	
<p>The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024 ID 3.2.4</p>	<p>(Table 7.7 of Scoping Report) Visual receptors between 2km and 5km outer study area As indicated in ID 3.2.2 above, the Inspectorate is unable to confirm that the identified receptors can be scoped out due to the study area not considering the whole of the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report states that effects on visual receptors beyond 2km are expected to be negligible given expected visibility. However, the ZTV illustrated in Figures 7.8 to 7.9.8 show that the panels will be visible beyond 2km. The ES should assess potential effects on views and visual amenity within the ZTV where significant effects are likely to occur. In the absence of information such as evidence demonstrating clear agreement with relevant statutory bodies, the Inspectorate is not in a position to agree to scope these matters from the assessment. The ES should include an LVIA supported by a ZTV, or the information referred to demonstrating agreement with the relevant consultation bodies and the absence of an LSE.</p>	<p>The Applicant will agree with the relevant consultation bodies scope of visual receptors to be included within the final ES submission.</p>
<p>The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024 ID 3.2.5</p>	<p>(Paragraph 7.1.11 and 7.1.12 of Scoping Report) Study area - Cable Corridor This paragraph states that the Cable Corridor is being refined and a 0.5km study area will be used in the ES. Justification as to how this approach accords with standard practice; for example, the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) 2013, is required within the ES.</p>	<p>The Applicant will agree with the relevant consultation bodies proposed study areas and provide justification on approach within the final ES submission, Please refer to paragraph 8.4.6 and 8.4.9 – 8.4.10 for additional clarification.</p>
<p>The Planning Inspectorate 30th August 2024</p>	<p>(Paragraph 7.7.8 of Scoping Report) Assessment of effects – operation (Year 15) The SR states that summer photomontages will be used to assess the effects of the Proposed Development at 15 years of operation. This is not</p>	<p>Winter photomontages will be used as part of the final ES submission to assess worst case effects without the benefit of screening. The use of summer photomontages only within the PEIR submission is due to</p>



Consultee and Date	Comment	Outcome and any further steps anticipated
ID 3.2.6	considered to represent the WCS and adverse effects will not be fully considered. The Inspectorate recommends that winter photomontages should also be used to identify any long-term effects without the benefit of screening from vegetation.	<p>project timescales making winter photography unavailable at this time and has been agreed for the purposes of statutory consultation only with the North Northamptonshire Landscape Officer.</p> <p>Summer photomontages have been used to inform the preliminary assessment included at PEIR and a precautionary approach has been taken to allow for greater foliage cover when identifying likely significant effects.</p> <p>Full winter and summer photomontages will inform the final assessment included in the ES.</p>

8.3 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

8.3.1 This section provides an overview of the legislation, planning policy and guidance against which the Scheme will be considered as part of the LVIA.

Legislation

European Legislation

European Landscape Convention

8.3.2 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Ref.1), is the first international treaty dedicated to the protection, management, and planning of all landscapes in Europe. Signed by the UK government in 2006 and introduced in March 2007, the ELC provides a people-centred and forward-looking way to reconcile management of the environment with the social and economic challenges of the future and aims to help people reconnect with place. The ELC is not a directive of the European Union, rather it is a Convention of the Council of Europe.

8.3.3 The ELC does not advocate the same measures and policies for all landscapes. Instead, it encourages approaches that are adaptable to particular landscape types and which respond to their unique characteristics.

8.3.4 The ELC contains 18 articles which, collectively, promote landscape protection, management and planning and organising European cooperation on landscape issues. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which are designed to help ensure compliance with the overarching aims of the ELC. These include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas.

UK Legislation

8.3.5 For general legislation information on the Planning Act 2008 and EIA Regulations 2017 please refer to **Chapter 1: Introduction**.

The Environment Act 2021

8.3.7 The Environment Act 2021(Ref.2) provides a framework for environmental protection in the UK and requires government and public bodies to set targets for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction.



8.3.8 Key commitments of the Act include halting species decline by 2030 and the introduction of mandatory BNG requirements for all Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) developments.

8.3.9 Commitments that would be secured through the DCO application which are relevant to the LVIA include:

- Part 6 Nature and Biodiversity
 - Section 99: Biodiversity gain in nationally significant infrastructure projects outlines that Schedule 15 makes provision about biodiversity gain in relation to development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects specifically.

Planning Policy

National Planning Policy

National Policy Statements (NPS)

8.3.10 National Policy Statements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects are produced by government. They give reasons for the policy set out in the statement and include an explanation of how the policy takes account of government policy relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The Energy NPS, dated November 2023 and updated in June 2024, provides NPS EN-1 to 5 which were designated on 17 January 2024. The following policies are relevant to the proposals:

- NPS EN-1 Overarching NPS for energy;
 - Section 4.6 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain

Paragraph 4.6.13 “In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as:

- *reductions in GHG emissions*
- *reduced flood risk*
- *improvements to air or water quality,*
- *climate adaptation,*
- *landscape enhancement*
- *increased access to natural greenspace, or*
- *the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of specific projects.*

Applicants should look for a holistic approach to delivering wider environmental gains and benefits through the use of nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure.”

- Section 4.7 Criteria for good design for Energy Infrastructure

Paragraph 4.7.1 “The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object – be it a building or other type of infrastructure – including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important.

Paragraph 4.7.2 “Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.”



Paragraph 4.7.3 “Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material.”

Paragraph 4.7.4 “Given the benefits of good design in mitigating the adverse impacts of a project, applicants should consider how good design can be applied to a project during the early stages of the project lifecycle.

Paragraph 4.7.5 “To ensure good design is embedded within the project development, a project board level design champion could be appointed, and a representative design panel used to maximise the value provided by the infrastructure. Design principles should be established from the outset of the project to guide the development from conception to operation. Applicants should consider how their design principles can be applied post-consent.”

Paragraph 4.7.6 “Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, land form and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.

Paragraph 4.7.7 “Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.

- Section 5.10 Landscape and Visual

Paragraph 5.10.4 “Landscape effects arise not only from the sensitivity of the landscape but also the nature and magnitude of change proposed by the development, whose specific siting and design make the assessment a case-by-case judgement.”

Paragraph 5.10.5 “Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.”

Paragraph 5.10.6 “Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.”

- Section 5.11 Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt

Paragraph 5.11.1 “An energy infrastructure project will have a direct effect on the existing use of the proposed site and may have indirect effects on the use, or planned use, of land in the vicinity for other types of development. Given the likely locations of energy infrastructure projects there may be particular effects on open space including green and blue infrastructure.”

Paragraph 5.11.7 “Green and blue infrastructure can also enable developments to provide positive environmental, social, health and economic benefits. Green infrastructure includes green space such as parks and woodlands but also other environmental features such as street trees, hedgerows and green walls and roofs. It also includes blue infrastructure such as canals, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and their borders. Well designed and managed green and blue infrastructure provides multiple benefits at a range of scales. It can contribute to biodiversity recovery, sequester carbon, absorb surface water, cleanse pollutants, absorb noise and reduce high temperatures. The Green Infrastructure Framework – Principles and Standards for England can be used to consider green infrastructure in development and plan for good quality and targeted creation or improvement.”



- NPS EN3 for renewable energy infrastructure; and
 - Section 3.5 Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure

Paragraph 3.5.1 “Section 4.6 of EN-1 sets out the criteria for good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure.

Paragraph 3.5.2 “Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage”

- 3.10 Solar Photovoltaic Generation

Paragraph 3.10.27 “Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreational use of public rights of way, where possible during construction, and in particular during operation of the site.”

Paragraph 3.10.28 “Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual outlook from existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.”

Paragraph 3.10.29 “Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the adoption of new public rights of way through site layout and design of access..”

Paragraph 3.10.85 “The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure.”

Paragraph 3.10.86 “However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.”

Paragraph 3.10.87 “Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully pre application. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre application process.”

Paragraph 3.10.88 “Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)”

Paragraph 3.10.89 “Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.6 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.”

Paragraph 3.10.90 “Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact”

Paragraph 3.10.91 “The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.”

Paragraph 3.10.92 “The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural/hedge assessment as appropriate.”

Paragraph 3.10.122 “Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.”



Paragraph 3.10.123 “Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security or screen security fencing.”

Paragraph 3.10.124 “Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.”

- NPS EN-5 for electricity networks infrastructure.
 - *Section 2.5 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain*

Paragraph 2.5.1 “When planning and evaluating the proposed development’s contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important – for both the applicant and the Secretary of State – to supplement the generic guidance set out in EN-1 (Section 4.6) with recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to:

- i. reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or*
- ii. connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.”*

- *Section 2.9 Applicant assessment*

Landscape and Visual Impact paragraph 2.9.9 “New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.”

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

8.3.11

The NPPF was last updated in December 2023. Key policies relating to Landscape and Visual issues include:

- Paragraph 104 in respect of protecting and enhancing public rights of way (PRoW) and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails;
- Paragraph 135 sets out that developments should be: b) visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout, and appropriate and effective landscaping; and c) sympathetic to local character and setting;
- Paragraph 136 which recognises the important contribution trees make to the character and quality of the environment, that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.
- Paragraph 180 states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment and local environment by:
 - a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes; and
 - b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
- Paragraph 186 sets out in c) that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons (for example, infrastructure projects (including nationally significant infrastructure projects), where the public benefit would clearly outweigh the loss or deterioration of habitat) and a suitable compensation strategy exists.



Local Planning Policy

- 8.3.12 The nine Sites which make up the Scheme are located within the administrative boundaries of: West Northamptonshire Council, North Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council. Green Hill A, A.2 and B are located within the administrative boundary of West Northamptonshire, Green Hill C to F and Green Hill BESS are located within the administrative boundary of North Northamptonshire and Green Hill G is located within the administrative boundary of Milton Keynes.
- 8.3.13 Local Planning policies are considered from the following documents:
- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 (Adopted 2014)
 - Policy BN1 - Green Infrastructure Connections;
 - Policy BN2 – Biodiversity;
 - Policy BN3 - Woodland Enhancement and Creation; and
 - Policy BN5 - The Historic Environment and Landscape.
 - North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy 2011-2031 (Adopted 2016)
 - Policy 4 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity;
 - Policy 19 The Delivery of Green Infrastructure
 - Wellingborough Local Plan Part 2 (Adopted 2019)
 - Policy GI 1 - Local Green Infrastructure Corridors.
 - Milton Keynes Local Plan - Plan: MK (Adopted 2019)
 - Policy NE3 - Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement;
 - Policy NE4 - Green Infrastructure;
 - Policy NE5 - Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Character;
 - Policy NE7 - Protection of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
 - Policy D1 - Designing a high-quality place;
 - Policy D2 - Creating a positive character; and
 - Policy SC2 - Community energy networks and large-scale renewable energy schemes.
 - Emerging Milton Keynes City Plan 2050
 - The emerging plan will build upon the current Milton Keynes adopted Local Plan 2019 listed above and is currently undergoing consultation.

Neighborhood Plans

- 8.3.14 Neighbourhood Plans in close context of the scheme include; Overstone Neighbourhood Plan, which considers land in close proximity to Green Hill B, Cogenhoe and Whiston Neighbourhood Plan, which considers land in close proximity to the Green Hill BESS, Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan, which considers land in close proximity to Green Hill E and Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan, which considers land in close proximity to Green Hill G.
- 8.3.15 Neighbourhood Planning policies are considered from the following documents:
- Overstone Neighbourhood Plan (Ref.3)
 - Policy 8 – Landscape and Sensitive Views.
 - Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan, 2014 (Ref.4).



- Policy EB.OS1 - The areas listed as Local Green Spaces and will be protected from development due to their particular local significance and community value unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated. These include:
 - Land surrounding All Saints Church and the Recreation Grounds.
 - Playing Fields and recreation land surrounding Earls Infant and Junior Schools.
 - Sports and Leisure pitches located around the Grange.
 - Earls Barton Cemetery Land.
 - Allotment land adjacent to Earls Barton Cemetery.
 - Allotment land to the south of Station Road opposite Thorpe Road.
 - Public realm land at the end of Compton Way.
 - Public realm at The Knoll, Land between Corden Crescent and Dowthorpe Hill.
 - Public realm land on the corner of Elizabeth Way and Manor Road.
 - Open countryside land between High Street and Churchill Road.
 - Earls Barton Pocket Park land South of A45.
- Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan, 2019 (Ref.5)
 - Policy E1: Access to the countryside.
 - Policy E2: Biodiversity offset and development.
 - Policy E3: Trees and hedgerows.

Guidance

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), Natural Environment (Landscape)

- 8.3.16 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), Natural Environment (Landscape), paragraph 036 Reference ID: 8-036-20190721 (Ref.6) outlines the following:

“The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that plans should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and that strategic policies should provide for the conservation and enhancement of landscapes. This can include nationally and locally-designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.

Where landscapes have a particular local value, it is important for policies to identify their special characteristics and be supported by proportionate evidence. Policies may set out criteria against which proposals for development affecting these areas will be assessed. Plans can also include policies to avoid adverse impacts on landscapes and to set out necessary mitigation measures, such as appropriate design principles and visual screening, where necessary. The cumulative impacts of development on the landscape need to be considered carefully.”

Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (as amended March 2015)

- 8.3.17 Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (as amended March 2015) Reference: ISBN 9781409839835 (Ref.7) Paragraph 026 and 028 outline that:

“The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in very undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively”

and that

. “The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in



the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero”

- 8.3.18 The LVIA will be undertaken in line with the following guidance which represents the standard approach and guidance relevant to LVIA for renewable energy developments within the UK:
- Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment ‘Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Effect Assessment’, 2013, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Ref.8);
 - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Ref.9);
 - Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Ref.10);
 - Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Ref.11); and
 - Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Ref.12).

8.4 Assessment Methodology

8.4.1 The methodologies described in the following section have been developed in line with the relevant planning policy and appropriate industry guidance for assessing potential effects from the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors as listed above.

8.4.2 A full detailed LVIA methodology is set out in **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.

Study Area

8.4.3 The following Study Areas have been defined based on the Scheme’s Order limits as described in **Chapter 3: Development Site** and physical characteristics and key parameters of the proposed Scheme as described in **Chapter 4: Development Proposal**.

8.4.4 The boundaries of the Sites (Green Hill A to G and BESS) and the Cable Route Search Area together define the extents of the Scheme for the purpose of the PEIR.

8.4.5 GLVIA3 states that the Study Area must be reasonable and proportionate and must ensure that the focus when defining the appropriate Study Area is on where likely significant effects upon Landscape and Visual receptors may occur, together with likely significant cumulative effects. The extent of the preliminary study areas will be further assessed as part of the iterative design process and through consultation with the Local Planning Authority’s Landscape officers and consultants.

8.4.6 The Study Areas have been informed through a combination of desktop study, as well as professional judgement on similar scale projects. They have been established through consideration of the existing landform and vegetation, as well as the scale of the Proposed Development and heights of the proposed infrastructure and the potential for significant effects. Identification of the Study Areas has considered the diminishing nature of visual perception as distance from visual receptors increases. As per GLVIA 3 Paragraph 6.11 *The effects of distance on views must also be considered – for example parts of the ZTV that are most distant from the proposal may be omitted from the final visual effects baseline if it is judged that visibility from this distance will be extremely limited. This will vary with the type of project and must be agreed with the competent authority.*

8.4.7 As a result, the proposed Study Areas for visual receptors are smaller than the proposed Landscape Study Areas, which consider the interconnectivity of the wider landscape context. The proposed Study Areas are illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.1** and comprise four Study Areas which are described below.

8.4.8 The following Study Areas have been agreed with North Northamptonshire Council as per scoping response dated the 30th of August 2024. Ongoing consultation with other relevant planning authorities will be undertaken and included within the final ES.



The 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Search Area (The Cable Route Search Area Study Area):

- 8.4.9 A Study Area of 0.5km is proposed from the outer boundary of the Cable Route Search Area.
- 8.4.10 The 0.5km radius is considered appropriate for the Cable Route Search Area, as the proposed cable would be underground and the only above ground features visible during the operational period would be limited to ground level inspection chambers. Construction activity and lay down areas would be visible during the construction phase only. Visual effects from construction of the Cable Corridor would be short term and temporary.
- 8.4.11 Landscape and visual effects resulting from the Cable Corridor would be localised and loss of landscape features such as trees and hedgerows would be mitigated through micro siting of the proposed cabling and directional drilling.
- 8.4.12 Beyond 0.5km, even with good visibility, it is deemed that this element of the Scheme would be barely perceptible. Within the assessment, this parameter is referred to as the 'Cable Route Search Area Study Area.'
- 8.4.13 At this stage, the exact route of the cable is yet to be determined.
- 8.4.14 All Landscape and Visual receptors within this Study Area will be assessed during the construction phase.
- 8.4.15 Please refer to paragraph 8.4.6 for reasoning of proposed variation of Study Areas.

The 1km Study Area (The Local 1km Study Area):

- 8.4.16 This is the 1km area extending as a radius from the outer boundary of the Sites Green Hill A to G and BESS and is considered reasonable and proportionate as the Local Study Area for the LVIA.
- 8.4.17 The assessment of Local 1km Study Area focuses on impacts upon both Landscape and Visual receptors.
- 8.4.18 All Landscape Receptors within the Local 1km Study Area will be included in the LVIA. This includes the landscape fabric of the site itself (landscape fabric being the individual tangible elements or features of the landscape, such as landform, woodland, hedges, tree cover, vegetation, for example which can usually be described and quantified), and the local landscape character (informed by all relevant landscape character assessments).
- 8.4.19 All Visual Receptors within the Local 1km Study Area would be included within the LVIA. However, Visual receptors within the Local 1km Study Area with no intervisibility of the main solar sites are proposed to be scoped out of the LVIA.
- 8.4.20 Within the assessment, this parameter is referred to as the 'Local 1km Study Area'. Please refer to paragraph 8.4.6 for reasoning of proposed variation of Study Areas.

The 2km Study Area (The Wider 2km Study Area):

- 8.4.21 This is the 2km area extending as a radius from the outer boundary of the Sites Green Hill A to G and BESS and is considered reasonable and proportionate as the Wider Study Area for the LVIA.
- 8.4.22 The Wider Study Area focuses on impacts upon both Landscape and Visual receptors.
- 8.4.23 Effects to landscape character within the Wider 2km Study Area will be included within the LVIA (informed by all relevant landscape character assessments).
- 8.4.24 Visual receptors located outside of the Local 1km Study Area that are identified as having direct, extensive, and/or open views towards the Scheme (particularly larger and taller elements or large open expanses of PV arrays) will be separately identified and included within this 2km Study Area and included within the LVIA.
- 8.4.25 Visual receptors which are considered to have direct, extensive, and/or open views towards the scheme have been identified through a combination of ZTV's and site surveys to ground truth visibility.
- 8.4.26 All visual receptors located beyond the Local 1km Study Area which do not have direct, extensive



and / or open views towards the Scheme have not been carried forward for further assessment within the LVIA, as beyond this point, receptors without direct, extensive, and/or open views towards the Scheme are unlikely to experience significant effects.

8.4.27 Within the assessment, this parameter is referred to as the 'Wider 2km Study Area'. Please refer to paragraph 8.4.6 for reasoning of proposed variation of Study Areas.

The 5km Study Area (The Outer 5km Study Area):

8.4.28 This is for the area extending as a radius from the outer boundary of the Sites Green Hill A to G and BESS that is considered appropriate as the extent of the Outer Study Area for the LVIA. Any Landscape or Visual receptors beyond the Outer 5km Study Area are not Included within the LVIA.

8.4.29 Effects to landscape character within the Outer 5km Study Area will be included within the LVIA (Informed by all relevant landscape character assessments).

8.4.30 The Outer 5km Study Area focuses on impacts upon landscape receptors only, with all visual receptors beyond the Wider 2km Study Area scoped out of the LVIA. Please refer paragraph 8.4.6 which refers to GLVIA3 and reduction of visibility due to distance.

8.4.31 It is considered that within the Outer 5km Study Area, even with excellent visibility it is deemed that the Scheme would be barely perceptible and that it would not lead to any significant Visual effects, either independently or cumulatively. **Volume 2, Figures 8.8.1 – 8.9.8** demonstrate potential visibility of the Scheme considering landform and vegetation.

8.4.32 Within the assessment, this parameter is referred to as the 'Outer 5km Study Area'. Please refer to paragraph 8.4.6 for reasoning of proposed variation of Study Areas.

Impact Assessment Methodology

8.4.33 The following paragraphs describe the specific LVIA methodology used for the PEIR assessment. For the overall proposed EIA assessment methodology please refer to **Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology**.

Landscape and Visual Effects

8.4.34 Landscape and visual effects will be assessed at construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

8.4.35 Landscape Effects have been assessed upon Landscape receptors collectively for the Sites themselves considered as '**Landscape Fabric**' and each Study Area (1km/2km & 5km). Due to the interconnected relationship landform has, each Study Area considers all landscape receptors as a whole for example all National Character Areas and all Regional Landscape Character Types and Areas within the individual Study Areas. For assessment of Landscape Effects please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.1 Landscape Assessment Sheets**.

8.4.36 Visual Effects have been assessed upon individual visual receptors which have been given visual receptor numbers as shown on **Volume 2, Figure (series) 8.11, 8.12 and 8.13**. Some visual receptors such as settlements and roads within settlements, are considered collectively in order to understand visual effects to the grouping as a whole. For assessment of Visual Effects please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2 Visual Assessment Sheets**.

8.4.37 The methodology outlined in the following pages provides a summary of the detailed LVIA methodology set out in **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

8.4.38 The judgement on landscape sensitivity is based on consideration of both the landscape receptor's value and its susceptibility to change arising from the Scheme.

8.4.39 For details on how landscape value and susceptibility is assessed please refer to **Section 1.6 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**



8.4.40 **Tables 8.1.1.2 and Table 8.1.1.3 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1** provide criteria for determining landscape value for both designated and undesignated landscapes. As listed, landscape value is based on factors such as natural and cultural heritage, its condition, associations, distinctiveness, and recreational opportunities and how it is perceived.

8.4.41 GLVIA3 (paragraph 5.39) indicates that combining susceptibility and value can be achieved in a number of ways and needs to include professional judgement. However, it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptibility and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a low susceptibility and low value is likely to result in the lowest level of sensitivity.

8.4.42 **Table 8.2** below illustrates how landscape value and susceptibility are combined to determine the level of landscape sensitivity.

Table 8.2: Matrix for Determining Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Susceptibility	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Landscape Value				
High	High	High to Medium	Medium	Medium to Low
Medium	High to Medium	Medium	Medium to Low	Low
Low	Medium	Medium to Low	Low	Low to Very Low
Very Low	Medium to Low	Low	Low to Very Low	Very Low

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

8.4.43 The judgement on visual sensitivity is based on consideration of both the visual receptor’s value and its susceptibility to change arising from the Scheme.

8.4.44 For details on how a visual receptors value and susceptibility is assessed please refer to **Section 1.7 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**

8.4.45 **Table 8.1.1.9 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1** provide criteria for determining value attached to views which is dependent upon designation, cultural associations, popularity, and where views provide appreciation of the landscape.

8.4.46 Professional judgements are made on the merit of the view based on the visual receptor. It should be noted that the levels are indicative and in practice there is not a clear distinction between criteria levels.

8.4.47 **Table 8.3** below illustrates how the visual value and susceptibility are combined to determine the level of landscape sensitivity.

Table 8.3: Matrix for Determining Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Visual Value				
High	High	High to Medium	Medium	Medium to Low
Medium	High to Medium	Medium	Medium to Low	Low
Low	Medium	Medium to Low	Low	Low to Very Low
Very Low	Medium to Low	Low	Low to Very Low	Very Low



Magnitude of Landscape Change

8.4.48 The overall assessment of magnitude of landscape change, combines size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility. Overall magnitude of change is assessed from high to very low depending on these factors. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

8.4.49 For definitions of landscape change please refer to **Section 1.6 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**

Duration and Reversibility of Visual Effects

8.4.50 The following terminology is used to describe the duration of the change.

- Short-term: 0-5 years;
- Medium-term: 5-10 years; and
- Long-term: 10 to 40 years (or longer).

8.4.51 For the purposes of the LVIA process, the operational phase of the Scheme is assessed as a long-term duration and the construction and decommissioning phases is assessed as short-term duration.

8.4.52 Reversibility is the judgement about whether or not the Scheme can be removed, and once removed whether the view can be fully restored.

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8.4.53 The overall assessment of magnitude of visual change, combines size and scale, geographical extent and duration and reversibility. Overall magnitude of change is assessed from high to very low depending on these factors. Not all aspects of a criterion need to be met for an evaluation to be given.

8.4.54 For definitions of visual change please refer to **Section 1.7 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**

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8.4.57 Reversibility is the judgement about whether or not the Scheme can be removed, and once removed whether the view can be fully restored.

Assessment of Significance

8.4.58 **Table 8.4** below shows how the combined factors of sensitivity and magnitude are considered together to determine the significance of landscape and visual effects.

8.4.59 Landscape and visual effects assessed as Major, Major/Moderate, and Moderate are considered to be significant as highlighted in grey below.

8.4.60 Landscape and visual effects assessed as Moderate/Minor, Minor, Minor Negligible and Negligible are not considered as significant.



Table 8.4: Matrix for Determining Significance of Landscape and Visual Effects

Sensitivity	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Magnitude				
High	Major	Major/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor
Medium	Major/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor
Low	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/ Negligible
Very Low	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/ Negligible	Negligible

8.4.61 Effects of the Scheme are considered adverse unless stated otherwise (neutral/beneficial) as defined in **Section 1.8 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.

Cumulative Effects

8.4.62 For details of the cumulative methodology please refer to **Section 2: Cumulative Methodology of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.

8.4.63 Cumulative landscape effects, are likely to include effects on:

- The fabric of the landscape;
- The aesthetic aspects of the landscape; and
- The overall character of the landscape.

8.4.64 Cumulative visual effects can be caused by combined visibility, which “occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint and/or sequential effects which occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments” as set out in GLVIA3 (Table 7.1) which states ‘Combined’ visual effects are:

“Where two or more developments are or would be within the observer’s arc of vision at the same time without moving her/his head”.

8.4.65 We have approached the cumulative assessment as three separate divisions under the following headings:

- the assessment of **Cumulative Sites** based on the Sites which make up the Scheme;
- the assessment of **Cumulative Developments** being the Scheme in combination with other similar developments, these being solar projects in the local area; and
- the assessment of **Cross Topic Effects**.

8.4.66 The following text defines the separate divisions of cumulative assessment.

Cumulative Site Effects

8.4.67 Due to the dispersed nature of the Sites within the Scheme, a preliminary assessment of the landscape and visual effects of Green Hill A-G and the Green Hill BESS, taken together, has been undertaken to determine the effects of the Scheme as a whole.

8.4.68 The cumulative effects of each of the Sites are assessed and the combined set of effects of the Scheme to reach an overall conclusion on where likely significant effects might occur as a result of the Scheme.

Cumulative Development Effects

8.4.69 A preliminary cumulative assessment has been undertaken, assessing both the cumulative landscape and visual effects of the Scheme in conjunction with other local developments.



- 8.4.70 This will be provided within the Cumulative Effects chapter of the PEIR.
- 8.4.71 The Cumulative Developments assessment considers the additional effects resulting from the Scheme in combination with the effects resulting from other similar developments, these being other solar projects taken together, that are listed below. In this case, the Scheme has assessed the cumulative effects as a combined set of effects as 'Developments' reaching an overall conclusion on where likely significant effects might occur based on the following Cumulative Developments.
- Cross Topic Effects
- 8.4.72 Cross topic environmental effects resulting from the Scheme are considered where LVIA impacts and those of another chapter both operate on the same receptor - e.g. cultural heritage; or noise and vibration. It is anticipated cross topic effects will primarily arise from following disciplines.
- Glint and Glare
- 8.4.73 The LVIA will consider the conclusions of the Glint and Glare Assessment in association with an assessment of the magnitude of Landscape and Visual impacts using the methodology prescribed above.
- Lighting
- 8.4.74 The LVIA will consider the construction, operational and decommissioning lighting strategy for the Scheme including details of directionality, intermittent lighting. It will also describe any landscape measures necessary to avoid or mitigate lighting effects.
- 8.4.75 Lighting is not required within the Solar Arrays for the operational phase. Motion sensing security lighting will be provided within substations and within the BESS to be used only for maintenance and security purposes.
- 8.4.76 Temporary site lighting during construction will be required to enable safe working during construction and decommissioning during hours of darkness and will be designed as far as reasonably practicable to minimise potential for light spillage outside the Scheme and Cable Corridor, particularly towards houses, traffic and ecological habitats.
- 8.4.77 Standard good practice measures would be employed to minimise light spill, including glare during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- Cultural Heritage
- 8.4.78 The LVIA will consider the findings of the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES. The LVIA will focus on likely significant effects of views from heritage assets (where accessible) but would not comment upon the setting of such assets. This would be undertaken as part of the Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES. However, consultation would be undertaken with the cultural heritage consultant through the LVIA process to help inform landscape character.
- Arboriculture
- 8.4.79 The LVIA will consider the findings of any tree surveys undertaken and consider any effects upon Landscape and Visual receptors should vegetation removal be required as part of the Scheme. Due to the nature of the Scheme, it is considered that existing vegetation on site would be retained (where possible) and any removal to accommodate elements associated with construction or access would be subject to a BS5837:2012 tree survey and associated Arboricultural Impact Assessment which would inform the LVIA. Mitigation associated with any such tree loss associated with the Scheme would be included in the landscape mitigation plans forming part of the LVIA. We would work closely with the arboricultural consultant throughout the application process to ensure local arboreal assets and character inform the LVIA and associated mitigation plans.
- Ecology
- 8.4.80 The LVIA will consider the findings of the ecological reports and close liaison with the ecology consultant would form a key part of the LVIA mitigation strategy. Whilst ecological effects would be dealt with wholly in the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES, this approach ensures that



the landscape mitigation proposed is considered holistically with ecological requirements to maximise the benefits of the Scheme in terms of green infrastructure, habitat creation and ecological mitigation.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

8.4.81 Current guidance on Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is contained within the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/19.

8.4.82 Steps 1-3 of RVAA guidance align with the standard LVIA based approach defined in GLVIA3 to assess the effects on residential amenity as follows:

- Step 1 – Definition of study area and scope of the assessment
- Step 2 – Evaluation of Baseline Visual Amenity
- Step 3 – Assessment of likely change to visual amenity of properties
- Step 4 – Forming the RVAA judgement

8.4.83 Step 4 of the RVAA is defined as being required as follows:

“In this final step, and only for those properties where the largest magnitude of effect has been identified, a further judgement is required.”

8.4.84 It is therefore proposed to undertake steps 1-3 as part of the LVIA for the Scheme and if, following assessment of affects upon residential properties at year 15, there remain significant effects at the highest magnitude of significance (major) then a full RVAA would be undertaken for those properties affected.

8.5 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

8.5.1 This preliminary assessment is based on baseline and Scheme design information available at the time of writing this chapter. A full assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA, the assessment will be developed and refined following statutory consultation and as additional information becomes available. The final assessment will be presented within the ES.

8.5.2 Where the Scheme designs and details are either not yet known or are incomplete at this stage, either assumptions have been made based on professional judgment, or, in the event that it is not possible to make any assumptions, no attempt at a full assessment has been made. This assessment is an iterative process and will be both expanded and made more specific as survey data is collected, analysed, and reported on, and designs are further developed. This process will be carried out in conjunction with relevant consultees and third parties as necessary to achieve the most robust outcome.

8.5.3 The methodology for landscape and visual has considered the following assumptions and limitations:

- The PEIR is based upon the most recent layout illustrated within the **Indicative Masterplans** included within **Volume 2, Figures 8.15.1 – 8.15.6**. It is anticipated that the Scheme layout will continue to develop beyond PEIR. A full assessment of the final Scheme layout will be undertaken with the ES.
- The PEIR is based upon summer field work and a precautionary approach has been taken when assessing the likely impacts of the Scheme in recognition that the winter landscape is likely to provide greater visibility. Winter field work will be undertaken to establish a complete understanding of likely effects. As such following winter surveys, it is considered likely that the assessment will need refining to reflect the more open landscape of winter months and potential greater visibility of the proposals. The results of which would be included within the full LVIA contained within the ES.
- Fieldwork within the study area has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations only;



- Assessment of effects upon residential properties has been undertaken from the curtilage of residential properties where publicly accessible unless other arrangements are agreed with individual residents to gain access to their property. Professional judgement has been used to assess views from residential properties aided by the ZTV, aerial photography and LVIA figures; and
- Photography included within the **Volume 2, Figures (series) 8.14 Baseline Photography and Summer Photomontages**, is verifiable in line with TGN 06/19 and has been captured in summer months only for the PEIR due to project timescale constraints. Both Summer and Winter photography will be included within the ES.

8.5.4 Assessment of effects at construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning is assessed as follows:

- Construction – Assessment is based on the construction of Green Hill A – G, BESS Site and associated infrastructure including energy storage, substation and Cable Corridor as set out in Chapter 4 Development Proposals, and assessment would be undertaken in summer, essentially identifying a 'best case' scenario. The final LVIA included as part of the ES, would report a winter assessment without the benefit of full vegetation in order to assess a worst-case scenario;
- Operation (Year 1) - Assessment is based on Green Hill A – G, BESS Site and associated infrastructure being operational at the same time and assessment would be undertaken in summer, essentially identifying a 'best case' scenario. The final LVIA included as part of the ES, would report a winter assessment without the benefit of full vegetation in order to assess a worst-case scenario;
- Operation (Year 15) - Assessment is based on Green Hill A – G, BESS Site and associated infrastructure being operational at the same time and assessed in summer with vegetation in leaf offering maximum screening potential. This would assume a uniform growth of trees, shelterbelts, and woodland mitigation planting of 5m since operation at year 1 representing uniform growth of 1m every 3 years for proposed trees, shelterbelts, and woodland. This would also assume a uniform growth of hedgerow mitigation planting of 4m since operation at year 1 representing uniform growth of 1m every 3.75 years. Existing hedgerows would be assumed to have reached their prescribed management height by year 15 of between 3-5m. It is also assumed that panels will be replaced on a continuous basis throughout the operational stage of the scheme; and
- Decommissioning – Assessment is based on a similar process to that of construction with the scheme being no longer operational. Assessment would be undertaken in summer, essentially identifying a 'best case' scenario. The final LVIA included as part of the ES, would report a winter assessment without the benefit of full vegetation in order to assess a worst-case scenario but would assume retention of existing and mitigating green infrastructure on site.

8.6 Baseline Conditions

8.6.1 This section describes the baseline environmental characteristics for the Scheme and surrounding areas with specific reference to landscape and visual setting.

Landscape Baseline

8.6.2 The existing baseline conditions are derived from in-progress or completed desk based and field-based studies, the methodologies of which are given separately in **Section 8.4**.

8.6.3 The Sites within the Scheme cover an area of approximately 1,200¹ hectares (ha) within a rural landscape setting of Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, located between the towns of Northampton, Wellingborough, Milton Keynes, and Bedford.

¹ 1.223 hectares based on the indicative masterplans. Does not include Cable Route Search Area.



- 8.6.4 As shown on **Volume 2, Figure 8.1**, the nine Sites (Green Hill A to G and the Green Hill BESS) are situated within a series of land parcels across a large geographic area of just under 23km north to south. This area extends from the northern extent of the most northern Site, Green Hill A located near to the settlement of Old, to the southern extent of the most southern Site, Green Hill G located near to the settlement of Lavendon. Each of the Sites is separated by varying distances therefore, from a Landscape and Visual perspective, each land parcel is considered to vary in terms of interconnecting relationships. The individual fields within the Scheme have been described from a general wider landscape context within the text below and will be described in detail Site by Site within **Section 8.6**.
- 8.6.5 The Scheme primarily comprise agricultural land delineated by low hedgerows, treed hedgerows, scattered woodland, and woodland blocks.
- 8.6.6 Landform across the Scheme primarily consists of gently undulating topography which often provides enclosure and limits expansive views. Due to the nature of this landform alongside the extensive existing vegetation in the form of hedgerows, trees, and woodland, the Sites which make up the Scheme are relatively well contained. Views are available across the landscape immediately surrounding the Site but due to the containment provided by the landform and vegetation are likely be limited to localised short distance views rather than wide ranging or panoramic.
- 8.6.7 Green Hill E, F and G contain greater topographical height difference when compared to remaining Green Hill Sites. Green Hill E and F are located either side of the Nene Valley where topography falls from north to south on land associated with Green Hill E and from south to north on land at Green Hill F. Green Hill G is located on the southern slopes of the Yardley - Whittlewood Ridge, a plateau which separates the Nene Valley to the north and Ouse Valley to the south.
- 8.6.8 Green Hill BESS is located on the lower land (approximately 50m AOD) within the Nene Valley, adjacent to the Grendon Substation. The Green Hill BESS comprises agricultural land, directly southwest of extensive areas of wetland that run parallel to the River Nene. Features such as overhead pylons associated with Grendon Substation are prominent locally and compromise the rural character and detract from the local landscape context of the surrounding wetlands.
- 8.6.9 The existing substation and surrounding land parcels are screened, with mature existing bands of woodland, screening from Station Road and woodland planting to the extents of the substation boundary.
- 8.6.10 Green Hill A, A.2, B, F, G, and the Green Hill BESS are more rural when compared to the remaining three Sites. Green Hill C, D and E are located closer to the urban fringe of larger conurbations, located between Northampton and Wellingborough. Green Hill C skirts the edge of Sywell aerodrome, with all of Green Hill C, D and E in proximity to an industrial estate on the western edge of Wellingborough.
- 8.6.11 **Volume 2, Figure 8.1** illustrates the proposed Sites which the Scheme comprises and the associated Study Area for the LVIA which has been defined based on the Site setting described in this section.
- 8.6.12 Landscape designations are assessed within each land parcel (Green Hill A - G and Green Hill BESS) and within the Outer 5km Study Area. All relevant designations are shown on **Volume 2, Figure 8.6**. A description of key designations within the Outer 5km Study Area has also been included within the Site Characters described in Paragraph 8.6.31 onwards of Section 8.6, to provide a more rounded assessment of designations within the wider landscape. The exception is the listed buildings, due to the high number of listed buildings within the 2km and Outer 5km Study Area, only those closest have been described. All the listed buildings have been recorded on **Volume 2, Figure 8.6**.
- 8.6.13 There are no National landscape designations such as National Parks or National Landscapes, contained within the Outer 5km Study Area of the Scheme.



Landscape Character Areas

- 8.6.14 The character of the landscape evolves over time as a result of the interaction of human activity and the natural environment (people and place). Attributes used less landscape character include:
- Physical – geology, landform, climate, soils, land cover;
 - Cultural and Social – land use, settlement, enclosure and history; and
 - Aesthetics – colour, texture, pattern, form and perception.

- 8.6.15 The published National Character Areas (NCAs), Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the study area from National to District level are described below and are shown on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**.

- 8.6.16 A full suite of landscape characteristics and sensitivities of the relevant Character areas within the Outer 5km Study Area have been included within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.4** Character Area Descriptions.

National Landscape Character

- 8.6.17 The Sites are located within four of the National Character Areas (NCAs) as defined by Natural England and as illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**:

- NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (NE565);
- NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527);
- NCA Profile: 91 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge (NE501); and
- NCA Profile: 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands (NE555).

- 8.6.18 Green Hill A, C, D, E and the Green Hill BESS are located wholly within NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales. Green Hill A and B are predominantly located within NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales, with some of the western extents of both sites located within NCA 95 Northamptonshire Uplands.

- Green Hill F is located wholly within 91 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge.
- Green Hill G is located within both 91 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge and 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands.

- 8.6.19 The NCAs are a national scale assessment and though they provide a useful broad scale overview of landscape character, the detail of more local scale landscape character assessment studies is more relevant to LVIA for development proposals of this scale.

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.20 The Scheme is located within eight Regional Landscape Character Types (LCT) as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 (Ref.13) and Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment 2022 (Ref.14) as illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**:

- Northamptonshire LCT 5 Clay Plateau;
- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain;
- Northamptonshire LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge;
- Northamptonshire LCT 6 Undulating Claylands;
- Milton Keynes LCT 1 Clay Plateau Farmland; and
- Milton Keynes LCT 5 Undulating Clay Farmland.



- 8.6.21 These regional LCTs are broken down further into eight Landscape Character Areas (LCA). The Sites are located in the following LCAs:
- Northamptonshire LCA 5b Sywell Plateau;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands;
 - Milton Keynes LCA 1a Yardley Clay Plateau Farmland; and
 - Milton Keynes LCA 2a Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes.
- 8.6.22 Green Hill A, A.2, B, C and D are located wholly within Northamptonshire LCA 5b Sywell Plateau. The majority of Green Hill E is also located within Northamptonshire 5b Sywell Plateau, with the exception of parts of the southern, eastern and western edges which are partly located within the Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes.
- 8.6.23 The Green Hill BESS is located primarily within Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill. A small portion of the southern extent of the Green Hill BESS is located within the Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester along with the northern portion of Green Hill F.
- 8.6.24 The remaining extent of Green Hill F is located primarily within Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase, with only a very small portion of the Site within Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands.
- 8.6.25 Green Hill G is located primarily within Milton Keynes LCA 5a Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes, with only a small portion of the northern extent of the Site located within Milton Keynes LCA 1a Yardley Clay Plateau Farmland.
- 8.6.26 The Outer 5km Study Area is located within a further six LCTs defined by the Northamptonshire Landscape Character Assessment 2010, Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment 2022 (Ref.15) and Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2020 (Ref.16), listed below:
- Northamptonshire LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys;
 - Northamptonshire LCT 17 River Valley Floodplain;
 - Milton Keynes LCT 2 River Valley;
 - Bedfordshire LCT 1 Clay Farmland;
 - Bedfordshire LCT 2 Wooded Wolds; and
 - Bedfordshire LCT Limestone Valleys.
- 8.6.27 These are divided into a further 16 LCAs listed below;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4d Hanging Houghton;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands.
 - Northamptonshire LCA 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain;



- Northamptonshire LCA 17d River Ise Floodplain;
- Northamptonshire LCA 18C The Nene - Duston Mill to Billing Wharf;
- Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Valley Slopes;
- Milton Keynes LCA 3b Ouse Floodplains;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1A Cranfield to Stagsden;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1B Riseley;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2A Hinwick;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2B Pavenham; and
- Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrold - Great Ouse.

8.6.28 The Outer 5km Study Area contains areas defined as 'Urban' which is associated with large settlements including Wellingborough and Northampton.

8.6.29 Given the distance between the proposals, and those LCTs and LCAs that are peripheral to the Outer 5km Study Area, effects upon key landscape characteristics of the LCTs and LCAs listed below are limited overall. These Character Areas have been considered in the round within each Study Area as set out in **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.1 Landscape Assessment Sheets**.

- Bedfordshire LCT 1 Clay Farmland;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4d Hanging Houghton;
- Northamptonshire LCA 18C The Nene - Duston Mill to Billing Wharf;
- Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Clay Farmland;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1A Cranfield to Stagsden;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1B Riseley;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2B Pavenham; and
- Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrold - Great Ouse.

8.6.30 The Scheme itself is not located within any Local Landscape Character Assessment (LLC) however part of the eastern extent of the Study Area is located within LLC areas identified in the Northampton Urban Fringe Landscape Character and Sensitivity Study produced by Northampton Borough Council in 2018 (Ref.17).

8.6.31 The purpose of the report is to provide a detailed understanding of the character and sensitivity of the landscapes within and surrounding Northampton to inform allocation of sites for housing development for the Northampton Local Plan Part 2. The report focuses on the development of Northampton's urban fringe in relation to housing as opposed to renewable energy infrastructure.

8.6.32 Local Landscape Character Areas defined within the Northampton Urban Fringe overlap the same geographical area as LCA's defined within the Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010, however extent of boundary lines defining the LCA's vary. For the purpose of the LVIA, only LCA's defined within the Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment, have been assessed collectively as a representative LCA of the geographical extent within the relevant Study Areas.

Site Character

8.6.33 The Sites which make up the Scheme are situated within a series of land parcels across a large geographic area. Each site, Green Hill A to G and the Gress Hill BESS, are separated by varying distances and therefore from a landscape and visual perspective each land parcel is considered



to have varying interconnecting effects on the local landscape. The landscape baseline for the Sites is shown in **Volume 2, Figures 8.6.1 - 8.6.5**, and are described below.

Green Hill A

- 8.6.34 Green Hill A is located within a rural setting of Northamptonshire, 5.3km southwest of Kettering. The closest settlements to Green Hill A include the village of Old, approximately 300m to the west, and the village of Walgrave, approximately 600m to the south. These two villages sit within the wider context of smaller villages scattered throughout the wider rural landscape, connected by local 'B' and narrow roads, connecting smaller urban nodes within the wider landscape.
- 8.6.35 Green Hill A covers an area of approximately 173.6 ha and is currently being used for agricultural purposes, predominantly arable. Green Hill A is divided into 29 fields which are divided centrally by Newland Road which runs through the Site north to south. Other surrounding roads in close proximity include Broughton Road which runs adjacent to the northern extent of Green Hill A, and Walgrave Road which runs parallel to the southern boundary of the Site at a distance of 300m.
- 8.6.36 Green Hill A is located on rolling landform with gently sloping undulation which varies between 104m to 136m AOD and roughly rise and fall in a northwest, southeast orientation. The surrounding farmland comprises a similar pattern of rolling landform.
- 8.6.37 Green Hill A comprises a series of medium scale regular shaped agricultural fields, defined by extensive hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The Site also contains a mature native woodland block which meanders north to south, parallel to Newland Road and forms a strong landscape feature in the local context.
- 8.6.38 Surrounding Green Hill A, the landscape is similar to the agricultural farmland contained within the Site itself, delineated by low hedge lines and treed hedgerows, with the occasional scattered wooded block.
- 8.6.39 Nearby properties in close proximity to Green Hill A include farmstead type buildings, one to the south of Newlands Road, The Acorn, Educational Centre and a further farmstead with outbuildings, Walgrave Lodge to the north, again along Newlands Road. There are also several larger isolated properties dotted throughout the wider surrounding countryside.
- 8.6.40 There is a greater concentration of properties and housing located south of the Green Hill A within the villages of Old and Walgrave and a small residential development along Walgrave Road located directly between the two villages.
- 8.6.41 Pitsford Water Reservoir located 1.33km southwest from Green Hill A, provides a location for walking, cycling, fishing, sailing, water sports and birdwatching.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 8.6.42 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within Green Hill A.
- 8.6.43 Lamport Hall, Grade II (List Entry 1001036) is the nearest Registered Park and Garden, located approximately 2.8km west of the Green Hill A. This is the only Registered Park and Garden within 5km of the Site.

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.6.44 There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Green Hill A and three Scheduled Monuments within the Wider 2km Study Area.
- 8.6.45 The closest Scheduled Monuments are within the village of Walgrave; Abandoned areas of Walgrave Medieval Village (List Entry Number: 1418583), located directly south, it also encompasses Walgrave moated site (List Entry Number:1011036) these are approximately between 500m to 1km from Green Hill A.

Listed Buildings

- 8.6.46 There are no Listed Buildings on Green Hill A. Within 2km there are two Grade I Listed Buildings and 36 Grade II Listed Buildings.



Conservation Areas

- 8.6.47 There are no Conservation Areas located on Green Hill A or within the Wider 2km Study Area. The closest Conservation Area is Scaldwell approximately 2.1km to the west.

Ancient Woodland

- 8.6.48 There is no Ancient Woodland on Green Hill A.
- 8.6.49 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Badsaddle Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland), located 1.8km southeast of Green Hill A.
- 8.6.50 There are seven blocks of Ancient Woodland located between 2 and 5km of Green Hill A which include: Withmale Park Wood (a mix of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland); Faxton Corner; Cransley Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland); Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) and two unnamed Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland blocks.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 8.6.51 There are no SSSIs on Green Hill A.
- 8.6.52 There are three SSSIs on the outer edge of the Wider 2km Study Area: Pitsford Reservoir located 1.33km to the southwest; Badsaddle and Withmale Park Bush Walk Woods located 1.83km to the east at the nearest point; and Birch Spinney and Mawsley Marsh located 1.99km to the north.

National Character Area

- 8.6.53 Green Hill A is located within two of the National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 7.5 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527), and NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (NE565).

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.54 Green Hill A is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**.
- 8.6.55 There are a further three LCTs located within 2km and 5km of Green Hill A including;
- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCT 17 River Valley Floodplain; and
 - Northamptonshire LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys.
- 8.6.56 These are broken down into further LCAs between 2km and 5km and localised as:
- Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4d Hanging Houghton;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain; and
 - Northamptonshire LCA 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth.
- 8.6.57 **Green Space:** The nearest Green Spaces are playing fields located in Walgrave, approximately 370m south of Green Hill A and playing fields located in Old, approximately 390m west of the Site.

Green Hill A.2

- 8.6.58 Green Hill A.2 is located within a rural setting of Northamptonshire, 5.17km southwest of Kettering. The closest settlements to Green Hill A.2 include the village of Walgrave, located approximately 900m to the west and Hannington located approximately 950m southeast of the Site. These two villages sit within the wider context of smaller villages scattered throughout the



wider rural landscape, connected by local 'B' and narrow roads, connecting smaller urban nodes within the wider landscape.

- 8.6.59 Green Hill A.2 covers an area of approximately 65.2 ha and is currently being used for agricultural purposes, predominantly arable. The Site comprises four large scale fields divided by native hedgerows with scattered hedgerow trees.
- 8.6.60 Roads in close proximity to the Green Hill A.2 include the A43 which runs north to south, directly east of the Site and Kettering Road which joins the A43 at the northeast corner of the Site and runs directly parallel to the northern Site boundary.
- 8.6.61 Green Hill A.2 is located on gently rolling landform which varies between 110m to 136m AOD and roughly falls from east to west. The surrounding farmland comprises a similar pattern of rolling landform.
- 8.6.62 Green Hill A.2 comprises a mix of two medium, slightly irregular shaped fields and two large scale regular shaped agricultural fields, defined by extensive hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Other extensive tree planting in close proximity to Green Hill A.2 includes a woodland block which runs parallel to the southern Site Boundary, directly southeast of the Site.
- 8.6.63 The landscape surrounding Green Hill A.2 is similar to the agricultural farmland contained within the Site itself, delineated by low hedge lines and treed hedgerows, with the occasional scattered wooded block particularly to the south.
- 8.6.64 Nearby properties in close proximity to the Green Hill A.2 include farmstead type buildings along Kettering Road which includes several properties associated with New Lodge Farm, located 14m north of the Site and Bridge Field Farm located 230m west of the Site. There is also a series of buildings directly south of the Green Hill A.2 associated with Rectory Farm located west of the A43. Residential property Gibb Wood (Promise Land) is located opposite Green Hill A.2 on the far side of the A43.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 8.6.65 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within Green Hill A.2 or within the Outer 5km Study Area.
- 8.6.66 Lamport Hall, Grade II (List Entry 1001036) is the nearest Registered Park and Garden, located approximately 5.45km northwest of Green Hill A.2.

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.6.67 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Green Hill A.2 and two (2) Scheduled Monuments within the Wider 2km Study Area.
- 8.6.68 The closest Scheduled Monuments are within the village of Walgrave; Abandoned areas of Walgrave Medieval Village (List Entry Number: 1418583) and encompasses Walgrave moated site (List Entry Number: 1011036) located approximately between 700m to 1.6km east of Green Hill A.2.

Listed Buildings

- 8.6.69 There are no Listed Buildings on the Green Hill A.2. Within 2km there are two Grade I Listed Buildings and 21 Grade II Listed Buildings.

Conservation Areas

- 8.6.70 There are no Conservation Areas located on the Green Hill A.2 or within the Wider 2km Study Area. The closest Conservation Area is Broughton approximately 2.3km to the northeast.

Ancient Woodland

- 8.6.71 There is no Ancient Woodland on the Green Hill A.2.
- 8.6.72 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Badsaddle Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland), located 308m east of the Green Hill A.2.



8.6.73 There are a further five blocks of Ancient Woodland located between 1 and 5km of Green Hill A.2 which include: Withmale Park Wood (A mix of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland); Cransley Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland); Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) and one unnamed Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland blocks.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

8.6.74 There are no SSSIs on the Site.

8.6.75 There are three SSSIs within the 5km study area: the closest are Badsaddle and Withmale Park Bush Walk Woods located between 308m and 930m to the southeast. Pitsford Reservoir is located 2.5km southwest of Green Hill A.2.

National Character Area

8.6.76 Green Hill A.2 is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**, and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).

Regional Landscape Character

8.6.77 Green Hill A.2 is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**.

8.6.78 There is one further LCT located within 2km and 5km of Green Hill A.2 including;

- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes;

8.6.79 These are broken down into further LCAs between 2km and 5km and localised as:

- Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes;

Green Space

8.6.80 The nearest Green Spaces are playing fields and play space located in Walgrave, approximately 1.4km west of Green Hill A.2.

Green Hill B

8.6.81 Green Hill B is located 1.3km north of the Northampton suburb of Moulton, in the rural setting of Northamptonshire. The closest settlements to Green Hill B is the small village of Holcot located approximately 850m south of the Site. Holcot sits at the outer edge of a wider context of smaller villages scattered throughout the wider rural landscape, connected by local 'B' roads. Other settlements within 2km of Green Hill B are limited to farmsteads and larger isolated properties dotted within the wider landscape and associated with the local road network.

8.6.82 Green Hill B covers an area of 64.7ha of gently undulating landform which varies between 117m to 128m AOD and generally falls from north to south. The land is currently being used for agricultural purposes, predominantly arable. The surrounding farmland comprises a similar pattern of rolling landform.

8.6.83 Green Hill B comprises a series of five medium scale regular shaped agricultural fields defined by extensive hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Boundary treatment comprises of a mix of taller hedgerows allowed to grow up to 2.5 meters and lower maintained hedgerows up to 2 meters in height. The hedgerows which define the western perimeter of Green Hill B contain a greater concentration of mature trees and provide a dense vegetative boundary. The Site also contains a large pond which is heavily screened by mature tree and shrub planting in the most eastern field parcel.

8.6.84 A PRoW crosses the most eastern field parcel from north to south diagonally, passing the edge of the pond.



- 8.6.85 Tithe Farm Road is located at the entrance to Green Hill B and runs halfway into the Site in north to south direction.
- 8.6.86 The landscape surrounding Green Hill B is similar to the agricultural farmland contained within the Site itself, delineated by a mix of low hedge lines, outgrown and treed hedgerows, and the occasional scattered wooded block. There are five buildings within 500m of Green Hill B comprising of farmsteads, detached properties, cottages, and a converted farm building. Tithe Farm which lies adjacent to the Green Hill B, has several old farm buildings/barns which have been converted into commercial office spaces and are occupied by a number of independent businesses, a car park is also associated with the buildings but its heavily screened on the north, east and south by scattered woodland blocks. A large, detached property, Hillcrest lies approximately 300m to the northwest, situated between Holcot Road the northern Site boundary. There are also several larger buildings located approximately 200 to 500m to the south of Green Hill B, they comprise: Rectory Farm which has a large footprint of outbuildings, Overstone Old Rectory, a mix of outbuildings and a property and several cottages and Overstone Grange. There are also several farmsteads and commercial storage yards dotted in the wider surrounding countryside towards the east, which are associated with Sywell Road.
- 8.6.87 Pitsford Water Reservoir is located approximately 800m north west of Green Hill B and sits approximately 30m above ordnance datum (AOD) below the Site. The reservoir provides amenity value and provisions for walking, cycling, fishing, sailing, water sports and birdwatching.
- Registered Parks and Gardens*
- 8.6.88 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Green Hill B. The closest Registered Park and Garden is Boughton Hall located approximately 3.3km to the west in the village of Boughton.
- Scheduled Monuments*
- 8.6.89 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Green Hill B.
- 8.6.90 The closest Scheduled Monument is beyond the Wider 2km Study Area, located south of the village of Walgrave: Abandoned areas of Walgrave Medieval Village.
- Listed Buildings*
- 8.6.91 There are no Listed Buildings on Green Hill B and 54 Listed Buildings within the Wider 2km Study Area comprising two Grade I Listed Buildings, 53 Grade II Listed Buildings.
- Conservation Areas*
- 8.6.92 Green Hill B is not located within a Conservation Area, the closest at the edge of the Wider 2km Study Area is Moulton Conservation Area located approximately 1.6km to the southwest. Located to the west within the Outer 5km Study Area is Boughton Conservation Area, located approximately 3.3km Green Hill B and Pitsford Conservation Area located approximately 3km west.
- Ancient Woodland*
- 8.6.93 There is no Ancient Woodland on Green Hill B.
- 8.6.94 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Badsaddle Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland), located approximately 1.8km southeast of Green Hill B.
- 8.6.95 There are three blocks of Ancient Woodland located between 2 and 5km of Green Hill B which include: Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland); Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland); and Withmale Park Wood (A mix of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland).
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*
- 8.6.96 There are no SSSIs on the Green Hill B.
- 8.6.97 Located within the Wider 2km Study Area to the northwest approximately 800m from Green Hill B is Pitsford Reservoir. Located within the Outer 5km Study Area to the northeast is Hardwick Lodge



Meadow which is located approximately 3km distance from Green Hill B and Badsaddle, Withmale Park and Bush Walk Woods at an approximate distance of 4.3km to the northeast.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

- 8.6.98 There are no local nature reserves on the Green Hill B.
- 8.6.99 On the edge of the Wider 2km Study Area to the south is Crowfields Common. Within the wider Outer 5km Study Area is Lings Wood approximately 4km and Scrub Field approximately 4.6km to the southwest.

National Character

- 8.6.100 Green Hill B is located within two of the National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5** and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527), and NCA Profile: 95 Northamptonshire Uplands (NE565).

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.101 Green Hill B is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**.
- 8.6.102 There are two LCTs located between 2km and 5km of the Green Hill B including;
- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes; and
 - Northamptonshire LCT 17 River Valley Floodplain.
- 8.6.103 These are broken down into further LCAs between 2km and 5km and localised as:
- Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4d Hanging Houghton; and
 - Northamptonshire LCA 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain.

Green Hill C

- 8.6.104 Green Hill C is located 2km west of Wellingborough, in the rural setting of Northamptonshire. The closest settlement is the small village of Sywell, located approximately 1km southwest of the Site.
- 8.6.105 Green Hill C comprises of a series of medium scale, irregular agricultural fields defined by a combination of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, a block of ancient woodland to the north, Sywell Aerodrome to the west and an existing solar farm to the north.
- 8.6.106 Green Hill C covers an area of approximately 56.3ha and is currently being used for agricultural purposes, predominantly arable with the field south of the existing solar farm, currently fallow.
- 8.6.107 Green Hill C is divided into eight land parcels, bound along the southern perimeter by Sywell Road, which turns south into Wellingborough Road. The current entrance to Green Hill C is an existing gate and access track that runs northwards into the Site, which is located in close proximity of Beckworth Emporium and Garden Centre directly to the south.
- 8.6.108 Green Hill C is located on rolling landform with gently sloping undulation which varies between 109m to 123m AOD and roughly rise and fall in a northwest, southeast orientation.
- 8.6.109 The access track within Green Hill C is located along a high point within the Site at 118m AOD. The surrounding landform falls in northwest direction before rising again to the western extent of Green Hill C. The land east of the access track falls to 111m AOD to the southeastern corner of the Site.
- 8.6.110 Green Hill C is largely contained with treed hedgerows, along the east and southern perimeter.



There are two linear blocks of woodland to the north of the Site, one consisting of a mature conifer hedgerow. The northwestern field parcel is contained within mature hedgerows and larger trees, which connect with the dense block of mature ancient woodland to the north of Green Hill C.

- 8.6.111 A bridleway traverses north to south in the western extent of Green Hill C and connects the ancient woodland to the north with Sywell Road.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 8.6.112 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of Green Hill C. The closest Registered Park and Garden is the Great Harrowden Hall located 4.6km northeast of the Green Hill C. There are no other Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km of the Site.

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.6.113 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Green Hill C.
- 8.6.114 The closest Scheduled Monument is Earls Barton motte castle (List Entry Number: 1,009,510), located approximately 2.8km to the south of Green Hill C.

Listed Buildings

- 8.6.115 There are no Listed Buildings located on Green Hill C.
- 8.6.116 Within the combined Wider 2km Study Area of Sites C, D and E there is one Grade I Listed Building, 10 Grade II* Listed Buildings, 98 Grade II Listed Buildings which are primarily associated with the villages of Sywell and Mears Ashby.

Conservation Areas

- 8.6.117 There are no Conservation Areas located on Green Hill C.
- 8.6.118 There are several Conservation Areas within the Wider 2km Study Area, the closest are Sywell Conservation Area located 1km to the west and Mears Ashby Conservation Area located 1.1km south of Green Hill C.

Ancient Woodland

- 8.6.119 There is no Ancient Woodland on Green Hill C.
- 8.6.120 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland), which is adjacent to the northern boundary of Green Hill C. There is only one other block of Ancient Woodland within 2km of Green Hill C, Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) which is located 1.5km north of the Site.
- 8.6.121 There are a further two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km to 5km which include Withmale Park Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) and Badsaddle Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 8.6.122 There are no SSSI's on Green Hill C. The closest SSSI is Hardwick Lodge Meadow approximately 1.3km north of the Site.

National Character Areas

- 8.6.123 Green Hill C is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.4**, and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).
- 8.6.124 Green Hill C is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.125 Green Hill C is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on Figure 7.5.



- 8.6.126 There are two further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill C including;
- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes; and
 - Northamptonshire LCT 18 River Valley Floodplain.

- 8.6.127 LCAs located between 2km and 5km from Green Hill C include;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; and
 - Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.

Green Hill D

- 8.6.128 Green Hill D is located 250m east of Green Hill C and 1.3km west of Wellingborough, in the rural setting of Northamptonshire. The closest settlement is the village of Mears Ashby which is directly south of the Site.
- 8.6.129 Green Hill D comprises a distinctive linear shaped series of agricultural fields which are located between Green Hill C and E, orientated north to south. The Site covers an area of approximately 42.1 ha and is currently being used for agricultural purposes, predominantly arable.
- 8.6.130 Green Hill D is divided into four land parcels of approximately equal size which are connected in a longitudinal arrangement and bound to the east by the neighbouring B-Road, Highfield Road, and Moonshine Gap to the north. Highfield Road links Sywell Road to the village of Mears Ashby to the south.
- 8.6.131 The fields can be accessed from a series of openings that have been formed along Highfield Road. Green Hill D is located on gently falling land, with a high point of 118m AOD at the corner of Sywell Road (northeast corner of the Site) which falls to 102m AOD at the southwest corner of the Site towards Mears Ashby. The fields generally fall westwards from Highfield Road by approximately 10m.
- 8.6.132 Green Hill D is delineated by treed hedgerows which separate each land parcel in an east to west direction. The western perimeter of the Site is more substantial in part, the treed hedgerows providing greater screening. However, the change in the elevation towards the west associated with Glebe Road which sits at similar height as Highfield Road allows mid-distant views into Green Hill D.
- 8.6.133 A PRoW footpath crosses Green Hill D in a north to south direction along the western boundary, which connects Sywell Road/ Moonshine Gap with the Village of Mears Ashby.

Registered Parks and Gardens

- 8.6.134 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of Green Hill D. The closest Registered Park and Garden is Great Harrowden Hall located 4.2km northeast of the Green Hill D. There are no other Registered Parks and Gardens are within 5km of Green Hill D.

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.6.135 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Green Hill D.
- 8.6.136 The closest Scheduled Monument is Earls Barton motte castle (List Entry Number: 1,009,510), located 2.3km to the south of Green Hill D.

Listed Buildings

- 8.6.137 There are no Listed Buildings located on Green Hill D.
- 8.6.138 Within the combined Wider 2km Study Area of Green Hill C, D and E there is one Grade I Listed Building, 10 Grade II* Listed Buildings, 98 Grade II Listed Buildings which are primarily associated with the villages of Sywell and Mears Ashby.



Conservation Areas

- 8.6.139 There are no Conservation Areas located on Green Hill D.
- 8.6.140 There are several Conservation Areas within the Wider 2km Study Area, the nearest is Mears Ashby Conservation Area located 113m south of Green Hill D.

Country Park

- 8.6.141 There are no Country Parks on Green Hill D and the nearest is Sywell Country Park located 1.1km southwest of the Site.

Ancient Woodland

- 8.6.142 There is no Ancient Woodland on Green Hill D.
- 8.6.143 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland), which is located 770m northeast of Green Hill D. There is one block of Ancient Woodland within 2km of the Site, Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) which is located 2km northeast of the Site.
- 8.6.144 There are a further two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km to 5km which include Withmale Park Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) and Badsaddle Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 8.6.145 There are no SSSIs on Green Hill D. The closest SSSI is Hardwick Lodge Meadow approximately 1.7km north of the Site.

National Character Area

- 8.6.146 Green Hill D is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 7.4 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).
- 8.6.147 Green Hill D is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.148 Green Hill D is located within one Landscape Character Type (LCT), LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains one Landscape Character Area (LCA), LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**.
- 8.6.149 There are two further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill D including;
- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes; and
 - Northamptonshire LCT 18 River Valley Floodplain.
- 8.6.150 Additional LCAs located between 2km and 5km from Green Hill D include;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
 - Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes; and
 - Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.

Green Hill E

- 8.6.151 Green Hill E is located 330m east of Green Hill D and 600m west of the western extent of Wellingborough, in a rural setting of Northamptonshire.
- 8.6.152 Green Hill E is one of the larger Sites which make up the Scheme and covers an area of 308.5 ha. From north to south Green Hill E is approximately 3.18km at its longest and 1.9km at its widest point from east to west.



- 8.6.153 Green Hill E comprises a series of agricultural land parcels which vary from medium to small in size and are fairly regular in shape.
- 8.6.154 The closest settlements are the village of Mears Ashby, which is west of Green Hill E, Earls Barton located south of the Site, and Wilby located 920m east of the Site at its nearest residential property.
- 8.6.155 A series of A and B roads in close proximity to Green Hill E connecting the surrounding villages include Mears Ashby Road, west of the Site (B-road), the A4500 Main Road, south of the Site (A-Road) and Wilby Road which runs through the Site from east to west.
- 8.6.156 Approximately one third of the northern extent of Green Hill E is divided by Wilby Road, which connects the villages of Mears Ashby and Wilby. The southern portion of the Site then extends 1.95km to the south from Wilby Road until it reaches the A4500 Main Road. The western extent of Green Hill E extends to Mears Ashby Road at its widest point.
- 8.6.157 The northern extent of Green Hill E (north of Wilby Road) comprises 12 fields. Landform within this portion of the Site generally rises from Wilby Road in a north / northwestern direction from an average of 100m AOD up to 115m AOD. Landform also rolls within this extent of the Site in an east to west direction.
- 8.6.158 The fields south of Wilby Road comprises 22 fields. Landform within this portion of Green Hill E generally falls in a southerly direction from Wilby Road with a high point of 109m AOD in the northwestern field parcel. The landform slopes gently at first before becoming steeper to the southern and eastern extents of the Site. Topography falls to the eastern and southern extents of the Site at 71m AOD as well as dropping west to a water course that runs parallel to Mears Ashby Road to a low of 85m AOD. The landform then rises from east to west in the two most westerly fields, from 84m AOD at the watercourse up to 102m AOD along Mears Ashby Road.
- 8.6.159 Existing vegetation cover across the northern and southern portions of Green Hill E is similar, with varying treed hedgerows of differing heights and widths which delineate each field parcel as well as scattered blocks of deciduous tree planting and small wooded areas. The northern portion of Green Hill E contains many bands of dense tree planting both within the Site and along the northern boundary. These tree lines connect to several woodland blocks northeast of the Site.
- 8.6.160 Substantial woodland blocks associated with the southern portion of Green Hill E are located along extensive lengths of the eastern and western boundaries and include Wilby Spiney and woodland which runs parallel to a water course that runs south from Mears Ashby.
- 8.6.161 There are two PRoWs that cross Green Hill E, one the runs parallel to the most northern Site boundary and a second that dissects one of the most western fields, parallel to Mears Ashby Road.
- 8.6.162 The surrounding landscape setting is similar in appearance to the agricultural farmland contained within Green Hill E however this is framed by surrounding urban settlements such as Wellingborough and the northern eastern suburbs of Northampton.
- Registered Parks and Gardens*
- 8.6.163 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of Green Hill E. The closest Registered Park and Garden is the Castle Ashby located 3.6km south of Green Hill E. There are no other Registered Parks and Gardens are within 5km of Green Hill E.
- Scheduled Monuments*
- 8.6.164 There are no Scheduled Monuments on Green Hill E.
- 8.6.165 The closest Scheduled Monument is Earls Barton motte castle (List Entry Number: 1,009,510), located 1.5 km to the west of Green Hill E.
- Listed Buildings*
- 8.6.166 There are no Listed Buildings located on Green Hill E.



8.6.167 Within the combined Wider 2km Study Area of Green Hill C, D and E there is one Grade I Listed Building, 10 Grade II* Listed Buildings, 98 Grade II Listed Buildings which are primarily associated with the villages of Mears Ashby, Wilby, and Earls Barton.

Conservation Areas

8.6.168 There are no Conservation Areas located on Green Hill E.

8.6.169 There are several Conservation Areas within the Wider 2km Study Area, the nearest is Mears Ashby Conservation Area located 67m west of Green Hill E.

Country Park

8.6.170 There are no Country Parks on Site however the nearest, Sywell Country Park, is located 360m west of Green Hill E.

Ancient Woodland

8.6.171 There is no Ancient Woodland on Green Hill E.

8.6.172 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Sywell Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland), which is located 1.5km northeast of Green Hill E. There are two blocks of Ancient Woodland between 2km and 5km of Green Hill E which include Hardwick Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) which is located 2.9km northeast of the Site and Withmale Park Wood (Ancient Replanted Woodland) located 4km north of the Site.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

8.6.173 There are no SSSIs on Green Hill E.

8.6.174 The closest SSSI is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SSSI, located approximately 2.6km southeast Green Hill E, and stretches over a distance of 4.6km in a southwest to northeast direction.

Ramsar Sites

8.6.175 There are no RAMSAR's on Green Hill E.

8.6.176 The closest Ramsar Site is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar Site, located approximately 2.6km southeast of Green Hill E.

National Character Area

8.6.177 Green Hill E is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 7.4 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).

8.6.178 Green Hill E is located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.

Regional Landscape Character

8.6.179 Green Hill E is located within two LCTs and two LCAs. These include LCT 5 Clay Plateau which contains LCA 5b Sywell Plateau, and LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley which contains LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on Figure 7.5.

8.6.180 There are two further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of Green Hill E including;

- Northamptonshire LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes; and
- Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

8.6.181 Additional LCAs located between 2km and 5km from Green Hill E include;

- Northamptonshire LCA 4b Moulton Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4e Pitsford Water;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4f Kettering and Wellingborough Slopes;



- Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester; and
- Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill.

Green Hill F

- 8.6.182 Green Hill F is located within the rural setting of Northamptonshire, 200m west of the village of Bozeat and 740m east of village of Grendon.
- 8.6.183 Green Hill F is located around the village of Easton Maudit to the north, east and south of the settlement at varying distances.
- 8.6.184 Green Hill F is the most southerly Site of those which make up the Scheme and comprises a series of medium scale irregular shaped agricultural fields.
- 8.6.185 Green Hill F is one of the larger of the nine Sites covering an area of 291.2 ha and at its longest point is approximately 3.8km long from north to south and 2.5km wide from east to west.
- 8.6.186 The fields which make up the Site run parallel to the A509 Wollaston Road and run north to south between Grendon and Bozeat. Other roads in close proximity to the Site include the A428 Bedford Road East located 1.4km south of the Site as well as Easton Lane and Easton Way which traverse the centre of the Site east to west connecting neighbouring villages Grendon, Easton Maudit and Bozeat.
- 8.6.187 The landform differs greatly in height with a low point of 53 AOD to the northern extent of the Site. Topography then generally rises to the southern extent of the Site to 103m AOD. Landform undulates throughout the Site and rises to the east and west towards the A509 and Grendon.
- 8.6.188 Fields within the Site are delineated by native hedgerows of varying quality often with few hedgerows trees which results in a fairly open aspect when viewed from within the Site. As well as hedgerows there are few bands of denser shrub and tree planting that run centrally to the Site and border the three of the most northern fields. There is also substantial scattered tree and shrub planting associated with the restored quarry land located directly east of the Site. A combination of landform and vegetation in this location limits views of the Site to the east.
- 8.6.189 Woodland cover within the immediate context of the Green Hill F is primarily located in the southern extent of the Site where there are 3 large woodland blocks. Cold Oak Copse (Ancient Woodland), Horn Wood (Ancient Woodland) are located east and west of the most southerly fields within the Site. A third large block of native woodland located 500m southwest of the Site just north of the A428, Bedford Road East, provides additional screening of the Site when viewed from the south.
- 8.6.190 There is a network of PRoW located in and around the Site. These are concentrated in the northern and southern areas of the Site. A series of six PRoW traverse the northern portion of the Site from east to west and north to south. These include:
- Footpath NN|TA|4#1;
 - Footpath NN|TA|1;
 - Footpath NN|TA|4#3;
 - Footpath NN|TA|4#2;
 - Footpath NN|TD|3; and
 - Footpath NN|TD|2.
- 8.6.191 There are two footpaths and one Bridleway which traverse the southern portion of the Site northeast to southwest and northwest to southeast. These include:
- Footpath NN|TD|5;
 - Footpath NN|TD|7; and
 - Bridleway NN|TD|8.

*Registered Parks and Gardens*

- 8.6.192 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on Site. The closest Registered Park and Garden is the Castle Ashby located 750m west of the Site. Other Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km include Hinwick House located 3km northeast of the Site and Hinwick Hall located 3.4km northeast.

Scheduled Monuments

- 8.6.193 There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site.
- 8.6.194 There are three Scheduled Monuments within the Wider 2km Study Area, the closest of which is located 25m south of the southern extent of the Site.

Listed Buildings

- 8.6.195 There are no Listed Buildings located on site.
- 8.6.196 Within the Wider 2km Study Area there are four Grade I Listed Buildings, five Grade II* Listed Buildings, 91 Grade II Listed Buildings.

Conservation Areas

- 8.6.197 There are no Conservation Areas located on the Site.
- 8.6.198 There are three Conservation Areas (Easton Maudit, Castle Ashby and Grendon) within 2km of the Site, the nearest of which, Easton Maudit is located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Site.

Ancient Woodland

- 8.6.199 There is no Ancient Woodland on the Site.
- 8.6.200 The nearest blocks of Ancient Woodland are Horn Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland), which is adjacent to the southeastern extent of the Site and Cold Oak Copse located approximately 300m west of the Site.
- 8.6.201 There are a further nine blocks of Ancient Woodland within 2km of the Site including; Cold oak Copse (Ancient Replanted Woodland); Nun Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); Three Shrine Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); The Slipe (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); Templegrave Spiney (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland); and four smaller Spinneys which are unnamed blocks of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland to the south.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 8.6.202 There are no SSSIs on the Site.
- 8.6.203 The closest SSSI is the Bozeat Meadow, located approximately 70m east of the eastern site boundary.

National Character Area

- 8.6.204 The Site is located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 8.4 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 54 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge (NE501).
- 8.6.205 The Site is located at the northern portion edge of the NCA Profile: 54 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge and borders NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and NCA Profile: 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands, both within 2km of the Site.

Regional Landscape Character

- 8.6.206 The Site is located within three LCTs which contain three LCAs as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**. These include; LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes, which contains LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester; LCT 6 Undulating Claylands which contains 6c Bozeat Claylands; and LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge, which contains LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase.
- 8.6.207 Further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of the Site include;



- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain;
- Bedfordshire LCT 1 Clay Farmland;
- Bedfordshire LCT 2 Wooded Wolds;
- Bedfordshire LCT 3 Limestone Valleys;
- Milton Keynes LCT 1 Clay Plateau Farmland;
- Milton Keynes LCT 2 River Valley; and
- Milton Keynes LCT 5 Undulating Clay Farmland.

8.6.208 Further LCAs located between 2km and 5km from the Site include;

- Northamptonshire LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill;
- Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2A Hinwick;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1B Riseley;
- Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrold - Great Ouse;
- Milton Keynes LCA 1a Yardley Clay Plateau Farmland;
- Milton Keynes LCA 2a Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes;
- Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Valley Slopes; and
- Milton Keynes LCA 3b Ouse Floodplains.

Green Hill G

8.6.209 Green Hill G is located approximately 500m northwest of the village of Lavendon and 2.4km south of the village of Bozeat, in the rural setting of Buckinghamshire.

8.6.210 The Site covers an area of approximately 170 ha and its longest point is approximately 2km long from north to south and 1.4km wide from east to west.

8.6.211 The Site comprises rolling agricultural land which generally slopes down from north to south. The Site drops from a high point of 105m AOD in the northwest corner, down to 75 AOD in the southeastern corner. Within this there are undulations within the topography that roll in an east to west direction. These undulations result in the land feeling fairly contained with the exception of some of the more elevated locations to the north where the landscape comprises a more open aspect.

8.6.212 Fields are primarily large scale and of a regular shape with few small irregular shaped parcels divided by a mix of open ditches and native hedgerows.

8.6.213 Green Hill G is bordered to the west by A509 which connects Wellingborough, 10km north of the Site, to Olney, 2.6km southwest of the Site. The southern boundary of the site runs parallel to the A428 connecting Lavendon, 500m southeast of the site, to Yardley Hastings approximately 3.7km west of the Site. Both A roads are separated from the Site by dense native hedgerows which extend the full length of the western and southern boundaries limiting views across the Site.

8.6.214 There is a network of PRoW located in and around the Site. These comprise of three PRoWs which cross the Site from north to south and from northwest to the southeast in a diagonal manner. These include:

- Footpath MK|Lavendon|005
- Bridleway MK|Lavendon|002; and



- Bridleway MK|Lavendon|015#2.
- 8.6.215 These PRoW are sections of two wider long-distance routes which include the Three Sires Way and the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk.
- 8.6.216 There are three further PRoW which border the Site. These include:
- Bridleway MK|Lavendon|004;
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|014; and
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|002.
- 8.6.217 Vegetation cover across the Site consists primarily of arable fields defined by native hedgerows of mixed quality with few hedgerow trees.
- 8.6.218 The presence of denser planting within the Site is limited to corridors of mixed native shrubs and trees which run north to south, parallel to the both the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk and Three Shires Way Long Distance Routes.
- 8.6.219 Although there is limited denser vegetation within Green Hill G, there are large blocks of broadleaf woodland (Threshire Wood, The Oaks Wood, Nun Wood, Lavendon Wood) directly north and northeast of the Site, which provide a wooded backdrop to the Site within the wider landscape setting.
- Registered Parks and Gardens*
- 8.6.220 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on Site. The closest Registered Parks and Garden is the Historic Park and Garden to Turvey House, located 2.6km southeast of the Site. Other Registered Parks and Gardens within the 5km is Castle Ashby located 4.28km to northwest of the Site.
- Listed Buildings*
- 8.6.221 There are no Listed Buildings within the Site.
- 8.6.222 Within the Wider 2km Study Area there is one Grade I Listed Buildings, no Grade II* Listed Buildings, 26 Grade II Listed Buildings.
- Conservation Areas*
- 8.6.223 There are no Conservation areas within the Site.
- 8.6.224 The only Conservation Area within the 2km Study Area is Lavendon, located approximately 580m southeast of the Site.
- Ancient Woodland*
- 8.6.225 There are no Ancient Woodlands within the Site. The northern extent of the eastern boundary of the Site is directly bordered by two blocks of Ancient Woodland which include Three Shire Wood and Nun wood.
- 8.6.226 There are a further eight blocks of Ancient Woodland within 2km of the Site. The closest of which include Barslay Spinney located 15m west of the Site, Broadlane Spinney, Nuniron Spinney and Newland Spinney located between 400 and 800m west of the site. Other larger blocks of Ancient Woodland within 2km include, the Slipe located 500m to the north, Lavendon Wood located 720m east of the Site and Snip Wood located 1.2km southeast of the Site.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)*
- 8.6.227 There are no SSSIs on the Site. There are no SSSIs within the 2km study area.
- 8.6.228 Bozeat Meadow SSSI is the nearest SSSI located 2.9km north of Green Hill G.
- National Character Area.*
- 8.6.229 The Site is located two National Character areas:
- 91 Yardley-Whittlewood Ridge; and



- 88 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands.

Regional Landscape Character

8.6.230 The Site is located within two LCTs as defined by Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment 2022. These include;

- Milton Keynes LCT 1 Clay Plateau Farmland; and
- Milton Keynes LCT 5 Undulating Clay Farmland

8.6.231 These are broken down further into LCAs and localised as:

- LCA 1a: Yardley Clay Plateau Farmland; and
- LCA 5a: Ouse Northern Undulating Valley Slopes.

8.6.232 Further LCTs located between 2km and 5km of the Site include;

- Northamptonshire LCT 6 Undulating Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge;
- Northamptonshire LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes;
- Bedfordshire LCT 1 Clay Farmland;
- Bedfordshire LCT 2 Wooded Wolds;
- Bedfordshire LCT 3 Limestone Valleys;
- Milton Keynes LCT 2 River Valley; and
- Milton Keynes LCT 5 Undulating Clay Farmland.

8.6.233 Further LCAs located between 2km and 5km from the Site include;

- Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase;
- Northamptonshire LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester;
- Bedfordshire LCA 1A Cranfield to Stagsden;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2A Hinwick;
- Bedfordshire LCA 2B Pavenham;
- Bedfordshire LCA 3A Harrold - Great Ouse;
- Milton Keynes LCA 3b Ouse Floodplains; and
- Milton Keynes LCA 2b Ouse Southern Undulating Valley Slopes.

Green Hill BESS

8.6.234 Green Hill BESS is located 600m to the northwest of the village of Grendon in rural Northamptonshire and is located on the agricultural land surrounding the Grendon Substation.

8.6.235 The Site is dominated by the adjacent Grendon electrical substation, which has a large footprint in the landscape. The substation is formed by a collection of primary power lines, transformers, circuit breakers, control buildings, security fencing and secondary power lines. The height of the substation is approximately 15m, the perimeter of the structure has been mitigated with mature mixed deciduous tree planting, however the structure is still partially visible, and the influence of the overhead pylons dominate that part of the skyline.

8.6.236 The Site is divided into three separate fields (as shown on **Volume 2, Figure 3.3.4**. Field Numbering Green Hill BESS) one southeast of the substation (BESS1), a second located west of



the substation (BESS2) land the third directly north of the substation (BESS3). All three fields are currently being used for agricultural purposes.

- 8.6.237 Field BESS1 covers an area of approximately 11.42ha, BESS2 covers an area of approximately 6.33ha and BESS3 covers an area of approximately 7.53ha.
- 8.6.238 The Site is bound on the southwestern boundary by Station Road which connects the A45 to the north through to the village of Grendon to the east.
- 8.6.239 The proposed access track to the northern extent of the Site, extends from Station Road and through the yard of a neighbouring Farm, Pastures Farm, located 330m west of Grendon Substation.
- 8.6.240 The fields BESS2 and BESS3, west and north of Grendon Substation are located on predominately flat land with localised undulations between an AOD of between 44 and 48 m.
- 8.6.241 The field BESS1, southeast of the substation has slight undulation, with a high point at the centre of the land parcel at 52m AOD which falls to 48m AOD towards the northern and eastern extents of the Site.
- 8.6.242 The southwestern extent of the western field BESS2 is defined by a linear block of predominately mature ash and oak tree planting, which screens views from Station Road. The field is also heavily bound by a further linear block of mature tree planting along the southeast and east boundary which screens views of the Grendon substation. The western boundary is defined by an established native hedgerow, lined by a belt of deciduous tree planting and an open ditch which adds to the enclosure of the Site.
- 8.6.243 The parcel to the southeast of the substation is heavily bound along the east perimeter of the Site, with a mix of hedgerow and, mature deciduous trees which helps to screen the west elevation of the substation. The block of woodland continues around the perimeter of the Substation and is also bound by an open ditch.
- 8.6.244 The field BESS3 is bound by native tree planting to the north, west and south which provide separation from the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits located directly north of the Site. The eastern edge of the field BESS3 is bound by an intermittent lower hedgerow and scattered trees.
- 8.6.245 The Site is also dominated by the large pylon which traverses with the overhead cables connecting to the substation and travelling southeast into the landscape, with further pylons seen towards the mid-distant views.
- 8.6.246 The setting of the village of Grendon is also visible from within the Site, the St Mary Parish Church tower can be seen on the hill as mid-distant views and the edge of the village is also visible at different degrees throughout the Site.
- 8.6.247 Surrounding the Site to the southwest, located on opposite side of the Station Road is the edge of the Registered Park and Gardens of Castle Ashby. The formal landscape grounds of the park, with distinctive arboretum type mature trees can be seen against the backdrop of an undulating grassland and parkland. The Castle Ashby House and the formal gardens are located approximately 1.6km to the southwest, elevated in the landscape at approximately 80m AOD, however the House is not visible from the Site or from the section of Station Road directly adjacent to the Site.
- 8.6.248 Located approximately 600m to the northwest of the Site is an open mineral and aggregate site, an open cast gravel pit and associated conveyor equipment and the storage of the aggregate piles, which are clearly visible from the Site.
- 8.6.249 Located to the north and northeast of the Site is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar site, coupled with the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a series of wetlands and extensive water courses.
- Registered Parks and Gardens*
- 8.6.250 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site.



8.6.251 Located within the 2km and Outer 5km Study Area and in close proximity to the Site, is the perimeter of Castle Ashby, located 30m from the edge of the Site to the southwest at its closest point.

Scheduled Monuments

8.6.252 There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site.

8.6.253 There are three Scheduled Monuments within the Wider 2km Study Area, the closest of which is a Medieval cross located 770m east of the Site.

Listed Buildings

8.6.254 There are no Listed Buildings located on the Site.

8.6.255 Within the Wider 2km Study Area there are three Grade I Listed Buildings, four Grade II* Listed Buildings, 69 Grade II Listed Buildings.

Conservation Areas

8.6.256 There are no Conservation Areas on the Site. The nearest Conservation Areas are Grendon Conservation Area, located approximately 530m southeast of the Site and Castle Ashby Conservation Area approximately 1.5km to the southwest.

8.6.257 Located within the Outer 5km Study Area is Cogenhoe Conservation Area, approximately 3km from the Site, Brafield on the Green Conservation Area approximately 4.5km from Site and Denton Conservation Area approximately 3.8km towards the west of the Site. To the south of the Site are Yardley Hastings Conservation Area approximately 3.5km from Site and Easton Maudit Conservation Area approximately 2.3km from Site. To the east of the Site is Wollaston Conservation Area approximately 3.8km from Site and in a northern direction is Great Doddington Conservation Area approximately 3.5km and Earls Barton conservation area approximately 2.5km from the Site.

Ancient Woodland

8.6.258 There is no Ancient Woodland on the Site.

8.6.259 The nearest block of Ancient Woodland is Cold Oak Copse (Ancient Replanted Woodland), which is located 3km South of the Sites. There is only one other block of Ancient Woodland within 5km of the Site, Horn Wood (Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland) which is located 3.6km southeast of the Site.

Ramsar Sites

8.6.260 There are no Ramsar on the Site however the nearest Ramsar site is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits located directly north of the Site.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

8.6.261 There are no SSSI's on the Site however the nearest SSSI is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits located directly north of the Site.

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

8.6.262 There are no SPAs on the Site however the nearest SPA is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits located directly north of the Site.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

8.6.263 There are no LNR on the Site. The closest LNR is Summer Leys, located 1.9km northeast of the Site, which is linked to the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar, SSSI and SPA.

National Character Area

8.6.264 The Sites are located within one National Character Areas (NCA's) as illustrated on Figure 7.4 and defined by Natural England as NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales (NE527).



8.6.265 The Sites are located at the southeastern edge of the NCA Profile: 89 Northamptonshire Vales and borders NCA Profile: 91 Yardley Whittlewood Ridge.

Regional Landscape Character

8.6.266 The Sites are located within two LCTs as defined by Northamptonshire Council Current Landscape Character Assessment 2010 and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 8.5**. These include:

- Northamptonshire LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain; and
- Northamptonshire LCT 12 Limestone Valley Slopes.

8.6.267 These are broken down further into LCAs and localised as:

- LCA 18d The Nene - Billing Wharf to Woodford Mill; and
- LCA 12a Wollaston to Irchester.

8.6.268 Within the 2km and 5km Study Area this extends to a further LCTs include:

- Northamptonshire LCT 4 Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCT 5 Undulating Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCT 6 Undulating Hills and Valleys; and
- Northamptonshire LCT 8 Low Wooded Clay Ridge.

8.6.269 These are broken down further between 2km and 5km and localised as:

- Northamptonshire LCA 4c Ecton and Earls Barton Slopes;
- Northamptonshire LCA 6b Hackleton Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCA 6c Bozeat Claylands;
- Northamptonshire LCA 8b Salcey Forest and Yardley Chase; and
- Northamptonshire LCA 18c The Nene - Duston Mill to Billing Wharf.

8.6.270 There are no further Environmental Designations listed on the Site or within 2km or 5km study area, all relevant designations are shown on the appropriate figures. (Refer to **Volume 2, Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

Preliminary Visual Baseline

Visual Amenity

8.6.271 General visual amenity is experienced by people and notably the views that people have and their visual amenity, can be defined as the overall pleasantness or attractiveness of a place and the views they enjoy of their surroundings. Amenity is something considered to benefit a location, contribute to its enjoyment, and thereby increase its value.

8.6.272 The visual amenity experienced by people (visual receptors) in the locality of the Site differs according to many factors. The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include: residents at home (private viewpoints), people engaged in outdoor recreation (including use of PROWs), visitors to heritage assets and other attractions, travellers on recognised scenic routes (public viewpoints) and people at their workplace where views are an important contributor to the setting and quality of their working life. The visual receptors least susceptible to change include views experienced from places of work where workers and visitors are concentrating on their day-to-day activities, views experienced by users of rail and main roads travelling at high speed or local roads where the focus is upon the road ahead owing to traffic conditions. For full details of visual susceptibility please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1, Table 8.1.1.10**.

8.6.273 The following section outlines visual amenity for the Green Hill sites and identifies viewpoints to be carried through into the final LVIA assessment.



Visual Amenity Green Hill A

Settlements

- 8.6.274 The nearest settlements are the two small villages of Walgrave and Old, located immediately to the south and southwest of the Site and located, 600m and 300m from the edge of the Site. There are a series of similar size villages dotted throughout the surrounding landscape, which contributes to the wider visual amenity. The villages of Hannington, approximately 3km to the south, Scaldwell approximately 2.3km west, Hanging Houghton and Lamport approximately 3.5km to the west. There are further smaller villages towards the edge of the study area, Pytchley approximately 4.5km east and Orlingbury approximately 5km to the west. There are larger villages, Mawsley approximately 1.5km north, Broughton approximately 2.5km northeast and Brixworth approximately 4.7km to the southwest. The edge of Pitsford Water lies approximately 1.7km to the southwest and Lamport House and Gardens lies approximately 3.5km to the west, they both greatly contribute to the visual amenity of the surrounding landscape.

Highways

- 8.6.275 Newland Road which extends north from Walgrave, divides Green Hill A centrally and connects to surrounding B-Roads, Old Road/Walgrave Road to the south and Broughton Road to the north. The surrounding landscape is connected by smaller B-roads which meander throughout, connecting the smaller villages. These roads are often lined with treed hedgerows intermittent woodland, offering broken views. This allows for a more intimate interaction with the landscape and contributing greatly to the visual amenity experienced by the user. As well local B-roads, the A43, Kettering Road, which runs through the landscape in a south to north direction is located 1km east of the Site.

PRoW

- 8.6.276 There are no PRoW that cross the Site, however there are numerous PRoW's that run throughout the wider landscape within 2km of the Site.
- 8.6.277 Public Footpath associated with the village of Old:
- Footpath NN|DF|8;
 - Footpath NN|DF|7;
 - Footpath NN|DF|9;
 - Footpath NN|DF|10;
 - Footpath NN|DF|3;
 - Footpath NN|DA|7;
 - Footpath NN|DA|6;
 - Footpath NN|DF|2;
 - Footpath NN|DF|11;
 - Bridleway NN|DF|6
 - Footpath NN|DM|3 stretches out to the west; and
 - Footpath to the south NN|DF|1 connects with NN|DF|13 and NN|DT|2 towards Walgrave.
- 8.6.278 PRoW associated with Walgrave:
- Footpath NN|DT|11;
 - Footpath NN|DT|13;
 - Footpath NN|DT|14;
 - Footpath NN|DT|3;



- Footpath NN|DT|7; and
- Footpath NN|DT|6.

8.6.279 PRow to the south of Walgrave include:

- Footpath NN|DT|5;
- Footpath NN|DT|4;
- Footpath NN|CT|2;
- Footpath NN|CT|1;
- Footpath NN|DT|9#2; and
- Footpath NN|CT|4.

8.6.280 PRow to the west of the Site include:

- Footpath NN|DF|4;
- Footpath NN|DA|7;
- Footpath NN|DA|6; and
- Byway open to all traffic NN|DF|12.

8.6.281 PRow to the east of the Site include:

- Footpath NN|DT|9#1; and
- Footpath NN|DT|8.

8.6.282 PRow to the North Include:

- Bridleway NN|DF|5
- Bridleway NN|GD|14;
- Bridleway NN|DF|5;
- Footpath NN|GG|19;
- Bridleway NN|GG|9;
- Bridleway NN|HK|1; and
- Bridleway NN|GG|11.

Visual Amenity Green Hill A.2

Settlements

8.6.283 The nearest settlements to Green Hill A.2 are the two small villages of Walgrave, located 900m west and Hannington, located 950m south of the Site. There are a series of similar size villages dotted throughout the surrounding landscape, which contributes to the wider visual amenity. These include the villages of Old, approximately 2.8km to the west, Broughton, located 2km north, Mawsley located approximately 2.7km to the north and Scaldwell located 4.5km west of the Site.

Highways

8.6.284 The closest roads to Green Hill A.2 include Kettering Road directly north of the Site and the A43 directly east. The surrounding landscape is connected by smaller B-roads which meander throughout, connecting the smaller villages such as Walgrave and Hannington. These roads are often lined with treed hedgerows intermittent woodland, offering broken views of the wider landscape.



PRoW

- 8.6.285 There are no PRoW that cross the Site, however bridleway NN|CT|3 runs east to west directly south of the Site. There are numerous PRoW's that run throughout the wider landscape within wider 2km of the Site.
- 8.6.286 Public Footpath north of the Site include:
- Footpath NN|DT|8;
 - Bridleway GD/014;
 - Footpath GD/002;
 - Footpath GD/003;
 - Footpath GW/014; and
 - Bridleway GW/018.
- 8.6.287 PRoW east of the Site include:
- Bridleway TR/008;
 - Bridleway TR/009;
 - Bridleway GW/017; and
 - Bridleway TR/007.
- 8.6.288 PRoW associated with Walgrave:
- Footpath NN|DT|9#1;1;
 - Footpath NN|DT|11;
 - Footpath NN|DT|13;
 - Footpath NN|DT|14;
 - Footpath NN|DT|3;
 - Footpath NN|DT|7; and
 - Footpath NN|DT|6.
- 8.6.289 PRoW to the south of Walgrave Include:
- Footpath NN|DT|5;
 - Footpath NN|DT|4;
 - Footpath NN|CT|2;
 - Footpath NN|CT|1; and
 - Footpath NN|CT|4.

Visual Amenity Green Hill B

Settlements

- 8.6.290 The nearest settlement is the small village of Holcot located 400m north of the Site. The village sits within the wider context of smaller inter-connected villages, which demonstrates visually a more intimate landscape amenity. The village of Moulton, Moulton Collage Campus, and the surrounding suburbs, approximately 1.5km to the south, marks a change in the type of visual amenity to a more urban context.



Highways

- 8.6.291 The Site sits within a network of smaller inter-connecting B-roads which spread out in a web type formation from the village of Holcot. The roads are lined with treed hedgerows, and scattered blocks of woodland, the undulating landform offers a pleasant visual amenity to the user. The Holcot Road to the west of the Site which traverses through the Pitsford Reservoir offers a greatly enhanced landscape experience and contributes greatly to the area's visual amenity. In contrast to the smaller B-roads are the A43 Kettering Road and the A508 Harborough Road dual carriageways which run north to south.

PRoW

- 8.6.292 The Public Footpath NN|CW|1 is the only PRoW that crosses the Site and runs in a north to south direction in the most eastern field parcel.

- 8.6.293 PRoW south of the Site within the Wider 2km Study Area Include:

- Footpath NN|DG|2#2;
- Footpath NN|DG|2#1;
- Footpath NN|DG|3;
- Footpath NN|DG|4;
- Footpath NN|DD|1; and
- Footpath NN|DG|1.

- 8.6.294 PRoW that extends from the village of Holcot, north of the Site include;

- Footpath NN|CW|2;
- Footpath NN|CW|11;
- Footpath NN|CW|10
- Footpath NN|CW|4;
- Footpath NN|CW|3#1;
- Footpath NN|CW|3#2;
- Footpath NN|DD|6#1;
- Footpath NN|CW|7; and
- Footpath NN|CT|7.

Visual Amenity Green Hill C, D and E

Settlements

- 8.6.295 The nearest settlement is the small village of Mears Ashby located immediately to the west of Sites D and E and the edge of the village of Earls Barton is 200m to the south. Within the wider surroundings is Sywell village 1.2km to the west. The urban edge of larger conurbations, Wellingborough 1km to the east and the outer suburbs of Northamptonshire approximately 2.5km to the west.

Highways

- 8.6.296 Smaller B-Roads Sywell Road and Moonshine Gap which connect the village of Sywell and the town of Wellingborough, run parallel to the southern boundary of Green Hill C and the northern boundary of Green Hill D. Similarly, Highfield Road which runs parallel to the full extent of the eastern boundary of Green Hill D, connects the village of Mears Ashby to Wellingborough. Wilby Road is the only road to run through any of the Sites which make up the Scheme and dissects Green Hill E centrally, connecting Mears Ashby west of the Site to Wilby located east of the Site. Other roads in close proximity to the Site include Mears Ashby Road which runs directly west of



Green Hill E and connects Mears Ashby to Earls Barton to the south. The busier A45, Main Road runs south of Green Hill E and connects into the larger infrastructure of A509 skirts the western edge of Wellingborough.

PRoW

8.6.297 There are the following PRoWs that cross the Sites:

- Bridleway NN|TN|7 crosses Green Hill C;
- Footpath NN|TN|3#1, crosses Green Hill D;
- Footpath NN|TU|3, crossing the north of Green Hill E; and
- Footpath NN|TN|1 crossing the west of Green Hill E.

8.6.298 PRoW within the Wider 2km Study Area north of Green Hill C include:

- Footpath NN|TN|3#2;
- Footpath NN|TG|4;
- Footpath NN|TG|5;
- Footpath NN|UL|24;
- Bridleway NN|UL|25;
- Bridleway NN|TG|9;
- Bridleway NN|TG|8; and
- Bridleway NN|TG|7.

8.6.299 PRoW within the Wider 2km Study Area east of Green Hill E:

- Footpath NN|UL|23;
- Footpath NN|TU|2;
- Footpath NN|UL|22;
- Footpath NN|TU|1; and
- Footpath NN|TB|1.

8.6.300 PRoW south of Green Hill E associated with Earls Barton include:

- Footpath NN|TC|5;
- Footpath NN|TC|10;
- Footpath NN|TC|18;
- Footpath NN|TC|4;
- Footpath NN|TC|7;
- Footpath NN|TC|6;
- Footpath NN|TC|19;
- Footpath NN|TC|1#1; and
- Footpath NN|TC|8.

8.6.301 PRoW within the Wider 2km Study Area of Green Hill, west of Earls Barton include:

- Footpath NN|TC|3#1;
- Footpath NN|TE|1; and



- Footpath NN|TE|7.
- 8.6.302 PRow West of Green Hill E include:
- Footpath NN|TN|2;
 - Footpath NN|TN|6,
 - Footpath NN|TN|8#1;
 - Footpath NN|TN|8#2;
 - Footpath NN|TN|9; and
 - Footpath NN|TN|11.

- 8.6.303 PRow associated with Sywell within the Wider 2km Study Area of Green Hill C,D and E:
- Footpath NN|TN|4;
 - Footpath NN|TT|1;
 - Footpath NN|TT|4;
 - Footpath NN|TT|2; and
 - Footpath NN|TT|3.

Visual Amenity Green Hill F

Settlements

- 8.6.304 The nearest settlement to Green Hill F is Easton Maudit located directly east of the Site at its closest point. Green Hill F also surrounds Easton Maudit to the east and south of the village at varying distances. Other Settlements in close proximity include Bozeat located 200m to the east and Grendon located 740m to the northwest.
- 8.6.305 There are a series of other settlements within the Wider 2km Study Area which contributes to the wider visual amenity. These include the hamlet of Strixton, located 1.1km to the north, Yardley Hastings located 2km to the southwest, the village Castle Ashby located 1.75km to the west and Wollaston located 1.85 km north of the Site.
- 8.6.306 As well as settlements there are a several isolated properties and farmsteads scattered within the Wider 2km Study Area which are considered as part of the LVIA.

Highways

- 8.6.307 The Site runs parallel to a section of the A509, Wollaston Road with runs north to south and connects Wollaston to Warrington and beyond. Sections of the Site are directly adjacent to Wollaston Road and provide access to the Site. Other roads in close proximity to the Site include the A428, Bedford Road East located 1.4km south of the Site as well as Easton Lane and Easton Way which traverse the centre of the Site east to west connecting neighbouring villages Grendon, Easton Maudit and Bozeat.
- 8.6.308 Other roads within the Wider 2km Study Area are primarily associated with Grendon, including Yardley Road, Station Road, Chequers Lane, and the Main Road to Grendon, as well as those associated with Bozeat including Harrold Road and London Road.

PRow

- 8.6.309 There is a series of PRow which travel through the Site. These include:
- Footpath NN|TA|4#1;
 - Footpath NN|TA|1;
 - Footpath NN|TA|4#3;
 - Footpath NN|TA|4#2;



- Footpath NN|TD|3;
- Footpath NN|TD|2;
- Footpath NN|TD|5;
- Footpath NN|TD|7; and
- Bridleway NN|TD|8.

8.6.310 PRow within the Wider 2km Study Area which travel towards Easton Maudit include:

- Bridleway NN|LE|26;
- Bridleway NN|TD|9; and
- Footpath NN|TD|1.

8.6.311 Associated with the village of Grendon a wide-reaching series PRowS radiate from the village in 360 degree anticlockwise direction. PRow within 2km of Green Hill F include:

- Footpath NN|TF|5;
- Footpath NN|TF|8#1;
- Footpath NN|TF|9;
- Footpath NN|TF|13;
- Footpath NN|TF|8#2;
- Bridleway NN|TF|12;
- Footpath NN|TF|7#2;
- Footpath NN|TF|14;
- Footpath NN|TF|11;
- Footpath NN|TF|7#1; and
- Byways open to all traffic NN|TF|15.

8.6.312 PRow north of the Site which travel towards Wollaston include:

- Byways open to all traffic NN|TS|4;
- Footpath NN|TS|1#1;
- Footpath NN|TS|2#2;
- Footpath NN|TS|2#1;
- Footpath NN|TV|7;
- Footpath NN|TV|6;
- Footpath NN|TV|18;
- Footpath NN|TS|3; and
- Footpath NN|TV|21.

8.6.313 PRow east of the Site which travel towards Bozeat include:

- Footpath NN|TA|7;
- Footpath NN|TA|18;
- Footpath NN|TA|6;
- Footpath NN|TA|9#2;



- Footpath NN|TA|9#1;
- Footpath NN|TA|19;
- Footpath NN|TA|14;
- Footpath NN|TA|3;
- Footpath NN|TA|17#2;
- Footpath NN|TA|17#1;
- Footpath NN|TA|2;
- Footpath NN|TA|12;
- Footpath NN|TA|22#2;
- Footpath NN|TA|21;
- Footpath NN|TA|22#1;
- Footpath NN|TA|15 and
- Footpath NN|TA|23.

8.6.314 PRoW south and southeast of the Site within 2km Study Area include:

- Bridleway NN|TA|8;
- Footpath BF|HARROLD|10;
- Bridleway MK|Lavendon|002;
- Footpath MK|Lavendon|005;
- Footpath NN|TA|20;
- Footpath MK|Warrington|007;
- Footpath MK|Warrington|005;
- Footpath MK|Warrington|002; and
- Footpath NN|LE|24.

8.6.315 PRoW south of the Site which travel towards Yardley Hastings include:

- Footpath NN|LE|1#2;
- Footpath NN|LE|1#1
- Footpath NN|LE|9;
- Footpath NN|LE|11#2;
- Footpath NN|LE|11#1; and
- Footpath NN|LE|2.

Visual Amenity Green Hill G

Settlements

8.6.316 The nearest settlement to Green Hill G is the village of Lavendon located 500m east of the Site. Settlements beyond 2km include Olney located approximately 2.5km to the southwest of the Site and Bozeat, located approximately 2.4km to the north of the Site connected by A509.

8.6.317 As well as these settlements, there are several isolated properties and farmsteads scattered within the Wider 2km Study Area which are considered as part of the LVIA.



Highways

- 8.6.318 The nearest roads to Green Hill G include the A509 which traverses north to south, parallel to a large portion of the western boundary of the Site and the A428 which traverses in a northwest to southeast direction parallel to the southern boundary of the Site. These roads intersect at a roundabout west of the southwestern corner of the Site and connect the villages of Lavendon, Yardley Hastings, Olney, Bozeat and the larger towns of Northampton and Wellingborough beyond. Other roads in close proximity to the Site include Castle Road which runs from the north of Lavendon to Castle Farm and Lower Farm to the east of the Site.
- 8.6.319 Other roads within the Wider 2km Study Area are primarily associated with the settlement of Lavendon, including Olney Road, High Street, Harold Road, Joiners Way, and The Glebe.

PRoW

- 8.6.320 There is a network of PRoW located in and around the Site. These comprise of three PRoW which cross the Site from north to south and from northwest to the southeast in a diagonal manner. These include:
- Footpath MK|Lavendon|005
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|002; and
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|015#2.
- 8.6.321 These PRoW are sections of two wider long-distance routes: the Three Shires Way and the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk.
- 8.6.322 There are three further PRoW which border the Site. These include:
- Bridleway MK|Lavendon|004;
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|014; and
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|001.
- 8.6.323 PRoW within the Wider 2km Study Area which travel towards Lavendon include:
- Footpath MK|Lavendon|003;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|013;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|017;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|010;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|009#1;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|008A; and
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|011.
- 8.6.324 Other PRoW within the 2km study area include:
- Footpath MK|Lavendon|013;
 - Footpath MK|Lavendon|009#2;
 - Bridleway MK|Lavendon|015#1;
 - Bridleway NN|TD|8;
 - Bridleway NN|TA|8;
 - Bridleway NN|TA|19;
 - Footpath MK|Warrington|001;
 - Footpath MK|Warrington|002;



- Footpath MK|Warrington|004;
- Footpath NN|LE|24;
- Footpath MK|Warrington|005;
- Footpath MK|Warrington|007;
- Footpath NN|TA|20;
- Footpath NN|TD|5;
- Footpath BF|HARROLD|10;
- Footpath BF|HARROLD|16;
- Footpath MK|Olney|005#1;
- Footpath MK|Olney|005#2;
- Footpath MK|Olney|006#1; and
- Footpath MK|Olney|006#2.

Visual Amenity Green Hill BESS

Settlements

- 8.6.325 The nearest settlement is the small village of Grendon located immediately to the southeast of the Site at approximately 550m from the edge of the Site. There are series of villages dotted throughout the surrounding landscape which contributes to the wider visual amenity. These villages include; Castle Ashby Village located approximately 1.7km to the southwest, Wollaston located approximately 4.0km to the west, Bozeat approximately 3.5km to the southeast, Yardley Hastings approximately 3.5km to the south, Earls Barton approximately 2.7km to the northwest, Great Doddington approximately 3.6km to the northwest, Cogenhoe approximately 3.15km to the east and smaller villages of Whiston approximately 1.5km west and Lower End approximately 850m to the east.

Highways

- 8.6.326 Station Road, a B-road is the closest road to the Site, immediately to the southwest which connects the village of Grendon to the east and The Nene Valley Way, A45 a busier dual carriageway approximately 1.6km to the northwest. The remaining connecting roads within the surrounding landscape are predominantly smaller B-roads which weave through their way through the surrounding area, often lined with woodland or hedgerows, consisting of Whiston Road to the west, Easton Way, and Main Road to east of Grendon which links into A509 between the villages of Wollaston and Bozeat. Smaller roads and tracks associated with the Castle Ashby estate, which meander through a wooded landscape, offer visual amenity at local scale.

PRoW

- 8.6.327 There is one PRoW located on Site, Footpath NN|TF|3 which crosses the northern field parcel BESS3 from east to west
- 8.6.328 There are numerous PRoWs that run within 2km of the Site. These include the following.
- 8.6.329 PRoW associated with the village of Grendon include;
- Footpath NN|TF|1;
 - Footpath NN|TF|10;
 - Footpath NN|TF|4;
 - Footpath NN|TF|8#1;
 - Footpath NN|TF|9;



- Footpath NN|TF|13;
- Footpath NN|TF|5;
- Footpath NN|TF|8#2;
- Footpath NN|TF|7#2; and
- Footpath NN|TF|14.

8.6.330 PRow to the north of the BESS Site include:

- Footpath NN|TC|11;
- Footpath NN|TF|17;
- Footpath NN|TF|2; and
- Bridleway NN|TF|12.

8.6.331 Further PRowS and a bridleway are located towards the extents of the 2km buffer towards the northwest and there are PRowS beyond Grendon to the east at the edge of the 2km buffer.

Viewpoints and Visualisations

8.6.332 A suite of viewpoints have been identified through desk studies which were verified through fieldwork. Their positions were agreed in consultation with North Northamptonshire Council Landscape representative and fixed prior to verified photography being undertaken. The viewpoints selected are based on consultation to date and any ongoing discussions undertaken with other landscape officer representatives from the relevant planning authorities will be included within the final ES.

8.6.333 Viewpoint selection follows good practice guidance and in particular paragraphs 6.18 to 6.20 of GLVIA3. The viewpoints proposed are used to aid the description of effects on both Landscape and Visual resources and have been utilised for visual assessment purposes.

8.6.334 The selection of viewpoints was made on the basis of the following types of publicly accessible viewpoints, as follows:

- Representative viewpoints (representative of views from a particular PRow);
- Specific viewpoints (such as key views from a specific visitor attraction);
- Illustrative viewpoints (chosen to demonstrate a particular effect/specific issue);
- Any important sequential views, for example, along key recreational or transport routes; and
- Any additional viewpoints that have been requested by statutory consultees at Scoping.

8.6.335 For the purposes of this PEIR submission, all viewpoints have been taken from publicly accessible land during the summer months. Both summer and winter photography will be included within the final ES submission, to ensure a worst-case scenario is assessed and illustrated.

8.6.336 In order to assist with viewpoint selection and to appreciate the potential influence of the Scheme in the wider landscape, preliminary ZTV figures have been used to illustrate the area from where it may be theoretically possible to view all, or part, of the Scheme. The ZTV'S produced are both Bare Earth (landform only) to illustrate a worst-case scenario (As shown on **Volume 2, Figure series 8.8**) and augmented ZTV figures (As shown on the **Volume 2, Figure series 8.9**) which illustrate the effects of landform, built form and vegetation.

8.6.337 The ZTVs provide a starting point in the assessment process and therefore provide a 'worst case' illustration of theoretical visibility and assume that if any of the Scheme is visible it will be shown on the ZTV.

8.6.338 The ZTV's will be refined through the iterative design process to help understand the impacts of changes to the designs. The ZTV are produced using ArcGIS Pro 2.1 software, and the



calculations were based on the proposed infrastructure illustrated within the **Indicative Masterplans, Volume 2, Figures 18.15.1 – 18.15.6**. Infrastructure heights were run within the ZTV modelling at the following heights:

- Solar array - 4.5m above ground level (AOD);
- BESS Battery Storage Height -3.2m above ground level (AOD);
- Substation heights
 - Green Hill A and A.2 - 7m;
 - Green Hill B - 7m;
 - Green Hill C - 13m;
 - Green Hill D - 4m;
 - Green Hill E - 13m;
 - Green Hill F - 13m;
 - Green Hill G - 7m; and
 - Green Hill BESS - 13m.

8.6.339 Augmented ZTV’s will also be refined through the iterative design process to illustrate with greater accuracy the theoretical visibility of the Scheme.

8.6.340 A series of photomontages have been produced to show the effects of the Scheme at locations where significant effects are considered likely to occur. Locations of the required photomontages and Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) were agreed with the Landscape Officer representative for North Northamptonshire.

8.6.341 Twenty AVR level 1 montages have been produced using summer photography as illustrative in the **Volume 2, Figure series 8.14** and located as per **Volume 2, Figure series 8.10**.

8.6.342 At these locations it is proposed to produce AVR level 3 photomontages in both winter and summer months which will be included within the final ES. This ensures that the effects of reduced vegetation (worse case) are illustrated. Such montages are also proposed to be utilised within the final Environmental Statement for cumulative photography where the effects of the Scheme would be seen in combination with another scheme.

8.6.343 The following tables list the proposed viewpoint locations that are used In the LVIA assessment. These tables should be read In conjunction with **Volume 2, Figures 8.10, 8.10.1 - 8.10.4, and Figure 8.14, 8.14.1 to 8.14.NN11**.

Table 8.5: Proposed Viewpoint Locations

Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
VP1	Lamport House and Gardens	Visitors, Walkers	Long distant views from Lamport House and Gardens, looking east towards Green Hill A.	2.8km from Green Hill A
VP2	Townsend Road/Old Road	Residents	View from Old Road looking north towards Green Hill A.	500m from Green Hill A
VP3	Broughton Road	Motorists	View from Broughton Road looking south towards Green Hill A.	8m from Green Hill A



Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
VP4	Broughton Road, Old Village	Commercial Property users, Road users	View from the western corner of Green Hill A, along Broughton Road at the edge of the Village, Old looking east.	Adjacent to Green Hill A
VP5	Newlands Road	Walkers, Motorists	View from Newland Road, looking north into Green Hill A.	13m from Green Hill A
VP6	Tithe Farm car park	Commercial users, Motorists	View from Tithe Farm Car Park looking south to Green Hill B.	Within Green Hill B
VP7	PROW NN CW 1	Walkers	View from PROw looking south towards Green Hill B.	Within Green Hill B (Located in northeast corner of Green Hill B)
VP8	PROW NN CW 1	Walkers	View from PROw looking north towards Green Hill B.	Within Green Hill B (Located in southeast corner of Green Hill B)
VP9	PROW NN DG 2#2	Walkers	View taken from a PROw south of Green Hill B looking north.	285m from Green Hill B
VP10	Beckworth Emporium - Northamptonshire Round	Walkers, Commercial users, and Motorists.	View from the southern gated entrance adjacent to Green Hill C, opposite Beckworth Emporium and Garden Centre, looking north.	Within Green Hill C
VP11	Northamptonshire Round recreational route north of Sywell Road	Walkers, Horse rider	View Northamptonshire Round recreational route, north of Sywell Road looking east into Green Hill C.	Adjacent to Green Hill C
VP12	Bridleway - NN TN 7	Walkers, Horse Riders	View from Northamptonshire Round recreational route looking north / northeast.	Within Green Hill C
VP13	Moonshine Gap - NN TN 3#1	Walkers, Motorists	View taken Moonshine Gap Road and footpath looking south towards Green Hill C.	Adjacent to Green Hill D
VP14	Highfield Road	Motorists	View looking west from Highfield Road towards Green Hill C.	Adjacent to Green Hill D



Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
VP15	Highfield Footpath - NN TN 3#1	Walkers	View from the southern extent of Green Hill C looking north.	Within Green Hill D
VP16	Wilby Road Near Allotments	Residents, Walkers, and Motorists	View from gated entrance to Green Hill C, in close proximity to Allotments, looking east.	Adjacent to Green Hill E
VP17	Pumping Station, Wilby Road	Motorists, Commercial Users.	View from Wilby Road, in close proximity to the Pumping Station.	Adjacent to Green Hill E
VP18	Mears Ashby Road	Residents	View from Mears Ashby Road, southeast of Site Green Hill E	464m from Green Hill E
VP19	Earls Barton	Residents	Views from the northern residential settlement Earls Barton looking north towards Green Hill E	254m from Green Hill E
VP20	Northamptonshire Round, south of Mears Ashby	Walkers	Views from Northamptonshire Round Recreational Route looking south towards Green Hill E.	Within Green Hill E
VP21	Earls Barton Cemetery	Cemetery visitors	View taken Earls Barton Cemetery looking north towards Green Hill C.	329m from Green Hill E
VP22	Pasture Farmhouse	Residents	View in proximity of Pastures Farm looking southeast towards the Green Hill BESS Site.	Within Green Hill BESS Site
VP23	PROW NN TF 003	Walkers	View from the PROW, on an elevated bridge over the aggregate conveyor belt.	331m from Green Hill BESS Site
VP24	Station Road	Road users	View from Station Road looking northeast into the Green Hill BESS Site.	Adjacent to Green Hill BESS Site
VP25	PROW NN TF 004	Walkers	View from PROW West of Grendon looking northwest towards the BESS Site.	574m from Green Hill BESS Site
VP26	PROW NN TF 001	Walkers	View from the PROW looking west towards the BESS Site.	491m from Green Hill BESS Site
VP27	PRoW NN TF 008	Walkers / residents	View from PRoW on the eastern edge of Grendon looking east towards Green Hill F.	770m from Green Hill F



Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
VP28	PRoW NN TD 003	Walkers	View from a PRoW, north of Easton Maudit looking north towards Green Hill F.	122m from Green Hill F
VP29	PRoW NN TD 005	Walkers	View from the junction of PRoW TD 005 and TD 007, west of Horn Wood.	Within Green Hill F
VP30	Junction of NN TA 003, NN TA 17 and NN TA 004	Walkers	View from the junction of three PRoW, west of the A509, looking west towards Green Hill F.	165m from Green Hill F
VP31	PRoW NN TA 004	Walkers	View from the PROW directly north of Green Hill F looking south.	Within Green Hill F
VP32	A509, Wollaston Road	Road users	View from the A509, Wollaston Road looking west.	5m from Green Hill F
VP33	Castle Ashby	Walkers	View from the gardens of Castle Ashby Registered Park and Garden looking east.	1.56km from Green Hill F
VP34	PRoW MK Lavendon 004	Walkers and Horse Riders	View from a Bridleway on the northern extent of the Site looking southwest.	Within Green Hill G
VP35	Milton Keynes Boundary Walk Long Distance Route - PRoW MK Lavendon 005	Walkers/ Residents	View from a section of the Long-Distance Route, east of Northey Farm looking south towards Green Hill G.	2m from Green Hill G
VP36	Milton Keynes Boundary Walk Long Distance Route - PRoW NN TD 5	Walkers	View from a section of the Long-Distance Route.	Within Green Hill G
VP37	Junction of Milton Keynes Boundary Walk and Three Shires Way Long Distance Routes	Walkers and Horse Riders	View from the junction of two Long Distance routes and PRoW MK Lavendon 001.	Within Green Hill G
VP38	PRoW MK Lavendon 001	Walkers	View from the PROW east of Green Hill G looking west.	135m from Green Hill G
VP39	Three Shires Way Long Distance Route - PRoW MK Lavendon 015 #2	Walkers and Horse Riders	View from a section of the Three Shires Way Long Distance Route just within the southern extent of Green Hill G looking north.	Within Green Hill G



Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
VP40	A428	Road users	View from the A428, looking north towards Green Hill G	Adjacent to Green Hill G
VP41	Junction of PRoW MK Lavendon 014, MK Lavendon 001 and MK Lavendon 019	Walkers and Road users	View from the PROW east of Green Hill G looking west.	210m from Green Hill G
VP42	PRoW NN TF/005	Walkers	View from the PROW east of Grendon looking east towards Green Hill G.	297m from Green Hill F
VP43	PRoW NN DF 4	Walkers	View from the PROW northwest of Green Hill A, looking south east.	841m from Green Hill A
VP44	PRoW NN DT 8	Walkers	View from the PROW between Green Hill A and Green Hill A.2.	413m from Green Hill A.2
VP45	Kettering Road	Road users and Residents	View from Kettering Road, south of Green Hill A, looking south.	14m from Green Hill A.2
VP46	PRoW NN CT 3	Walkers	View from PRoW southwest of Green Hill A.2 looking north east.	682m from Green Hill A.2
NN1	PRoW NN GD/014	Walkers	View from the PROW north of Green Hill A looking south.	656m from Green Hill A
NN2	PRoW NN CW 1	Walkers	View from the PROW south of Holcot looking south towards of Green Hill.	583m from Green Hill B
NN3	PRoW NN TG/009	Walkers	View from the PROW north of Green Hill C looking south.	743m from Green Hill C
NN4	PRoW NN TU/003	Walkers	View from the PROW northeast of Green Hill E looking south.	25m from Green Hill E
NN5	PRoW NN TN/010	Walkers	View from the PROW west of Green Hill E looking east.	Adjacent to Green Hill E
NN6	PRoW NN TC/014	Walkers	View from the PROW south Earls Barton looking south towards Green Hill BESS Site	1.5km from Green Hill BESS
NN7	Junction of PRoW NN TF/003 and NN TF/001	Walkers	View from footpath junction southwest of Lower End looking south towards Green Hill BESS Site.	541m from Green Hill BESS



Viewpoint Reference Number	Viewpoint Title	Receptor Represented by the Viewpoint	Direction of View	Distance to the nearest field boundary (approximate)
NN8	Junction of PRoW NN TF/015 and NN TF/007	Walkers	View from footpath junction east of Lower End looking south towards Green Hill F.	684m from Green Hill F
NN9	PRoW NN TD/002	Walkers	360-degree views from footpath within Green Hill F.	Within Green Hill F
NN10	Easton Lane	Road users	360-degree views from Easton Lane.	Within Green Hill F
NN11	Junction of PRoW NN TD/008 and NN TD/005 Milton Keynes Boundary Walk Recreational Route	Walkers and Horse riders	View south of Horn Wood looking 360 degrees towards Green Hill F.	4.6m from Green Hill F

Future Baseline

- 8.6.344 This section considers changes to the baseline conditions, described above, that might occur in the absence of the Scheme and during the time period over which the Scheme would be in place. The future baseline scenarios are set out in **Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology**.
- 8.6.345 The 'existing baseline' year for assessment is 2024 as this is the date on which baseline studies for the project were commenced. A future baseline is also considered within this LVIA chapter and supporting appendices. The future baseline considers factors that will change the current baseline, without the Scheme proceeding. Committed developments within the 5km Study Area for this LVIA are one factor that can influence the future baseline ('committed developments' are those with current planning permission or allocated in adopted development plans). The potential effects of the Scheme are considered against both the current baseline and the future baseline in this LVIA chapter and supporting appendices.
- 8.6.346 Agricultural policy and land ownership and management will dictate how the land within the Study Areas for the Sites and Cable Corridor for the Scheme is managed and maintained. With such inherent uncertainties, an assessment of the effects of the Scheme under future climate change scenarios would yield results that are not meaningful. The assessment is therefore undertaken under the assumption that outside of those committed developments, there will not be any substantive changes in the baseline during the Scheme, and/or that the effects of the Scheme will not change during the operational phase.

8.7 Embedded Mitigation Measures

- 8.7.1 The following embedded mitigation measures for all phases of the Scheme have been incorporated into the Scheme design as illustrated within **Volume 2, Figure (series) 8.15 Indicative Masterplans**, with detailed proposals and locations to be submitted with the DCO application.
- 8.7.2 Paragraph 4.21 to 4.27 of GLVIA3 describe the approach to the mitigation hierarchy of landscape and visual effects. In line with this, the LVIA process would ensure that through an iterative design process the design of the scheme and mitigation occurs in parallel with the EIA process through consideration of the various stages of an EIA.



Embedded mitigation - Buffers

- 8.7.3 A development of this scale is expected to have some potential landscape effects; however, this will depend on the final design of the scheme which will be assessed in full as part of the LVIA Chapter of the ES. The final design of the Scheme will include embedded measures to design out potential adverse landscape and visual effects, reduce potential effects and/or mitigate potential adverse effects. The following buffers outlined in **Table 8.6** have been embedded into the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Sites. It is proposed that infrastructure associated with the Scheme will be located outside of the buffers listed below with the exception of internal access tracks where exclusion from the buffers is unavoidable.
- 8.7.4 Buffers listed below have been used to create a set of design parameters in which infrastructure can be located. The distance listed below are a minimum set distance which have been agreed across disciplines and will be tested throughout the design process.
- 8.7.5 There may be occasions where buffer distances are greater due to site specific requirements for example if a PRow is located on elevated ground with a high level of visibility.

Table 8.6: Proposed Buffers to proposed infrastructure to protect landscape fabric of the Sites

Criteria where Buffer Applied	Buffer Size
Ecological Buffers	
All hedgerows and woodland	15m
A ditch or watercourse of any kind	8m
At least one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of Otter or abundant evidence of Water Vole in the ditch or Watercourse • Outlier badger setts 	10m
Individual Trees and groups of trees	10m (unless Arboriculture surveys indicate greater Root Protection Area (RPA) is required)
Ancient Woodland	15m
Some minor watercourses (depending on Ecological Value)	15m
Ponds (with no Great Crested Newts)	10m
At least one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major watercourses • Main badger setts 	30m
Ponds containing Great Crested Newts	50m
Bat roosts	To be specified following survey information and detailed within the ES where required.
Schedule 1 bird nests (e.g. Barn Owl, hobby)	To be specified following survey information and detailed within the ES where required.
Other Buffers	
Curtilage of Residential Properties	50m



Criteria where Buffer Applied	Buffer Size
PRoW (Public Footpath, Bridleway)	15m
Internal Drainage Board (IDB) drain	9m
Services	6m minimum
Scheme Boundary	5m
Internal offset from fence to panel	4m minimum

Embedded mitigation - Planting

8.7.6 The following planting typologies have been proposed across the scheme to provide visual mitigation and introduce landscape features which are characteristic of the landscape setting that link existing habitat. Proposed planting typologies are illustrated within **Volume 2, Figure (series) 8.15 Indicative Masterplans** and include:

- Green corridors;
- Hedgerow reinforcement;
- Reinforced road side planting;
- Enhanced riparian planting;
- New hedgerows; and
- Areas of ecological mitigation.

8.7.7 Details of species and density for each typology will be included within the final ES submission and described within the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP).

8.7.8 For initial information on anticipated Landscape and Ecology mitigation please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.5 OLEMP**. This document is reflective of the preliminary information gathered to date and will be updated to reflect more detailed planting and specific habitat proposals which are developed through the design process.

8.8 Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects

8.8.1 Due to the disassociated nature of the Scheme, the overall assessment of the Scheme is based upon the findings associated with each of the individual Sites. In assessing the Scheme, professional judgment is applied alongside reference to the suite of landscape and visual figures and desktop and site-based assessment. In reaching the overall assessment of effects associated with the Scheme the cumulative effects of each of the Sites and Cable Route Search Area are assessed and combined to reach an overall conclusion on where likely significant effects might occur as a result of the Scheme.

8.8.2 Taking into account the embedded mitigation measures as detailed in **Section 8.7**, the potential for the Scheme to generate effects was assessed using the methodology as detailed in **Section 8.4** of this Chapter. In the sections below, associated impacts and effects during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the scheme are discussed. These preliminary assessments are based on the **Indicative Masterplans show on Figures 8.15.1 – 8.15.6**. These represent the preliminary findings only. The preliminary assessment of landscape and visual effects will be reassessed on the final environmental masterplans produced to accompany the ES submission.

8.8.3 Following the EIA scoping stage, a desktop review and site walkover was undertaken of all receptors that were scoped in to the LVIA. An initial LVIA assessment following the LVIA methodology contained within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1** was undertaken for all scoped in receptors.



- 8.8.4 Visual Receptors (as listed in **Volume 3, Appendix 8.2** and illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure series 8.11, 8.12 and 8.13**) where it was identified that there were no views of the Scheme were excluded from the LVIA at this point and not carried forward to further assessment.
- 8.8.5 All landscape receptors have been considered collectively for the Sites and Study Areas, due to the interconnected relationship of landscape. It is recognised that Landscape effects upon LCT’s and LCA’S located on the peripheries of the Outer 5km Study Area are limited due to distance and lack of interaction with landform associated with the Scheme.
- 8.8.6 All receptors that were carried forward to further assessment are contained within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3 PEIR Assessment Sheets**.
- 8.8.7 Receptors carried forward into further assessment have been assessed against the current high level PEIR layout (see **Indicative Masterplans Figures 18.5.1-18.5.6**) to give a preliminary assessment of potential effects associated with the Scheme.
- 8.8.8 For details of all Landscape and Visual assessment please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3 PEIR Assessment Sheets** which includes a preliminary worst case assessment for all receptors which are considered within the LVIA.

Potential significant effects - Sites A to G and BESS

- 8.8.9 Potential significant effects have been identified to receptors set out with **Table 8.7 and 8.8** below as shown in bold. Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.1 PEIR Landscape Assessment Sheets** for details on Landscape Assessment.

Table 8.7: Potential Significant Effects – Landscape Receptors

Landscape Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
Landscape Fabric	Moderate/ Minor Neutral	Moderate/ Minor Neutral	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)
Local Study Area (1km)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

- 8.8.10 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2 PEIR Visual Assessment Sheets** for details on Visual Assessment.

Table 8.8: Potential Significant Effects – Visual Receptors

Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
PRoW Receptors				
TP113: NN TN 10	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
TP160: NN TS 4	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP088: NN TN 7	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
TP167: NN TF 12	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP201: NN TD 9	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP208: NN TD 8	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP217: MK Lavendon 002	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP220: MK Lavendon 004	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP227: MK Lavendon 015#2	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP229: MK Lavendon 014	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP240: MK Lavendon 015#1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP013: NN DF 4	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP035: NN DT 9#1	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP086: NN CW 1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor/Negligible Adverse	Minor/Negligible Adverse
TP090: NN DG 2#2	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP091: NN TU 3	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor/Negligible Adverse



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
TP092: NN TN 3#1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP114: NN TN 1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP122: NN TN 2	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP155: NN TF 3	Major Adverse	Major Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	No Effect None
TP164: NN TF 1	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP165: NN TF 11	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP170: NN TF 10	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP173: NN TF 8	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP174: NN TA 1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse
TP175: NN TF 5	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP176: NN TA 18	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP178: NN TF 4	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP181: NN TA 4#1	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse
TP184: NN TD 2	Major/ Moderate	Major/ Moderate	Major/ Moderate	Major/ Moderate



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse	Adverse
TP185: NN TA 3	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse
TP186: NN TD 3	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse
TP198: NN TD 1	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TP205: NN TD 7	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse
TP206: NN TD 5	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP215: MK Lavendon 005	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Transport Receptors				
TR015: A428 Northampton Road	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR033: Kettering Road, Walgrave (C Road)	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR065: Glebe Road (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR069: Moonshine Gap (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR071: Wellingborough Road (Unofficial) (Local Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR076: Mears Ashby Road (C Road)	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
TR077: Mears Ashby Road (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR080: Easton Lane (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR081: Easton Way (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR084: Yardley Road (C Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/ Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
TR100: Newland Road Walgrave (Local Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR131: Wellingborough Road (Local Road)	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR132: Highfield Road – (Local Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR155: Wilby Road (Rural Road)	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
Residential Receptors				
RG07: New Lodge Farm, Old	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
RG19: Tithe Farm, Holcot	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Minor/Negligible Adverse	Minor/Negligible Adverse
RG26: The Grange, Mears Ashby	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI11: Pollys Cottage, Newland Road, Walgrave	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
RI36: Highfield Lodge, Highfield Road, Mears Ashby	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI36: Highfield Lodge, Highfield Road, Mears Ashby Cumulative Site Effects Site D and Site C and Site E	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI38: Sywell Road, Mears Ashby	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI39: Wood Lodge Farm, Sywell	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI51: Hockerill Farm, Wilby	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI64: Pastures Farm, Grendon	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI77: Slype Farm, Bozeat	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
RI78: Easton View, Bozeat	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
RI93: Lower Farm, Lavendon	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI101: Northey Farm	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

8.8.11

As per Table 8.7 above, it is anticipated that the Scheme would not result in significant effects post Year 15 due to screening effects of proposed mitigation and therefore it is considered there is no requirement for an RVAA from any properties at this stage based on the methodology set out within **Section 3 of Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.



Cumulative site effects

8.8.12 The Cumulative Site effects of LVIA generated from the Scheme will be fully assessed in the ES and likely to consist of:

Table 8.9: Potential Significant Cumulative Site Effects – Visual Receptors.

Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
PRoW Receptors				
TP035: NN DT 9#1 Cumulative Site Effects Sites A and A.2	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
TP092: NN TN 3#1 Cumulative Site Effects Sites C and D	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
Transport Receptors				
TR065: Glebe Road (C Road) Cumulative Site Effects - Sites C and D	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR069: Moonshine Gap (C Road) Cumulative Site Effects- Sites C and D	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
TR071: Wellingborough Road (Unofficial) (Local Road) Cumulative Site Effects Site C and D	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect
Residential Receptors				
RI36: Highfield Lodge, Highfield Road, Mears Ashby Cumulative Site Effects Site D and Site C and Site E	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect
RI38: Sywell Road, Mears Ashby Cumulative Site Effects Site D and Site C	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	No Effect

8.8.13 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2 PEIR Visual Assessment Sheets** for details on Visual Assessment.



Potential significant effects - Cable Route Search Area

- 8.8.14 The Cable Corridor is still being refined within the Cable Route Search Area. Runs of overhead lines between components or to connect underground cables is not proposed. All cables would be underground with no new overhead lines or associated poles required. Once the Cable Corridor is confirmed, a full assessment and evaluation of the impacts and effects would be undertaken as part of the ES submission, in accordance with the LVIA Methodology contained within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1**.
- 8.8.15 Where the cable is proposed to cross open farmland, excavations and trenching would take place to allow the cable to be placed in situ. Where the cable is proposed to pass through substantial landscape features, the cable would be directionally drilled underneath with no permanent above ground structures proposed. The directional drilling of the cable is proposed to reduce the effects on ecology and landscape and visual receptors. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds, which following laying of the relevant section of cable, would be removed.
- 8.8.16 Overall, it is considered that any disturbance associated with the laying of the cable would be minimal, short term (as the cable works will progress along the route) and akin to the typical process involved in the laying of utility cables and not likely to result in significant effects.

8.9 Additional Mitigation Measures

- 8.9.1 At this stage, no additional mitigation measures for the Scheme are proposed however, this will be investigated further within the ES.

8.10 Residual Effects

- 8.10.1 Following the implementation of the appropriate site-specific mitigation measures identified during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases, the residual effects on the following receptors are determined to be Significant.
- 8.10.2 Identified significant residual effects are set out within **Table 8.10** and **Table 8.11** below:

Table 8.10: Potential Significant Residual Landscape Effects

Landscape Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
Landscape Fabric	Moderate/ Minor Neutral	Moderate/ Minor Neutral	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)	Moderate Beneficial (Significant)

- 8.10.3 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.1 PEIR Landscape Assessment Sheets** for details on Landscape Assessment.

Table 8.11: Potential Significant Residual Visual Effects

Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
PRoW Receptors				
TP208: NN TD 8	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP092: NN TN 3#1	Major/ Moderate	Major/ Moderate	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse



Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
	Adverse	Adverse		
TP155: NN TF 3	Major Adverse	Major Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	No Effect None
TP174: NN TA 1	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse
TP175: NN TF 5	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse
TP181: NN TA 4#1	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse
TP184: NN TD 2	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse
TP185: NN TA 3	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse
TP186: NN TD 3	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse
TP205: NN TD 7	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse
TP206: NN TD 5	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse

8.10.4 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2 PEIR Visual Assessment Sheets** for details on Visual Assessment.

8.11 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative Effects

8.11.1 The ES will give consideration to potential cumulative effects of the Scheme and other relevant projects within the vicinity of the Scheme on a single receptor/resource.

8.11.2 A list of cumulative projects can be found in **Volume 3, Appendix 2.2** of the PEIR, the list will be reviewed and refined in preparation of the DCO application submission through further



consultation and will be presented and assessed in the ES. Cumulative effects will be listed within **Chapter 25: Cumulative Effects** of the ES.

8.11.3 The methodology for Cumulative Assessment is set out within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.1.2**. The assessment of potential cumulative visual effects is set out in detail within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2**.

8.11.4 **Table 8.12** and **Table 8.13** below provide a summary of potential cumulative effects identified at PEIR.

Table 8.12: Potential Significant Cumulative Development Effects – Landscape Receptors

Local Study Area (1km)				
Cumulative Development	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
(8) Ref NW/23/00360/FUL Grendon Lakes Main Road BESS	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
(9) Ref NW/21/00629/SCQ Land To The East Of Northampton Aquapark (at Grendon Lakes) Main Road Grendon Northampton Northamptonshire	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate Adverse (Significant)	Moderate / Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

8.11.5 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.1 PEIR Landscape Assessment Sheets** for details on Landscape Assessment.

8.11.6 GLVIA3 defines types of cumulative visual effect as either: Combined (in the same view) or Sequential, (different developments revealed in succession as a series of sequential views.)

8.11.7 GLVIA 3 Table 7.1 regarding Cumulative visual effects states:

“Sequential: Occurs when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments. Sequential effects may be assessed for travel along regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths”

8.11.8 Given GLVIA3’s referral to major roads, it is important to note that the Department for Transport classifies Major Roads to include motorways and all class ‘A’ roads. These roads usually have high traffic flows and are often the main arteries to major destinations. Minor roads comprise ‘B’ and ‘C’ classified roads in addition to unclassified roads. Major roads locally to the Green Hill Solar Farm includes: A43, A509, A45, A4500 and the A428, with all other roads locally being classified as Minor. The focus of the Sequential Assessment should therefore be undertaken upon these Major Roads. However, none of these roads are expected to give rise for any opportunity for Sequential Visibility. As such a small number of Minor Roads where the potential for Sequential Effects have been identified have been included within the assessment of cumulative effects.

8.11.9 GLVIA3 also suggests that popular paths should also be included within Sequential assessments. Popular paths are those typically considered those to be promoted or recognised in some way such as National Trails, Recreational Routes, long distance trails or locally promoted walks.



Table 8.13: Potential Significant Cumulative Development Effects – Visual Receptors.

Visual Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15	Decommissioning
PRoW Receptors				
TP155: NN TF 3	Major Adverse	Major Adverse	Major/ Moderate Adverse	No Effect None
TP164: NN TF 1	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Moderate/Minor Adverse	No Effect None
TP170: NN TF 10	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Transport Receptors				
TR058: Main Road (C Road)	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse	Major/Moderate Adverse

8.11.10 Please refer to **Volume 3, Appendix 8.3.2 PEIR Visual Assessment Sheets** for details on Visual Assessment.

In-combination Effects

8.11.11 The in-combination effect interaction is the effect over and above the individual effects assessed in other chapters and is described as the difference between the change caused to a receptor from one effect alone and the change caused to the receptor from all effects combined

8.11.12 Where different effect interactions are predicted to happen on single receptors, it is acknowledged that it may slightly increase the impact on the receiving receptor or local community, but it is not expected to be to a degree where together it noticeably elevates the significance of the likely effects above what is already reported in Environmental Statement.

8.12 Summary

8.12.1 This chapter of the PEIR has identified the existing environment in relation to Landscape and Visual Impact and the assessment work that has been undertaken to date including review of all Receptors that were initially scoped in to the assessment.

8.12.2 Preliminary mitigation measures included the use of buffers embedded into the design of the Scheme to protect the landscape fabric of the Site and the use of landscape mitigation planting including:

- Connective woodland planting;
- Mixed grassland/ wildflower planting;
- Enhanced riparian native planting;
- Reinforced road-side screening;
- Hedgerow reinforcement; and
- Strategic Green Corridor.

8.12.3 However, given that the design of the Scheme has yet to be finalised and that the design is an iterative process it is to be noted that it is not possible to identify all significant likely environmental effects of the Scheme at this stage, and that through design evolution and iteration, there is potential for some adverse effects to be designed out.



8.12.4 The key objective is to provide relevant information at this stage of the project which can inform relevant consultees.



References

- Ref.1 European Landscape Convention. Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/home>
- Ref.2 The Environment Act 2021. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>
- Ref.3 Overstone Neighbourhood Development plan, 2019-2029. Available at <https://www.overstone-pc.gov.uk/uploads/overstone-ndp-brochure-v66-incl-sue.pdf>
- Ref.4 Earls Barton Neighbourhood Plan, 2014. Available at: <http://www.earlsbartonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Draft-Earls-Barton-Neighbourhood-Plan-March-2014.pdf>
- Ref.5 Lavendon Neighbourhood Plan, 2019. Available at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/17539-NP%20v9%20Lavendon%20NP.pdf>
- Ref.6 Planning Practice Guidance, Natural Environment. Available at : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>
- Ref.7 Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy>
- Ref.8 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013.
- Ref.9 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Routledge, London.
- Ref.10 Natural England, An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, October 2014, by Christine Tudor, Available at: [landscape-character-assessment.pdf](#) (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Ref.11 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, Visual Representation of Development Proposals (17 September 2019. Available at: [TGN-06-19-Visual_Representation](#) (windows.net)
- Ref.12 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19, Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (March 2019). Available at: [Residential Visual Amenity Assessment | Landscape Institute](#)
- Ref.13 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Assessing landscape value outside national designations (May 2021), 1.9.6 [tgn-02-21-assessing-landscape-value-outside-national-designations.pdf](#) (windows.net)
- Ref.14 Northamptonshire Current Landscape Character Assessment, 2003. Available at: <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/12149/08-northamptonshire-current-landscape-character-assessment>
- Ref.15 Milton Keynes Landscape Character Assessment, 2022. Available at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-10/Full%20MK%20LCA%202022%20LR.pdf>
- Ref.16 Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment, 2020. Available at: <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/technical-reports>
- Ref.17 Northampton Urban Fringe Landscape Character & Sensitivity Study produced by Northampton Borough Council, 2018. Available at <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/download/3616/northampton-urban-fringe-landscape-character-and-sensitivity-study-2018>