



**Heath Road Solar
Farm, Bagworth**

**Landscape and Visual
Appraisal**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
**Renewable Connections
Developments Ltd**

June 2025

Report Reference
edp7530_r003a

Document Control

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Client	Renewable Connections Developments Ltd
Report Title	Landscape and Visual Appraisal
Document Reference	edp7530_r003a

VERSION INFORMATION

	Author	Formatted	Peer Review	Proofed by/Date
003_ DRAFT	CMa	NHa	MDu	-
003a	CMa	-	AHu	CTi 300125 CTi 060625

DISCLAIMER TEXT

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd.

This report (including any enclosures and attachments) has been prepared for the exclusive use and benefit of the commissioning party and solely for the purpose for which it is provided. No other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report.

We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.

Opinions and information provided in the report are those of The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided to their accuracy. It should be noted, and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd has been made.

Contents

Executive Summary	4
Section 1 Introduction, Purpose and Methodology	5
Section 2 Findings of EDP Data Trawl	8
Section 3 Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Landscape Character	13
Section 4 Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Visual Amenity	22
Section 5 The Proposed Development and Mitigation	28
Section 6 Assessment of Effects	30
Section 7 Summary and Conclusions	38

APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1	Proposed Layout
Appendix EDP 2	EDP LVIA Assessment Methodology
Appendix EDP 3	Findings of EDP Data Trawl
Appendix EDP 4	Representative Photoviewpoints (edp7530_d013a 11 February 2025 DJo/CMa)
Appendix EDP 5	Photomontages (edp7530_d016a 07 February 2025 GYa/CMa)

PLANS

Plan EDP 1: Site Location and Site Boundaries (edp7530_d002a 07 February 2025 GYo/CMa)
Plan EDP 2: Site Character and Local Context (edp7530_d003a 07 February 2025 GYo/CMa)
Plan EDP 3: Relevant Planning Designations and Considerations (edp7530_d004a 07 February 2025 GYo/CMa)
Plan EDP 4: Findings of EDP's Visual Appraisal (edp7530_d006a 07 February 2025 GYo/CMa)
Plan EDP 5: Published Landscape Character (edp7530_d005a 07 February 2025 GYo/CMa)
Plan EDP 6: Illustrative Landscape Strategy (edp7530_d014e 07 February 2025 CMa/VPo)

Executive Summary

- S1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Renewable Connections Developments Ltd, to inform planning proposals for the development of a ground mounted solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) scheme, on land at Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth.
- S2 The proposed development includes solar arrays and associated infrastructure, security fences and cameras, a cable route corridor to the point of connection, new hedgerows and hedgerow trees, as well as enhancements to the existing hedgerows and tree belts. Parts of the Site would be retained as arable land and species-rich grassland is proposed along margins.
- S3 The Site falls wholly within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. It does not fall within any landscape designation; however, a Public Right of Way (PRoW) passes through the centre of the Site.
- S4 Due to the undulating topography and well treed character of the landscape, the Site is moderately well enclosed. Its structure is broadly intact with some historic hedgerow loss and a depleting existing hedgerow in its southern parcels.
- S5 This LVA has concluded that the greatest long-term visual effects likely to be experienced as a result of the proposed development would be to receptors within or adjacent to the Site, including PRoW S14 users and properties along Heath Road (at Woodside Farm and Heath House). Beyond this, effects would reduce due to the undulating and well treed landscape character, combined with the proposed mitigation embedded into the design.
- S6 The proposals include a number of enhancements that, once established, would strengthen the Site's structure and increase biodiversity. Long term effects to landscape character would be neutral as there is a predicted balance of adverse and beneficial effects.
- S7 Overall, the proposed development would result in localised harm to visual amenity within the vicinity of the Site, but it would also provide landscape enhancement with respect to habitat creation and bolstering the green infrastructure network which could be managed and maintained in the longer term.

Section 1

Introduction, Purpose and Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) has been commissioned by Renewable Connections Developments Ltd ('the applicant') to undertake a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) of proposals to develop ground mounted Solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) at Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The Site falls within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Planning Authority (LPA) area, extends to 31.9 hectares (ha), and is briefly described in **Section 2** of this LVA. Full site details are given in the Planning, Design and Access Statement (PDAS) accompanying the planning application.
- 1.2 EDP is an independent environmental planning consultancy with offices in Cirencester, Cheltenham and Cardiff. The practice provides advice to private and public sector clients throughout the UK in the fields of landscape, ecology, archaeology, cultural heritage, arboriculture, rights of way and masterplanning. Details of the practice can be obtained at our website (www.edp-uk.co.uk). EDP is a Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute¹ specialising in the assessment of the effects of proposed development on the landscape.

THE SITE AND THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3 **Plan EDP 1** illustrates the location of the Site's boundaries and the study area for the LVA. The Site is located approximately 1.3km to the north-east of Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire.
- 1.4 The Site's character and local context is illustrated on the aerial photograph contained as **Plan EDP 2**.
- 1.5 The Site comprises three arable field parcels located along Merrylees Road between Newbold Heath and Merry Lees. The topography of the fields is rolling, and the parcels are bound by mixed quality hedgerow and hedgerow trees, and woodland.
- 1.6 This LVA is part of a suite of documents accompanying a full planning application for the proposed development, summarised in **Section 5** of this LVA. The proposed development is for the installation of ground mounted solar PV and ancillary buildings and equipment. The proposals are illustrated on the Layout at **Appendix EDP 1**.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS LVA

- 1.7 The purpose of this LVA is to identify the baseline conditions of the Site and surrounding area and to determine those landscape and visual characteristics that might inform the design of the development proposals, including recommendations for mitigation. It then

¹ LI Practice Number 1010.

provides an appraisal of the landscape and visual effects predicted to arise from development on the Site with reference to the baseline analysis.

1.8 In undertaking the assessment described in this LVA, EDP has:

- Undertaken a thorough data trawl of relevant designations and background documents, described in **Section 2**;
- Assessed the existing (baseline) condition and character of the Site and its setting, described in **Section 3**;
- Assessed the existing visual (baseline) context, especially any key views to and from the Site (**Section 4**);
- Described the landscape aspects of the proposed development that may influence any landscape or visual effects (**Section 5**);
- In **Section 6**, assessed the landscape and visual effects in accordance with the approach described below;
- Reached overall conclusions in **Section 7**; and
- Provided an analysis of the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposed scheme, which is determined by combining the magnitude of the predicted change with the assessed sensitivity of the identified receptors. The nature of any predicted effects is also identified (i.e. positive/negative, permanent/reversible).

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED FOR THE ASSESSMENT

1.9 The proposed development assessed by this LVA is not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This LVA has been undertaken in accordance with the principles embodied in *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition* (LI/IEMA, 2013) (GLVIA3) and other best practice guidance insofar as it is relevant to non-EIA schemes.

1.10 **Familiarisation:** EDP's study has included reviews of aerial photographs, web searches, LPA publications and landscape character assessments. EDP has also obtained, where possible, information about relevant landscape and other designations such as National Landscapes (NLs) (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)), conservation areas and gardens and parks listed on Historic England's 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England' (RPG).

1.11 **Consultation:** Consultation was attempted in 2023 however there was no contact provided for a Landscape Officer at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

1.12 **Field Assessment:** EDP has undertaken a comprehensive field assessment of local site circumstances, including a photographic survey of the character and fabric of the Site and its surroundings, using photography from a number of representative viewpoints. The field

assessment was undertaken by a qualified landscape architect in clear weather conditions, between August 2023 and January 2024.

1.13 **Design Inputs:** EDP's field assessment has informed a process whereby the development proposals have been refined to avoid, minimise or compensate for landscape effects. Such measures are summarised in **Section 5**.

1.14 **Assessment Methodology:** Predicted effects on the landscape resource arising from the proposed development (as detailed in **Section 6** of this LVA) have been determined in accordance with the principles embedded within published best practice guidance insofar as the assessment adopts the following well-established, structured approach:

- Likely effects on landscape character and visual amenity are dealt with separately;
- The assessment of likely effects is reached using a structured methodology for defining sensitivity, magnitude and significance which is contained as **Appendix EDP 2**. This framework is combined with professional judgement. Professional judgement is an important part of the assessment process; it is neither 'pro' nor 'anti' development but acknowledges that development may result in beneficial change as well as landscape harm;
- As advised in GLVIA3, the appraisal takes into account the effects of any proposed mitigation; and
- Typically, a 15-year time horizon is used as the basis for conclusions about the residual levels of effect. Fifteen years is a well-established and accepted compromise between assessing the shorter-term effects (which may often be rather 'raw' before any proposed mitigation has had time to take effect) and an excessively long time period.

STUDY AREA

1.15 To establish the baseline and potential limit of material effects, the study area has been considered at two geographical scales:

- First, a broad 'study area' was adopted, based mainly on desk-based study, allowing the geographical scope of the assessment to be defined based on the likely extent of views to/from the Site, extent of landscape effects and the Site's environmental planning context; and
- Second, following initial analysis and subsequent fieldwork, the broad study area was refined down to the land that is most likely to experience landscape effects. The extent of this detailed study area is 1km from the Site boundary, although occasional reference may be made to features beyond this area where appropriate. This detailed study area is illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**.

Section 2

Findings of EDP Data Trawl

- 2.1 The findings of EDP's data trawl of relevant environmental and planning designations are illustrated on **Plan EDP 3** and summarised in this section.

BACKGROUND PUBLISHED EVIDENCE BASE DOCUMENTS

- 2.2 The following documents are relevant and will be discussed as appropriate later in this report:
- Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment 2017; and
 - Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014.

FINDINGS OF EDP DATA TRAWL

Landscape-related Designations and Other Considerations

- 2.3 Landscape-related designations and policy considerations within 5km of the Site are shown on **Plan EDP 3**. In summary:
- National landscape designations: The Site does not lie within a nationally designated landscape;
 - Local landscape designations: The Site does not lie within a locally designated landscape. There are Country Parks within the study area, the nearest of which is Bagworth Heath Country Park located some 100m to the north; and
 - Other landscape-related designations: The Site does not lie within Green Belt. The National Forest abuts the Site's northern boundary along Heath Road and Charnwood Forest is located 1km north-east. The National Forest and Charnwood Forest fall under local planning policy.

Heritage Matters

- 2.4 Heritage assets can influence the visual character of the landscape and enrich its historic value. This LVA addresses heritage assets only insofar as they are components of the wider contemporary landscape – not in terms of their significance and value as heritage assets, which is a matter addressed by the separate Heritage assessment (prepared by AOC Archaeology Group, AOC Project Number: 26242).

2.5 Within the wider study area, the following heritage assets are components of the contemporary landscape:

- There are no statutory or non-statutory designated heritage assets within the Site or within 1.5km;
- There are listed buildings within the study area, generally focussed around the historic cores of settlements, the nearest of which is located some 1.5km north of the Site within Bagworth;
- There are conservation areas within the study area, and these are generally located within the historic cores of villages and small towns. The nearest conservation area is located within Newbold Verdon some 1.8km south-west of the Site; and
- There is a scheduled monument moat approximately 1.6km south-east of the Site at Lindridge and a handful of scheduled monuments beyond 1.8km from the Site.

Ecology Matters

2.6 A separate Ecology Assessment (prepared by EDP, report reference: edp7530_r002) considers the ecological assets on the Site and within the study area. The following matters are relevant to the scope of this LVA:

- There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) some 2.8km south-east of the Site at Botcheston; and
- The Site is not located within any Local Wildlife Sites however some have been identified within 1km which have been listed within the Ecological Appraisal (report reference: edp7530_r002).

Arboricultural Matters

2.7 A separate Arboricultural Impact Assessment (prepared by Barton Hyett Associates (BHA), report reference: BHA 4924) considers the arboricultural assets on the Site and within the study area. The following matters are relevant to the scope of this LVA:

- There are small patches of ancient woodland within the study area, the nearest just within 2km; and
- There are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) within the Site.

Public Access and Rights of Way

2.8 A review of the definitive map reveals the following Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and open access land within the study area. PRoWs are shown on **Plans EDP 2 and 4**:

- Footpath S14 connects Merrylees Road with Bagworth Road, passing directly between the Site's northern and southern parcels;

- Footpath R60 connects north to south between Bagworth and Newbold Verdon, passing the Site some 330m west at its closest point;
- Footpath S15 connects east to west between Barlestone and footpath R60;
- Footpath R70 passes through woodland south of Bagworth Country Park, along the boundary of clay pits at Heath Farm and along the western edge of the Merrylees industrial estate;
- Footpaths and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11, S12, and S13 connect between Merrylees Road and Barlestone Road to the south of the Site;
- Footpath R88 connects broadly east to west between Botcheston and Newbold Verdon;
- Bridleway R74 and footpath S28 connect south from Merrylees Road and Heath Road to Hunts Lane;
- There are a collection of PRoWs which connect Bagworth with surrounding towns and villages, as well as three promoted routes that pass through Bagworth:
 - National Forest Way;
 - Ivanhoe Way; and
 - Leicestershire Round.
- There are a few PRoWs along the south-western edge of Thornton and PRoWs further east connecting between Thornton Lane and Thornton;
- Footpath R95 connects Desford with Newbold Verdon; and
- Footpath S26 connects Newbold Vernon with Desford Lane.

Adopted Local Plan (Published)

- 2.9 The adopted Hinkley and Bosworth Borough Council Local Plan 2006 to 2026 (Adopted 2009) includes over-arching general development policies, to which the development proposals will be tested. Policies that are specific to the Site in landscape and visual terms are below.

Core Strategy:

- Policy 21: National Forest. Proposals should:
 - Be appropriately sited and scaled in relation to its setting within the Forest;
 - Respect the character and appearance of the countryside; and

- Provide on-site or nearby landscaping that meets the National Forest development planting guidelines.
- Policy 22: Charnwood Forest. Proposals will be supported that maintain and enhance access to the area and enhance woodland and habitat provision and connectivity.

Site Allocations and Development Management Policy:

- Policy DM1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development; and
- Policy DM2 Delivering Renewable Energy Development and Low Carbon Development. Proposals will be supported where *“all reasonable steps have been taken to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts including [...] landscape [...] visual and cumulative impacts.”*

- 2.10 The following Supplementary Planning Documents are relevant to the Site and the proposals.

Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

- 2.11 The report is largely focussed on multifunctional green infrastructure (such as Public Open Space (POS) or travel routes), however also gives consideration to the wider natural resources of the borough such as hedgerows and trees. This strategy aims to protect existing PRoW networks within the area as well as the creation, protection and enhancement of existing and new habitats.

Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014

- 2.12 This document forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and provides an assessment of the capacity within the borough for a variety of renewable and low carbon energy including ground mounted solar PV. The report states that there is potential for 159MW of electricity that could be generated from solar PV within the borough. The report does not provide a sensitivity study for solar PV, only providing a sensitivity study for small to large scale wind energy.

Draft (Reg 18) Local Plan

- 2.13 The emerging Local Plan has concluded Regulation 18 consultation stage with a programme aiming to complete Regulation 19 in 2025. Relevant policies in the draft plan include:

- SP01 Sustainable Development:

“Development that accords with the policies in the Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans or other development plan documents) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.”

- SP07 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy:

“The Borough Council is committed to reducing environmental impacts by encouraging and facilitating carbon reduction measures and supporting appropriately

designed and sited renewable energy and low carbon developments. Planning applications for the development of renewable energy and low carbon development installations at the domestic, community and commercial scales will be supported where:

- a. All reasonable steps have been taken to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts including, but not limited to, landscape, noise, visual and cumulative impacts; and,*
- b. The proposed development accords with other policies of this Plan.*

The impact of ancillary structures included as part of the proposed scheme will also be assessed”.

- SP20 Green Infrastructure: requires development to support and enhance the existing green infrastructure network; and
- SP27 Landscape Character:

“Development proposals will conserve and enhance the key landscape features and visual sensitivities of the landscape character areas identified in the latest Borough Council Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Study.

Proposals will be required to:

- a. Where appropriate, incorporate and implement the landscape strategies and/or guidance set out in the most up to date Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Study;*
- b. Protect and enhance the character and qualities of the local landscape through appropriate design and management;*
- c. Make provision for the retention and enhancement of features of landscape importance;*
- d. Where appropriate, provide landscape mitigation; and*
- e. Where significant landscape impacts are likely to occur a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should be submitted.”*

Section 3

Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Landscape Character

- 3.1 This section provides an assessment of the ‘baseline’ (existing) conditions in respect of the character of the Site and its landscape context. It summarises any relevant published landscape assessments that contribute to a better understanding of the landscape context. Such assessments provide a helpful understanding of the landscape context, but rarely deliver sufficiently site-specific or up-to-date information to draw robust conclusions about the significance of any change proposed by the development. Accordingly, EDP has undertaken its own assessment of the Site which is included in this section, at paragraph 3.19 *et seq.*

NATIONAL CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

- 3.2 At the national level, the character of England has been described and classified in the National Character Area (NCA) profiles published by Natural England. The Site and its surroundings fall within NCA 71 Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield, which extends 27km from Desford to Swadlincote. The NCA is described as an unenclosed rolling agricultural landscape with abandoned remnants of coal mining.
- 3.3 While the NCA is broadly representative of the Site’s landscape context, it is of a greater scale and, as such, more localised character assessments are of greater relevance to inform an assessment of the suitability of the proposals in landscape terms.

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

- 3.4 A regional landscape character assessment was undertaken across the East Midlands in 2010 by LDA Design on behalf of the East Midlands Landscape Partnership. This assessment divides the region into 11 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) which are subdivided into 31 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The Site falls wholly within LCA 5a: Village Farmlands of LCT 5: Village Farmlands. The following LCAs also fall within the study area:
- LCA 10d: Forested Ancient Hills (LCT 10: Woods and Forests) falls within 1km of the Site; and
 - LCA 9a: Settled Coalfield Farmlands (LCT 9: Coalfields) falls within 2km of the Site.
- 3.5 LCA 5a consists of undulating farmland with some pasture, remnant ridge and furrow, intricate hedgerows, and winding rural lanes that reflect the historic character of the landscape. There are country houses, coverts, plantations and estate farmlands which have an influence on the character.

- 3.6 LCA 10d is described as an elevated area overlooking lowland plain and has rock outcrops. The landscape is well wooded and provides a sense of enclosure on the lower lying areas. There are also small areas of pasture, heathland, arable farmland and medieval parks. Expansive views can be gained from hills.
- 3.7 LCA 9a is largely influenced by extensive extraction of mineral resource which has informed the local character and identity. The settlement pattern is defined greatly by the extraction industry with sprawling mining villages. There is arable and pasture farmland around the industrial uses with scattered small woodlands and copses.
- 3.8 While the NCA and regional landscape character areas are broadly representative of the Site's landscape context, a more localised assessment is of greater relevance to this Site and its context due to its relative scale and the development proposed.

LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

- 3.9 The Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment divides the landscape into 6 LCTs and 10 LCAs. The report also provides assessments for urban character areas (UCAs) of which there are 14. LCAs are illustrated on **Plan EDP 5**.
- 3.10 The Site falls wholly within LCT Settlement Forest Hills and LCA B Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills. An extract from the Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment relating to LCA B is provided at **Appendix EDP 3**. The Site abuts LCT Rolling Farmlands and LCA D Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland to the south.
- 3.11 LCA B Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills is located in the north of the borough and broadly follows the transition to the higher ground towards Charnwood Forest in the east. Its key characteristics include:
- *“Gently undulating landform with small plateaus on higher ground and rising to the adjacent Charnwood Forest area to the east.*
 - *Contrast between areas which are visually open and enclosed depending on the elevation of the landscape and the presence of woodlands and vegetation.*
 - *Large scale irregular field pattern of mainly arable and some pasture, with smaller fields around settlements. Fields enclosed by hedgerows with scattered trees.*
 - *Industrial heritage of quarrying and mining resulting in areas of restored land.*
 - *Part of the National Forest and Charnwood Forest with areas of new woodland plantations associated with former industrial areas.*
 - *Dispersed pattern of former mining villages following a linear pattern on ridgetops, either located close to a colliery or providing housing for mine workers. Good public access and footpath network throughout, especially within National Forest area.*

- *Predominantly rural landscape with arable and rough set-aside, influenced by industrial/urban features such as masts, poles and pylons.”*

3.12 The following key sensitivities and values are defined within the character assessment:

- *“Woodlands, copses and individual trees are important as areas of connective habitats such as hedgerows and river corridors which link to the nearby woodlands of the National Forest. They are also important for their recreational value for local communities.*
- *Rural character and the dispersed pattern of villages where the landscape away from the settlements is characterised by dark skies at night and a sense of tranquillity.*
- *Recreational value of the restored mining sites including Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park as well as the value for leisure and access provided by the network of footpaths and bridleways including the Leicestershire Round.*
- *Thornton Reservoir which provides a popular recreational facility on the edge of Thornton village.*
- *The historic and cultural associations with mining in the area related to the former pits.*
- *The historic character of the landscape evident in the presence of Scheduled Monuments and the pattern of irregular fields of piecemeal enclosure and the small irregular fields surrounding settlements. Hedgerow boundaries and mature trees reinforce this character which also provides visual interest and biodiversity value.*
- *Semi-improved grasslands and lowland meadow habitats which are particularly valued in the area due to the relative scarcity of biodiversity assets as a result of intensive farming regimes.”*

3.13 The landscape strategies for the LCA include the creation of new native and mixed species woodland, enhancements and connections of habitats through hedgerows, tree planting, farm woodlands and lowland meadows to support the vision of the National Forest Strategy. The historic core of villages should be conserved and enhanced, and new development should complement the existing settlement pattern. Woodland should be restored and transitional scrub communities between woodland and adjoining habitats should be managed. Historic landscape features should be conserved.

3.14 LCA D Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland falls across gently undulating farmland in the east of the borough and slopes down to the River Soar in the east. The key characteristics of this LCA are:

- *“Gently rolling landform rising to the north from the lower lying land around the River Soar.*
- *Clustered villages of varying size centred on crossroads.*

- *Predominantly arable farmland with clustered areas of industry and recreational facilities near to the village fringes.*
- *Tree cover is limited, with scattered trees and small linear woodland copses.*
- *Large to medium sized field pattern defined by single species hawthorn hedgerows.*
- *Good network of footpaths link settlements.*
- *Few major roads.*
- *Open views where hedgerows have been removed, giving an impression of a large scale landscape.*
- *Electricity pylons and wind turbines are often prominent vertical features in this open landscape.”*

3.15 The following key sensitivities and values are defined within the character assessment for LCA D:

- *“The remaining areas of ridge and furrow which create a sense of historic time depth.*
- *The rural settlement pattern of compact and nucleated agricultural settlements connected by a network of rural lanes and minor roads is largely unspoiled. The rural landscape and sense of tranquillity is sensitive to change from further development.*
- *Isolated farmsteads interspersed throughout the farmland contribute to the historic rural character and provide continuity to the past.*
- *The estate at Mallory Park has strong historic and cultural associations and provides a nationally-popular attraction.*
- *Long distance and panoramic views from the elevated land in the north creates a high scenic quality and adds to the visual amenity.*
- *Relatively small communities of mesotrophic grassland and deciduous woodland provide valuable habitat in a predominantly agricultural landscape.*
- *The areas which provide a rural setting to the settlements are sensitive to changes as a result of new development, as well as views from the wider landscape to church spires.”*

3.16 The landscape strategy for LCA D is to conserve historic field patterns and the setting of farmsteads, conserve small-scale villages and ensure development contributes positively to character, conserve and enhance pedestrian access, conserve Mallory Park and its rural setting, conserve and enhance long panoramic views from higher ground, conserve and enhance the biodiversity, identify opportunities for replacement of hedgerows, and promote regeneration and enhancement of tree cover.

- 3.17 The Site, located along the edge of LCA B and adjacent to LCA D, has attributes of both of these character areas. The Site is more closely aligned to the landscape described within LCA B with features including gently undulating landform, contrasting between visually open and enclosed, largescale irregular field pattern with hedgerows and scattered trees, and predominantly rural landscape. The character description also mentions urban features such as masts, poles and pylons which are present in the area surrounding the Site. Wind turbines are also present in the Site's surroundings which are a feature of LCA D.
- 3.18 Overall, the Site is representative of the host LCA (LCA B) with a local presence of wind turbines which is representative of the non-host LCA (LCA D).

REVIEW OF SITE CIRCUMSTANCES AGAINST PUBLISHED DOCUMENTATION

- 3.19 Site visits have taken place between August 2023 and January 2024 in clear weather conditions. The visits were complemented by a review of aerial photography, mapping and field assessments from publicly accessible locations (e.g. from local roads and PRowS).
- 3.20 The Site comprises three arable field parcels located along Merrylees Road and Heath Road between Newbold Heath and Merry Lees. The topography of the fields is rolling, and the parcels are bound by mixed quality hedgerow and hedgerow trees, and woodland. The Site wraps around the south and east sides of a row of large agricultural sheds, silos, and two wind turbines. An access track passes through the Site along the northern field parcel's east boundary connecting Heath Road and the agricultural sheds.
- 3.21 Physical landscape:
- The topography of the Site ranges between circa 125m above Ordinance Datum (aOD) and 144m aOD;
 - The two fields to the south roll away from the highest points along the centre of the Site towards the south-east and south-west corners of the Site. The topography of the field to the north falls from the west edge to the east edge;
 - There is a pond along the west boundary of the northern parcel; and
 - There are dry ditches located along the north-east, south and central field boundaries of the southern two fields and there is a watercourse marked on Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping adjacent to the west boundary.
- 3.22 Visual and sensory character:
- Semi enclosed character with the rolling landscape providing intermittent views out from the Site of varying distances;
 - Wind turbines within the surrounding landscape are visible in many directions and act as focal points in views out of the Site. Large agricultural buildings and silos at the Site's west boundary and adjacent to one of the turbines are also visible from within the Site; and

- The Site's visual and sensory character is agricultural.

3.23 Landscape fabric and habitats:

- The main fabric of the Site is arable land with strips of tall ruderal along the south-east, central and west field boundaries;
- The boundaries the Site host a mix of species-rich and species-poor hedgerow with hedgerow trees along the southern, eastern and north-western boundaries;
- There is a pond along the west field boundary of the northern parcel;
- There is scrub along the north-west boundary of the southern field parcels, and around the pond along the west boundary of the northern parcel;
- There are dry ditches along the southern, central and northern boundaries of the southern fields; and
- There is a wooded strip along the west boundary of the southern fields.

3.24 Historic character:

- A review of available mapping shows that the Site's agricultural use has remained unchanged;
- There has been some amalgamation of field parcels; and
- The extent of woodland along the west boundary has increased and the addition of the agricultural buildings and wind turbine to the north-west of the Site have been built in recent years on land that, prior to which, was an arable field parcel.

3.25 Cultural connections:

- There are no known cultural connections with the Site, however a PRoW passes through the Site between the northern and southern parcels.

3.26 GLVIA3 and the 2021 Landscape Institute (LI) Technical Note Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02-21 assists in delivering a framework for an objective landscape assessment with respect to landscape value. The criteria defined within TGN 02-21 is reproduced in **Table EDP 3.1**, with EDP's observations alongside, based on published material and from EDP's field assessment. For each of the nine criteria, the Site and local area is judged on the basis of a range from 'good', through 'ordinary' to 'poor' in terms of the performance against these criteria.

Table EDP 3.1: Consideration of Landscape Value

GLVIA3/TGN Factor	The Site and its Context
Natural Heritage: Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	Ordinary. The Site and immediate context contain no features of natural heritage importance.
Cultural Heritage: Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	Ordinary. As confirmed within the archaeological and heritage appraisal.
Landscape Condition: Landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure.	Ordinary. The Site comprises arable land, with some good quality boundary vegetation. There has been some hedgerow removal, and some hedgerows are poor quality.
Associations: Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.	Poor. There are no associations relating to the Site.
Distinctiveness: Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.	Ordinary. Beyond being an open area of agricultural land, the Site has no particularly strong sense of identity or distinctiveness and comprises unremarkable agricultural land.
Recreational: Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important.	Ordinary/good. A PRoW passes through the Site connecting broadly east to west.
Perceptual (Scenic): Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense.	Poor/ordinary. The Site is representative of the wider agricultural landscape and in this sense is an entirely 'ordinary' parcel of agricultural land in land use, topographical and hydrological terms. However, large agricultural sheds and silos adjacent to the Site detract from the scenic quality.
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity): Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies.	Poor. The Site is adjacent to two roads, a wind turbine, and large agricultural sheds and silos. The Site and its immediate surroundings are not wild or tranquil as a result.
Functional: Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape.	Ordinary. The Site is currently used for agriculture (arable) and is typical of the local area. The Site provides some form of recreation via the PRoW that passes through it; however, it is not unique in this regard.

3.27 Having assessed the Site in accordance with TGN 02-21, overall, it is considered of no more than 'ordinary' landscape value when considered in the round, which equates to a medium value. Moreover, there exists no evidence (based on 'demonstrable physical attributes') to suggest that further weight should be attached to the value of the Site derived from the use or enjoyment of this area by local residents (beyond that considered above), or as expressed by any other stakeholder.

INTERIM CONCLUSIONS: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Overall Sensitivity of the Host LCA: LCA B Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills

- 3.28 The main values of the host LCA are its woodland copses, individual trees and hedgerows that provide wildlife connectivity through the landscape, provide visual interest, and support the wooded character of the National Forest and Charnwood Forest. Semi-improved grasslands and lowland meadows provide relatively rare habitats. There is further value in the area's rural character, its sense of tranquillity and the dark night skies. PROWs, promoted routes, National Cycle Network routes, Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park, and Thornton Reservoir provide recreational access to the host LCA. The area's former and existing mining and clay pits provide a link and continuity with the area's heritage and culture. Although an un-designated landscape, part of the host LCA is covered by policy areas of the National Forest and Charnwood Forest Regional Park. There are some landscape detractors that reduce the area's tranquillity and rural quality such as pylons, masts, a railway line and a quarry. Overall, the value of the host LCA is considered to be high.
- 3.29 The presence of features such as pylons, masts, wind turbines, the railway line and a quarry detract from the landscape's tranquillity, however, the undulating and well wooded character of the landscape creates varying degrees of enclosure with occasional views from higher ground. The folding slopes and woodland provide opportunity to conceal low level development such as the ground mounted solar PV considered as part of this appraisal. The susceptibility of the host LCA to solar development is therefore considered to be medium to low.
- 3.30 The sensitivity of the host LCA ascribed in this report is medium.

Overall Sensitivity of the Non-host LCA: LCA D Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland

- 3.31 The main values of the non-host LCA are its long-distance views, good network of footpaths, remaining ridge and furrow, Mallory Park, and the relatively small communities of mesotrophic grassland and deciduous woodland. The non-host LCA is an undesignated landscape. Pylons and wind turbines are prominent vertical features that have a notable manmade influence on the landscape, limiting its wildness. The value of the landscape is medium.
- 3.32 The prominence of wind turbines set a precedent for renewable energy within this landscape. The undulating and well wooded character of the landscape creates varied degrees of enclosure with occasional views from higher ground. The folding slopes and woodland provide opportunity to conceal low level development such as ground mounted solar PV. The susceptibility of the non-host LCA is low.
- 3.33 Overall, the sensitivity of the non-host LCA ascribed in this report is medium.

Overall Sensitivity of the Site Character

- 3.34 The main valuable fabric of the Site is found in its hedgerows, in particular those along the southern boundary which are species rich and contain hedgerow trees, and along its

western boundary where the pond is located. The hedgerow condition is depleting along some of the boundaries due to arable farming practices. The main scenic quality of the Site is found where gaps in vegetation and topography allow longer views out of the Site to the surrounding landscape, however there is prominent human influence from the agricultural sheds, silos and the wind turbine neighbouring the Site. The Site is representative of the broad character described within the host LCA however does not host any rare or unique features. There is some recreational value where a PRoW footpath passes through the Site. The value of the Site character is considered to be medium.

- 3.35 There is existing precedent for renewable energy within the surrounding landscape which reduces the susceptibility of the Site character to such development. The Site is well enclosed in its southern parcels by the sloping topography and well treed boundaries. The Site structure is broadly intact although there has been some loss of hedgerows due to intensive arable farming practices. The susceptibility of the Site character is low.
- 3.36 The overall sensitivity of the Site character is medium.

Summary

- 3.37 The landscape character receptors to be assessed within this LVA have been summarised in **Table EDP 3.2** for convenience:

Table EDP 3.2: Landscape Character Receptor Summary

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Overall Sensitivity
The Site	Medium	Low	Medium
Host LCA	High	Medium to low	Medium
Non-host LCA	Medium	Low	Medium

Section 4

Existing (Baseline) Conditions: Visual Amenity

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 Visual amenity (as opposed to ‘visual character’ described in the previous section) is not about the visual appearance of the Site, but has to do with the number, distribution and character of views towards, from or within the Site. An analysis of visual amenity allows conclusions to be reached about who may experience visual change, from where and to what degree those views will be affected by the proposed development.
- 4.2 This section describes the existing views; changes to views wrought by the proposed development are analysed in **Section 6**. An analysis of existing views and the ‘receptors’ likely to experience visual change is conducted in three steps described in turn below.

STEP ONE: DEFINING ZONES OF THEORETICAL AND PRIMARY VISIBILITY

- 4.3 The starting point for an assessment of visual amenity is a computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The ZTV is derived using digital landform height data including intervening buildings, structures or vegetation. It gives a prediction of the areas that, theoretically, may be able to experience visual change; it thus provides the basis for more detailed field assessment.
- 4.4 The ZTV is then refined by walking and driving local roads, rights of way and other publicly accessible viewpoints to arrive at a more accurate, ‘field-tested’ Zone of Primary Visibility (ZPV). The ZPV is where views of the proposed development would normally be close-ranging and open, whether in the public or private domain, on foot, cycling or in a vehicle. In this instance, the field assessment was undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architects in August 2023 and January 2024 in clear weather conditions and therefore confidently predicts the extent of summertime/wintertime views of the proposed development.
- 4.5 Beyond the ZPV lies the Zone of Secondary Visibility (ZSV) that is less open, being either partly screened or filtered. Views from within this zone would include the proposal – it may not be immediately noticeable, but once recognised would be a perceptible addition to the view.
- 4.6 **Plan EDP 4** illustrates the findings of the visual appraisal from which it can be seen that the ZPV extends across the Site and a short way into the neighbouring fields where there are views over and through gaps in field boundary hedgerows into parts of the Site. Beyond this, the ZSV extends to areas of higher ground between the Site and Merrylees, Bagworth, and Heath Roads.

STEP TWO: DEFINING RECEPTOR GROUPS

- 4.7 Within the ZPV and wider area, the people ('receptors') likely to experience visual change can be considered as falling into a number of discernible groups.

Public Rights of Way Users

- 4.8 PRow users likely to experience views towards the Site are described below. It is likely that PRow users would be using local PRows for the appreciation of the landscape in views and their attention would be focused on their surroundings. PRow users are therefore considered to be of high sensitivity in line with EDP's methodology (**Appendix EDP 2**).

PRows within the Site

- 4.9 Footpath S14 connects Merrylees Road with Bagworth Road, passing directly between the Site's field parcels. Users of this route would experience views of the Site where they pass along through it (represented in **Photoviewpoints EDP 1 and 2**). Beyond this the visibility of the Site would reduce greatly due to intervening woodland and built form, and dense vegetation along the route to the east.

PRows to the West

- 4.10 Users would experience some filtered views of the Site along footpaths R60 and S15 as represented in **Photoviewpoints EDP 5 and 6**. Such views would mainly be experienced between Heath Road and Merrylees Road, however towards the southern end of this section of the footpath views reduce due to intervening vegetation and build form.

PRows to the North

- 4.11 Footpath R60 continues north onto higher ground just south of Bagworth, as represented by **Photoviewpoint EDP 11**. The Site is screened by intervening vegetation and topography in views from this part of the route.
- 4.12 Footpath R70 passes through woodland south of Bagworth Country Park, along the boundary of clay pits at Heath Farm and along the western edge of the Merry Lees industrial estate. The route passes through woodland and a treed corridor that screen the Site in views. There may be filtered views to the Site gained in winter where the route passes adjacent to Heath Road however beyond this the Site would not be visible.
- 4.13 Further north long views from higher ground can be gained along footpath R12, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 15**. The view is largely wooded however, and the Site is not visible.

PRows to the East

- 4.14 There are a few PRows along the south-west edge of Thornton and further east connecting between Thornton Lane and Thornton. The Site is screened from view along these routes by intervening vegetation and topography, as represented in **Photoviewpoints EDP 12 and 13**.

- 4.15 The Site is not visible in views from the National Forest Way, the Ivanhoe Way, or the Leicestershire Round due to screening from intervening topography and vegetation within this well treed and wooded landscape. **Photoviewpoint EDP 13** represents views from the National Forest Way.

PRoWs to the South

- 4.16 Footpaths and BOATs S6, S7, S8, S9, S10, S11, S12 and S13 connect between Merrylees Road and Barlestone Road to the south of the Site. Views of the Site from these routes are limited to small glimpses between trees and woodland. Beyond this there is no visibility of the Site, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 4**.
- 4.17 Footpath R88 connects broadly east to west between Botcheston and Newbold Verdon. The Site is screened in views from this route by intervening vegetation and landform, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 10**.
- 4.18 Bridleway R74 and Footpath S28 connect south from Merrylees Road and Heath Road to Hunts Road. Views of the Site are largely screened along this route however glimpses of the Site are gained through gaps in the vegetation, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 9**.
- 4.19 Footpath S2 connects between Desford and Kirby Muxloe. Due to a combination of distance and intervening vegetation, the Site is not visible from this route, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 16**.

Road Users

- 4.20 Road users in rural locations would be of medium sensitivity. Although they are likely to be moving at speed and would mainly be focussed on the road, the users would be passing through rural areas and therefore would be more susceptible to development.

Merrylees Road

- 4.21 Users of Merrylees Road gain intermittent views into the Site over the roadside hedge and between the hedgerow trees where the route passes the Site directly, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 3**. Beyond this, visibility of the Site reduces quickly due to vegetation along its east and west boundaries, as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 4**.

Heath Road

- 4.22 Users of Heath Road gain views of the Site where the road passes the Site boundary (as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 7**) over roadside vegetation, and in between trees (as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 8**). Such views can be gained along the stretch of the road between Merrylees Road and Fox Covert Farm. Beyond this, the Site becomes screened by hedgerows, trees and woodland within the intervening landscape. Only the wind turbine adjacent to the Site is visible.

Bagworth Road

- 4.23 The Site is screened along this route by vegetation along the roadside and the Site's boundaries.

Residential Dwellings/Groups

- 4.24 Views from private residential properties, although likely to be of high to very high sensitivity to changes in the view, are not protected by national planning guidance or local planning policy. Accordingly, changes to the character, 'quality' and nature of private views are not a material planning consideration in the determination of a planning application. However, they remain relevant to this review of the predicted extent and nature of visual change, so are reviewed briefly below:
- Woodside Farm and Heath House along Heath Road may gain views of the Site from rooms that face broadly southwards;
 - Farms to the south-west of the Site (namely Charter Farm and Halifax Farm) are likely to gain views of the Site from upper floor rooms facing the Site;
 - Properties along the B582 at Newbold Verdon may gain filtered views of the Site from upper floor rooms facing broadly towards the Site; and
 - Properties along the north-west edge of Desford may gain filtered views from upper floor rooms facing broadly towards the Site.

Bagworth Heath Woods

- 4.25 Bagworth Country Park is located 100m north of the Site. The park consists largely of woodland and as such views of the Site are screened from within the park. This receptor is not considered further in this appraisal.

Desford Cemetery

- 4.26 Receptors within Desford Cemetery would gain filtered views towards the Site from the western part of the cemetery where there is less vegetation. Views here are represented by **Photoviewpoint EDP 14** where the Site is partially visible in the distance. Wind turbines are a notable feature of the view and high voltage pylons are visible in the distance. Within the eastern side of the cemetery there are trees along the boundaries and a building which screen views.

STEP THREE: DEFINING REPRESENTATIVE VIEWPOINTS

- 4.27 Within the ZPV and ZSV, there are clearly many individual points at which views towards the Site are available. EDP has selected a number of viewpoints that are considered representative of the nature of the views from each of the receptor groups. The selection of the representative viewpoints is based on the principle that the assessment needs to consider the 'worst case' scenario, and in selecting these viewpoints, EDP has sought to include:
- A range of viewpoints from all points of the compass, north, south, east and west;

- A range of viewpoints from distances at close quarters at the Site boundary and up to distant viewpoints at 4km and more from the Site; and
- Viewpoints from all the above receptor groups.

4.28 The representation of views is supported by 16 photoviewpoints (PVPs), the number and location of which has not been agreed with the LPA, however consultation was sought in 2023, but contact was provided for a Landscape Officer. Their location is illustrated on **Plan EDP 4**. Photographs from the selected viewpoints are contained in **Appendix EDP 4**. The purpose of these viewpoints is to aid assessment of a visual receptor(s). These viewpoints are not assessed separately.

Table EDP 4.1: Summary of Representative Photoviewpoints

PVP No.	Location	Grid Reference	Distance and Direction of View	Reason(s) for Selection and Sensitivity of Receptor
1 (a and b)	Footpath S14 from the centre of the Site	445494, 305892	0m, a) north and b) south	PRoW users – high
2	Footpath S14 from within the Site to the east	445814, 305811	0m, south-west	PRoW users - high
3	Merrylees Road at the Site boundary	445484, 305567	0m, north	Road users - medium
4	Merrylees Road to the west of the Site boundary	445226, 305434	85m, north-east	Road users - medium
5	Footpath S70 west of the Site	444781, 305895	310m, east	PRoW users - high
6	Footpath S70 north-west of the Site	444910, 306418	890m, south-east	PRoW users - high
7	Heath Road from the Site boundary	445569, 306331	0m, south	Road users - medium
8	Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert	446289, 305893	460m, south-west	Road users - medium
9	Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm	446275, 305105	730m, north-west	PRoW users - high
10	Footpath S13 near junction with S12	445180, 304365	1.13km, north	PRoW users - high
11	Footpath R60 south of Bagworth	444829, 307758	1.95km, south-south-east	PRoW users - high
12	Footpath R72 at southern edge of Thornton	446835, 307151	1.68km, south-west	PRoW users - high

PVP No.	Location	Grid Reference	Distance and Direction of View	Reason(s) for Selection and Sensitivity of Receptor
13	National Forest Way near Thornton Lane	448032, 306844	2.44km, south-west	Promoted route users – very high
14	Desford Cemetery	446980, 303573	2.38km, north-west	Cemetery users - medium
15	Footpath R12 adjacent to woodland near Stanton under Bardon	445798, 309696	3.81km, south	PRoW users - high
16	Footpath S2 near Park House Farm	449616, 303510	4.35km, north-west	PRoW users - high

Section 5

The Proposed Development and Mitigation

- 5.1 Having defined the baseline conditions in the previous two sections, this report now reviews the proposed development and (in the next section) undertakes an assessment of the likely effects in landscape terms.

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 5.2 The proposed development is illustrated in **Appendix EDP 1** and this provides full details of the development proposals. To summarise, these comprise:

- Rows of solar PV panels;
- Inverters and power stations within containers;
- District Network Operator (DNO) and customer substation;
- Internal access tracks;
- Perimeter fence;
- CCTV cameras; and
- Underground cable route corridor to the Point of Connection (POC).

- 5.3 The solar panels are non-reflective and would be on a fixed mounting system with a maximum height of 3m from ground level to the top of the panel frame. The Site would be enclosed on all sides by a security 2.1m high fence of a recessive colour. No permanent lighting is proposed although manually operated lights may be attached to the transformer and/or inverter houses in the event of an emergency maintenance visit being required in the hours of darkness.

Duration

- 5.4 At the end of the proposed development's lifespan (i.e. circa 40 years), the solar panels and other infrastructure would be removed, and the Site restored. The small quantity of foundations, hard surfacing and heavy infrastructure mean that, in combination with retaining the majority of the Site as grassland, the land would be easier to restore than other more intrusive development, e.g. large buildings requiring significant foundations.

OVERALL LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

- 5.5 An Illustrative Landscape Strategy prepared by is EDP contained as **Plan EDP 6**.

- 5.6 The overall strategy is to retain and enhance existing vegetation, create species-rich grassland margins and new hedgerows to aid the landscape framework of the existing field parcels for biodiversity and visual enhancement, as well as to further screen the proposed development.

PROPOSED LANDSCAPE MITIGATION

- 5.7 The following mitigation measures have been embedded into the design:
- The retention of all existing hedgerows and trees within the Site and along its boundary and the enhancement of the hedgerows through gapping up to bolster the screening of the Site from Merrylees Road and Heath Road;
 - The retention of the existing pond;
 - The creation of a new hedgerow to the south of PRoW S14 to mitigate views of the proposed solar arrays along part of the route;
 - The creation of a new hedgerow along the north edge of the proposed development area to limit views from Heath Road;
 - The management of existing and proposed hedgerows at a minimum of 3m for screening; and
 - The set back of the solar development from Heath Road.

PROPOSED LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT

- 5.8 The following mitigation measures have been embedded into the design:
- Gapping up of hedgerows with native species to enhance species diversity and improve the structure of hedgerows;
 - Proposed species-rich grassland margins to enhance biodiversity;
 - Widening of the existing hedge that separates the two southern parcels;
 - Proposed grassland across much of the Site would take the land out of arable use allowing soil recovery from intensive farming practices, with the exception of an area within the northern parcel retained as arable land for skylark mitigation; and
 - An ecological mitigation area will be provided in the south-eastern edge of the site.

Section 6

Assessment of Effects

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 In this section, the predicted effects on landscape character and visual amenity are assessed. The assessment uses the thresholds for magnitude, sensitivity and significance defined at **Appendix EDP 2** as a guide, but moderated where appropriate with professional judgement. Professional judgement is an important part of the assessment process; it is neither 'pro' nor 'anti' development but acknowledges that development may result in beneficial change as well as landscape harm. The assessment also takes account of the likely effectiveness of any proposed mitigation.

PREDICTED EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 6.2 Construction activities, movement of site traffic and noise will be present during the construction process. This is not unusual and will be carefully controlled by a conditioned construction method statement and last approximately 24 weeks. Recommendations for the protection of retained trees and hedgerows, in accordance with relevant British Standards (BS) such as BS 5837, will ensure that the rooting areas of trees and hedgerows are not adversely affected by the construction process. The magnitude of change will, however, be very high (on both the Site itself and immediate context) and when combined with the medium sensitivity of the Site, will result in a **major/moderate** adverse level of effect. The effect will, however, be temporary and extend only for the duration of the construction process.

PREDICTED EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DURING OPERATION (YEAR 1 AND 15)

Character of the Site

- 6.3 Following construction, the predicted effects take into account suitable and appropriate management of existing and proposed landscape features, undertaken in accordance with a landscape management plan or similar.
- 6.4 It is a consequence of the nature of the development proposed that the visual and sensory character of the Site would change as a result of implementation. The magnitude of change is not an indication of bad design but is to be expected as the result of the change of use of, in this case, an arable landscape with open fields to a solar development with ground mounted solar arrays.
- 6.5 The changes predicted to occur on the dimensions that contribute to the character of the Site are described below and evaluated overall:
- The physical landscape: the topography of the of the Site would remain almost entirely unchanged with only small changes made where attenuation features are required;

- Visual and sensory character: the Site's visual and sensory character would change from arable to solar development. This change would be in the context of existing wind turbines located adjacent to and in the landscape immediately surrounding the Site that already has a level of influence on the Site's character. Furthermore, the presence of solar energy is a normal aspect of the countryside and a component of agricultural diversification;
- Landscape fabric and habitats: there would be no loss of hedgerows or trees within the Site and the pond would be retained. The arable land would be replaced with the solar array and associated infrastructure with shade tolerant grassland beneath the panels and species-rich grassland margins. The proposed grassland would offer an enhancement in terms of diversity. Some areas of arable land would be retained as skylark mitigation areas. New native hedgerows are proposed, and existing hedgerows would be gapped up and, in places, widened to further enhance the Site's connectivity and biodiversity;
- Historic landscape character: the existing field structure of the Site would be retained and bolstered through gapping up; and
- Cultural connections: the PRoW within the Site would be retained on its existing route.

6.6 On balance, therefore, the overall change to the character of the Site is high at Year 1. This, when combined with the medium sensitivity, would yield a **major/moderate** effect. At Year 1 the proposed enhancements would not yet have established, and the effect would be adverse.

6.7 At Year 15 however, the proposed hedgerows and trees would have matured, and grassland would have established. The anticipated Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), as identified within the Ecological Appraisal (report reference: edp7530_r002), would be 66.88% Habitat Units and 47.06% Hedgerow Units. The development would no longer be a new element in the landscape and the magnitude of change would reduce to low, and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate/minor**. The effect to the character of the Site at Year 15 would be a combination of beneficial and adverse effects, and overall is considered to be neutral.

Host LCA and Non-host LCA

6.8 The area immediately surrounding the Site will be subject to the greatest change to the defined host LCA and this is predicted to diminish due to distance and intervening landform and features. Effects on the immediate surroundings and the wider area are described below. The overall sensitivity of the host and non-host LCAs examined in the baseline was judged to be medium.

The Site's Immediate Surroundings

6.9 Change to the host LCA would be within and immediately surrounding the Site as a result of the development of ground mounted solar within arable fields. Due to the limited intervisibility this change would be within the ZSV. Beyond the sensory character of the host LCA, there would be limited change to its other characteristics outside of the boundaries of

the Site itself. The magnitude of change would be medium at Year 1 which, when combined with the medium sensitivity of the host LCA, would result in a **moderate** adverse effect.

- 6.10 At Year 15 the proposed enhancement to the boundary vegetation would reduce the intervisibility of the Site and its immediate surroundings and therefore limit the influence on the area's sensory character. The magnitude of change would reduce to very low, and the resulting level of effect would be **minor**. The enhancements within the Site (such as new hedgerows, trees and the strengthening of the existing hedgerows) would have matured and would be beneficial to the character of the host LCA. This, balanced with the adverse effects of the solar development, would yield a neutral level of effect overall. The effect to the host LCA immediately surrounding the Site would be **minor** neutral at Year 15.
- 6.11 The non-host LCA is located almost entirely beyond the ZSV and therefore is considered only as a part of the wider landscape character.

The Wider Area

- 6.12 Across the wider area the magnitude of change diminishes greatly due to:
- The size of the Site and limited extent of physical change to the landscape; and
 - The well treed and undulating topography that limits the influence of the Site upon the wider landscape.
- 6.13 The magnitude of change would be very low to imperceptible to both the host and non-host LCAs at Year 1 and the resulting level of effect would be **minor/negligible** adverse.
- 6.14 At Year 15 the proposed enhancement within the Site (such as new hedgerows, trees and the strengthening of the existing hedgerows) would have matured and would provide beneficial change to the character of the landscape. This, balanced with the adverse effects of the solar development, would yield a neutral level of effect overall. The effect to the wider landscape character would be **minor/negligible** neutral at Year 15.

National Forest and Charnwood Forest Regional Park

- 6.15 The Site is located outside of these landscapes and therefore does not have any direct effect on these policy areas. Furthermore, the proposed development would retain all existing trees within the Site and, therefore, would not reduce the existing arboricultural resource. There would be no effect to either the National Forest or Charnwood Forest Regional Park in landscape and visual terms.

PREDICTED EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 6.16 Due to their proximity, receptors likely to experience the most elevated construction effects are those using PRoW S14, Heath Road users, and residential receptors at Woodside Farm and Heath House. Construction activities, movement of site traffic and noise will be present during the construction process. There would also be works along Heath Road associated with the cable route. This is not unusual and will be carefully controlled by a conditioned construction method statement. The magnitude of change will, however, be very high to users of PRoW S14 and high to users of Heath Road and receptors within Woodside Farm and Heath House. The level of effect would be as follows:
- **Substantial** adverse to users of PRoW S14;
 - **Major** adverse to users of Heath Road; and
 - **Substantial** adverse to residential receptors at Woodside Farm and Heath House.
- 6.17 Beyond these receptors, the level of effect during construction would be similar to effects experienced during operation at Year 1, which are described below.

PREDICTED EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY DURING OPERATION (YEARS 1 AND 15)

- 6.18 Photomontages have been provided at **Appendix EDP 5** for each of the following photoviewpoints:
- **Photoviewpoint EDP 3:** Merrylees Road at the Site boundary;
 - **Photoviewpoint EDP 5:** Footpath S70 west of the Site;
 - **Photoviewpoint EDP 6:** Footpath S70 north-west of the Site;
 - **Photoviewpoint EDP 8:** Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert;
 - **Photoviewpoint EDP 9:** Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm; and
 - **Photoviewpoint EDP 11:** Footpath R60 south of Bagworth.
- 6.19 The following assessment of effects refers throughout to both the photoviewpoints (**Appendix EDP 4**) and photomontages (**Appendix EDP 5**).

Rights of Way Users

PRoWs within the Site

- 6.20 Footpath S14 passes through the Site and therefore it is inevitable that users would experience the greatest change as a result of the proposed development. Views from this route are represented in **Photoviewpoints EDP 1** and **2**. Where the route passes within the Site (for approximately 450m of the 1.3km route) users would gain views of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure including access. The proposals would create a new focus

within the view. Beyond the Site boundaries, however, the proposed development would be screened along much of the route by intervening vegetation and filtered in views along the stretch between Little Fox Covert and Bagworth Road. When the route is considered as a whole, users would experience a recognisable change at Year 1 and the magnitude of change would be medium. The level of effect would be **major/moderate** adverse at Year 1.

- 6.21 At Year 15 the proposed hedgerow along the southern side of the route would have matured and screen much of the solar development in views. There would, however, remain a stretch of the route (approximately 170m) where there would be no new hedgerow, and the proposed development would remain visible. The solar development would have assimilated into the landscape after 15 years. The proposed development would form a minor constituent of views experienced along the route as a whole and the magnitude of change would be low at Year 15. The resulting level of effect would be **moderate** adverse.

PRoWs to the West

- 6.22 Users of footpaths R60 and S15 gain views of the west boundary vegetation of the Site and filtered views of the south-western field parcel. With the development of the Site the proposed solar arrays and associated infrastructure, including security fences and cameras, would be visible through the boundary vegetation. The development would be most noticeable at **Photomontage EDP 5** but would be much more filtered further north (as represented in **Photomontage EDP 6**) due to topography, and south due to intervening vegetation and build form. Overall, the proposed development would be recognisable in views experienced from the route and the magnitude of change would be medium. This would result in a **major/moderate** adverse effect at Year 1.
- 6.23 At Year 15, the proposed enhancement of the boundary hedgerows and woodland would have matured and heavily filter and, in places, screen the proposed development. The magnitude of change would reduce to low, and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate** adverse.
- 6.24 In the summer months, when foliage is denser, the proposed development would be barely discernible in views and the magnitude of change would be imperceptible. During summer, at Year 15, the level of effect would be **negligible** adverse.

PRoWs to the North

- 6.25 Further north along footpath R60 the Site is screened by intervening vegetation and topography (as represented in **Photomontage EDP 11**). There is no effect to the user beyond Heath Road.

PRoWs to the South

- 6.26 Users of the PRoW south of the Site within 1km would experience glimpsed views of the proposed development through gaps in vegetation. **Photomontage EDP 9** represents views from bridleway R74. Solar arrays and associated infrastructure within the southern parcels would be visible through gaps in woodland that line the Site boundaries and within the intervening landscape. At Year 1 the proposed development would form a minor constituent of views, and the magnitude of change would be low. The resulting level of effect would be **moderate** adverse at Year 1.

- 6.27 In winter at Year 15, the proposed hedgerows along the south edge of the solar arrays would provide additional filtering of the proposed development. The magnitude of change would reduce to very low, and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate/minor** adverse.
- 6.28 In the summer months, these effects would reduce further due to the increased density of intervening vegetation. The level of effect would be **moderate/minor** adverse at Year 1 and **minor** adverse at Year 15.
- 6.29 Further south, the proposed development would be screened in views from PRowS (such as at **Photoviewpoint EDP 10** and **16**) by intervening vegetation and there would be no change, and **no effect** at Years 1 and 15.

Road Users

Merrylees Road

- 6.30 Users of Merrylees Road gain oblique intermittent views of the proposed development where the route passes the Site boundary. Roadside hedgerows and trees filter views into the Site, as represented in **Photomontage EDP 3**. The proposed development would form a new and recognisable development in views from the road at the Site boundary. Beyond the Site boundary the proposed development becomes screened by the combined roadside and Site boundary vegetation in views from the road (as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 4**). The proposed development would form a minor constituent of views to users of the road and the magnitude of change would be low. At Year 1 the level of effect to user of Merrylees Road would be **moderate/minor** adverse.
- 6.31 At Year 15 the proposed hedgerows along the southern edge of the solar arrays and proposed boundary enhancements would have matured and would bolster the filtering and screening of the proposed development. The magnitude of change would reduce to very low, and the resulting level of effect would be **minor** adverse.
- 6.32 During the summer months, the proposed development would be barely noticeable in views from the road and the level of effect to users of Merrylees Road would be **minor** adverse at Year 1 and **minor/negligible** adverse at Year 15.

Heath Road

- 6.33 Users of Heath Road would experience views of the proposed development over roadside vegetation. Views from adjacent to the Site boundary (as represented in **Photoviewpoint EDP 7**) are gained over the roadside vegetation. The north edge of the solar arrays and associated infrastructure including fences and cameras would be visible from this stretch of the road. The proposed development is, however, set back from the road edge and therefore would not be immediately obvious from the road. Nevertheless, the proposed development would form a new and recognisable element within views. The magnitude of change would be medium, and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate** adverse at Year 1. This effect would only represent users where they pass the Site boundary, and the overall effect of road users would be lower.

- 6.34 Beyond the Site boundary, views of the proposed development reduce with distance and become intermittently available in glimpsed views over hedgerows and between hedgerow trees. **Photomontage EDP 8** represents views further east along the road. The proposed development would form a minor constituent of glimpsed views at Year 1 and as such, would be barely noticeable to users passing along the road. The magnitude of change would be very low, and the resulting level of effect would be **minor** adverse.
- 6.35 At Year 15, the proposed hedgerow along the north edge of the development would have matured and would screen much of the proposed development in views from the road where it passes the Site. The proposed development would be barely noticeable, and the magnitude of change would be very low. The level of effect at Year 15 would be **minor** adverse.
- 6.36 In the summer months, the density of intervening vegetation would screen the development further and the level of effect would reduce. The overall experience of road users in summer would be **minor** adverse at Year 1 and **minor/negligible** adverse at Year 15.

Bagworth Road

- 6.37 The proposed development would not be visible from this road. There would be no change and therefore **no effect**.

Residential Dwellings/Groups

Properties along Heath Road

- 6.38 Residents at Woodside Farm and Heath House may gain views south of the proposed development. These are likely to be limited to views from upper floors of Heath House due to vegetation within the curtilage. The proposed solar arrays and associated infrastructure would be visible within the northern parcel and along the north-east edge of the southern parcels. Woodside Farm is set back from the road and Heath House is east of the Site boundary. The proposed development would form a new and recognisable element within the view and the magnitude of change would be medium at Year 1. The resulting level of effect would be **major** adverse at Year 1.
- 6.39 At Year 15, the proposed hedgerows and hedgerow trees along the north boundary would have matured and would filter and screen the proposed development in views from the properties. The magnitude of change would reduce to low, and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate** adverse at Year 15.
- 6.40 During the summer months, foliage on the proposed planting would bolster the screening of the Site in views. At Year 1, the proposed hedgerows and trees would not be dense enough to screen the Site and, as such, the level of effect would not be lower, however at Year 15 the proposed hedgerows and trees would screen much of the Site. The magnitude of change would reduce to very low at Year 15 and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate/minor** adverse in the summer months.

Farms to the South-west

- 6.41 Views of the proposed development are likely to be screened in views from these properties due to vegetation within the property curtilage/intervening landscape. Furthermore, the dwelling at Charter Farm is not directed towards the Site. There would be no change and **no effect** to residential receptors at Year 1 or 15.

Properties along B582 at Newbold Verdon

- 6.42 Residential receptors may gain glimpsed views of the proposed development through intervening vegetation. In such views the proposed development would be barely noticeable at Year 1 and the magnitude of change would be very low. The resulting level of effect would be **moderate/minor** adverse. At Year 15 the proposed hedgerows would have matured and would provide partial screening. The magnitude of change would be imperceptible, and the level of effect would be **negligible** adverse at Year 15.
- 6.43 During the summer months, the proposed development would be imperceptible and the level of effect at Years 1 and 15 would be **negligible** adverse.
- 6.44 This change would only be experienced from the linear strip of properties to the east of Newbold Verdon and from the upper floor windows of properties along B582 to the west. In many cases the proposed development is likely to be entirely screened and there would be **no effect**.

Properties at the North-west Edge of Desford

- 6.45 Residents at the north-west edge of Desford may gain views of the proposed development from properties facing north-west to north that have limited vegetation within their curtilage. This is limited to a small number of properties near to the roundabout junction with the B582, Newbold Road and Lockymead Drive. The proposed development would be barely noticeable in direct and oblique views due distance and to filtering of the Site by intervening vegetation. The magnitude of change would be very low at Year 1 and the resulting level of effect would be **moderate/minor** adverse.
- 6.46 At Year 15, the proposed hedgerows within the Site would have matured and would filter the proposed development further in views. The proposed development would be imperceptible, and the level of effect would be **negligible** adverse at Year 15.
- 6.47 Anticipated effects would be similar in summer months.

Desford Cemetery

- 6.48 Receptors within Desford Cemetery would experience similar change to that experienced by residential receptors at the edge of Desford. The magnitude of change would be very low at Year 1 and imperceptible at Year 15. This would result in a **minor** adverse and **negligible** adverse effect at Years 1 and 15 respectively.

Section 7 Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1 EDP is an independent environmental consultancy and Registered Practice of the Landscape Institute specialising the assessment of developments at all scales across the UK.
- 7.2 This report has summarised the findings of a comprehensive landscape data trawl and field appraisal undertaken by EDP's landscape team (**Sections 2, 3, and 4**). In **Section 5**, the proposed development is described with any proposed mitigation. **Section 6** sets out an assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects, having regard to the previous sections and based on a combination of the thresholds set out in **Appendix EDP 2** coupled with professional judgement.
- 7.3 The following effects in **Table EDP 7.1** are likely.

Table EDP 7.1: Summary of Effects

Receptor	Construction	Year 1	Year 15
Landscape Receptors			
Character of the Site	Major/moderate adverse	Major/moderate adverse	Moderate/minor neutral
Host LCA:			
Immediately Surrounding the Site	Major/moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor neutral
Wider Area	Minor adverse	Minor/negligible adverse	Minor/negligible neutral
Non-host LCA	Minor adverse	Minor/negligible adverse	Minor/negligible neutral
National Forest and Charnwood Forest Regional Park	No effect	No effect	No effect
Visual Receptors			
PRoW S14	Substantial adverse	Major/moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
PRoW to the West	Major/moderate adverse	Major/moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
PRoW to the North	No effect	No effect	No effect
PRoW to the South within 1km	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate/minor adverse
PRoW to the South beyond 1km	No effect	No effect	No effect
Merrylees Road	Moderate/ adverse	Moderate/minor adverse	Minor adverse

Receptor	Construction	Year 1	Year 15
Heath Road	Major adverse	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse
Bagworth Road	No effect	No effect	No effect
Properties along Heath Road	Substantial adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse
Farms to the South-west	No effect	No effect	No effect
Properties along B582 at Newbold Verdon	Moderate/minor adverse	Moderate/minor adverse	Negligible adverse
Properties at the North-west Edge of Desford	Moderate/minor adverse	Moderate/minor adverse	Negligible adverse
Desford Cemetery	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible adverse

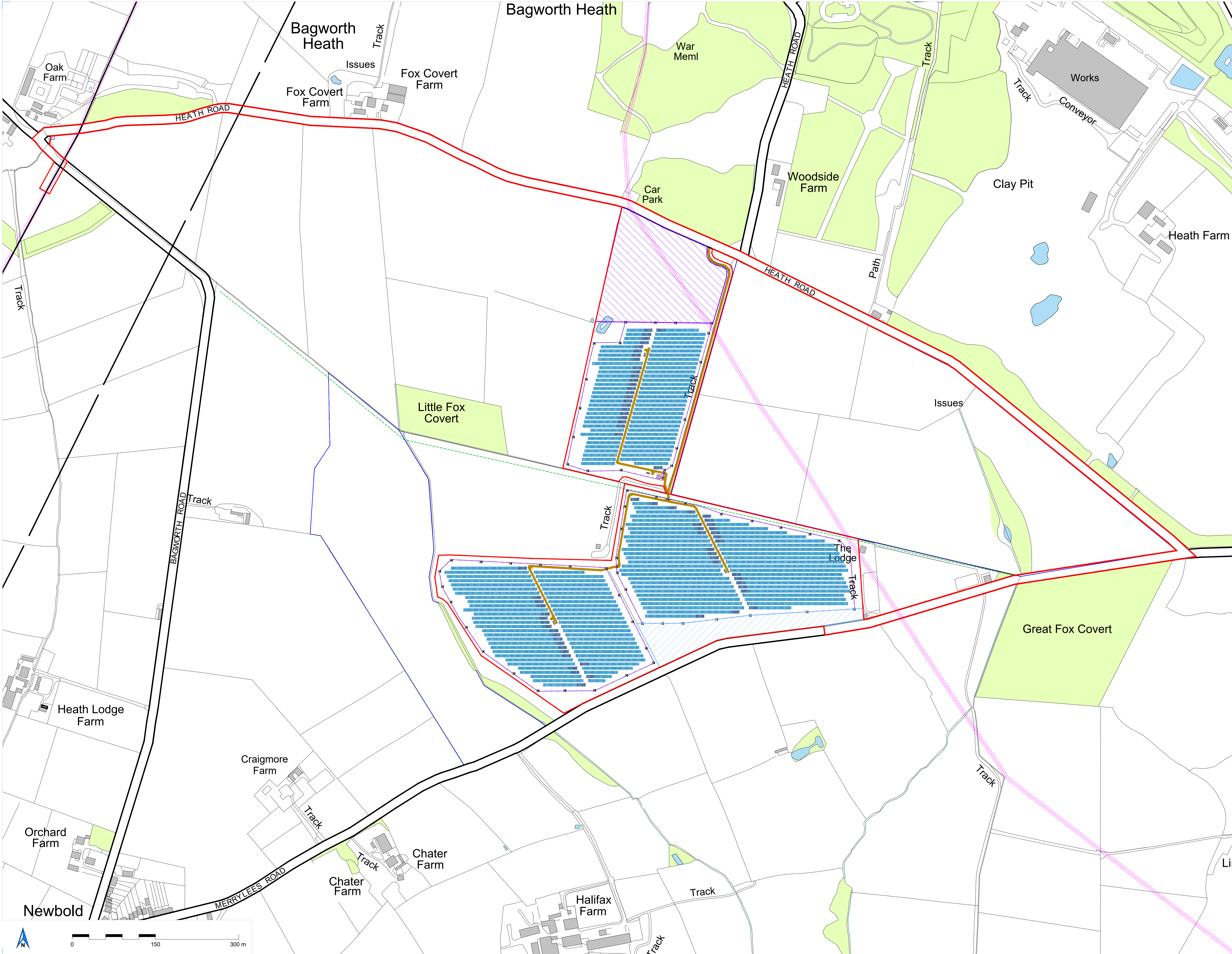
7.4 The findings of this LVA demonstrate that receptors most likely to experience elevated adverse effects (moderate or higher) in the long term are those located within close proximity to the Site including:

- Users of PRow footpath S14; and
- Residential receptors at Woodside Farm and Heath House.

7.5 The mitigation and enhancement measures proposed in the Illustrative Landscape Strategy (**Plan EDP 6**) successfully help to integrate the proposed development into the landscape. The proposed enhancements provide screening and filtering of the proposed development and limit the likely effects on both landscape character and on visual amenity. Furthermore, the proposed development provides a number of benefits to the landscape fabric of the Site including new hedgerows and hedgerow trees, strengthening of the existing hedgerows and tree belt through gapping up, creation of species rich grass margins, and soil recovery under panels.

7.6 Overall, the proposed development would result in localised harm to visual amenity within the vicinity of the Site, but it would also provide landscape enhancement with respect to habitat creation and bolstering the green infrastructure network which could be managed and maintained in the longer term.

Appendix EDP 1 Proposed Layout



- Notes:
1. All dimensions to be confirmed on site prior to installation.
 2. All dimensions are indicative only and in m unless otherwise specified.
 3. Drawing based on satellite data:
Imagery date: 16/06/21

Reference drawings

Data-Solar_GroundMount_Project Form_Heath Road.docx	---	17/08/22
RC107 - 21-11-10 - Heath Road Fixed Layout REV3.pdf	---	17/08/22
RC107 - 22-01-17 - Heath Road NM2.amx	---	17/08/22
Heath Road Updated.amx	---	13/11/23
VML_26x404.dwg	---	13/11/23
RC107 - Heath Road.dwg	---	13/11/23
2302103-TK01A-TK02A-TK03.dwg	---	22/07/24
Drainage Strategy - DRAPI 1 new RLB.pdf	---	22/07/24
Tree Survey.pdf	---	22/07/24

- Legend:
- Site boundary (31.90 ha)
 - Perimeter fence
 - Maintenance track
 - Customer substation
 - DNO
 - 20ft. Power Station
 - Inverter
 - Gate
 - OHL
 - Footpath
 - Skylark mitigation
 - Ecological enhancement area
 - CCTV



Revisions:

Rev	Date	Comments	Drawn	Approve
0	19/08/22	First issue	AP	DB
1	02/09/23	Changes in PV layout	GU	AP
2	02/09/23	Changes in PV layout	GU	AP
3	21/11/23	PV area added, site boundaries changed, configuration changed	IM	NM
4	11/11/23	Layout update	FJ	NM
5	23/07/24	Design constraints implemented	EL	GU
6	12/08/24	Layout update	IV	GU
7	19/08/24	Layout update	IV	GU
8	11/09/24	Layout update	IV	GU
9	11/11/24	Site boundary, skylark and ecological areas	IV	GU
10	14/11/24	Compound area removed	IV	GU
11	10/02/25	Site boundary updated	IV	GU

Project: Heath Road
Location: Heath Road and Merry Lees, Bagworth, LE9 9NR, UK
52.648197°, -1.329302°
Title: Indicative Proposed Site Layout

Drawn: Detra Solar / IV Checked: AM
Scale: 1:3000@A1 Date: 12/02/25
Drawing No: RCN1008-PL-01 Rev: 11

renewable connections
Level 4, LDN/W, 3 Noble Street
London, EC2V 7EE
+44 (0)20 7749 2650
www.renewableconnections.co.uk

detra SOLAR
Detra Solar
Lvovo str. 25-104,
LT-09320 Vilnius
www.detrasolar.com

Do not scale from this drawing. Site verify all dimensions prior to construction.
Report all discrepancies to the drawing originator immediately. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant documents and drawings.

Appendix EDP 2

EDP LVIA Assessment Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- A2.1 This section provides a methodology for landscape and visual impact assessment as used by EDP.

METHODOLOGY

- A2.2 The assessment methodology for assessing landscape and visual effects prepared by EDP is based on the following best practice guidance:

- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition* (LI/IEMA, 2013);
- *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* (Natural England 2014); and
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TNG) 06/19 *Visual Representation of Development Proposals* (17 September 2019).

- A2.3 Other reference documents used to understand the baseline position in landscape terms comprise published landscape character assessments appropriate to the Site's location and the nature of the proposed development.

- A2.4 The nature of landscape and visual assessment requires both objective analysis and subjective professional judgement. Accordingly, the following assessment is based on the best practice guidance listed above, information and data analysis technique, it uses quantifiable factors wherever possible and subjective professional judgement where necessary, and is based on clearly defined terms.

Landscape Assessment

- A2.5 Landscape effects derive from changes in the physical landscape fabric that may give rise to changes in its character and how this is experienced. These effects need to be considered in line with changes already occurring within the landscape and which help define the character of it.

- A2.6 Effects upon the wider landscape resource, i.e. the landscape surrounding the development, requires an assessment of visibility of the proposals from adjacent landscape character areas, but remains an assessment of landscape character and not visual amenity.

Visual Assessment

- A2.7 The assessment of effects on visual amenity draws on the predicted effects of the development, the landscape and visual context, and the visibility and viewpoint analyses,

and considers the significance of the overall effects of the proposed development on the visual amenity of the main visual receptor types in the study area.

Identifying Landscape and Visual Receptors

A2.8 This assessment has sought to identify the key landscape and visual receptors that may be affected by the changes proposed.

A2.9 The assessment of effects on landscape as a resource in its own right draws on the description of the development, the landscape context and the visibility and viewpoint analysis to identify receptors, which, for the proposed development may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The landscape fabric of the development site;
- The key landscape characteristics of the local context;
- The 'host' landscape character area that contains the proposed development;
- The 'non-host' landscape character areas surrounding the host character area and may be affected by the proposals (where relevant); and
- Landscape designations on a national, regional or local level (where relevant).

A2.10 The locations and types of visual receptors within the defined study areas are identified from OS maps and other published information (such as walking guides), from fieldwork observations and from local knowledge provided during the consultation process. Examples of visual receptors may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Settlements and private residences;
- Users of National Cycle Routes and National Trails;
- Users of local/regional cycle and walking routes;
- Those using local rights of way – walkers, horse riders, cyclists;
- Users of open spaces with public access;
- People using major (motorways, A and B) roads;
- People using minor roads; and
- People using railways.

Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effects

A2.11 The assessment of effects on the landscape resource includes consideration of the potential changes to those key elements and components that contribute towards recognised landscape character or the quality of designated landscape areas; these

features are termed landscape receptors. The assessment of visual amenity requires the identification of potential visual receptors that may be affected by the development. As noted, following the identification of each of these various landscape and visual receptors, the effect of the development on each of them is assessed through consideration of a combination of:

- Their overall sensitivity to the proposed form of development, which includes the susceptibility of the receptor to the change proposed and the value attached to the receptor; and
- The overall magnitude of change that will occur - based on the size and scale of the change, its duration and reversibility.

Defining Receptor Sensitivity

- A2.12 A number of factors influence professional judgement when assessing the degree to which a particular landscape or visual receptor can accommodate change arising from a particular development. Sensitivity is made up of judgements about the 'value' attached to the receptor, which is determined at baseline stage, and the 'susceptibility' of the receptor, which is determined at the assessment stage when the nature of the proposals, and therefore the susceptibility of the landscape and visual resource to change, is better understood.
- A2.13 Susceptibility indicates *"the ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences"*². Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptor. A degree of professional judgement applies in arriving at the susceptibility for both landscape and visual receptors and this is clearly set out in the technical appendices to this assessment.
- A2.14 A location may have different levels of sensitivity according to the types of visual receptors at that location and any one receptor type may be accorded different levels of sensitivity at different locations.
- A2.15 With reference to Box 5.1 within GLVIA3 (Page 84), **Table EDP A2.1** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall value of a landscape receptor may be judged. Within the assessment, further reference to the Landscape Institute's *TGN 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations* may be applied where appropriate. **Table EDP A2.2** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall susceptibility of the landscape in relation to the type of development proposed.

² Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition*. Page 158.

Table EDP A2.1: Assessment of Landscape Value

Landscape Character Area Value				
Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Undesignated countryside and landscape features; absence of distinctive landscape characteristics; despoiled/-degraded by the presence of many landscape detractors.	Undesignated countryside and landscape features; few distinctive landscape characteristics; presence of landscape detractors.	Undesignated countryside and landscape features; some distinctive landscape characteristics; few landscape detractors.	Locally designated/valued countryside (e.g. Areas of High Landscape Value, Regional Scenic Areas) and landscape features; many distinctive landscape characteristics; very few landscape detractors.	Nationally/internationally designated/valued countryside and landscape features; strong/distinctive landscape characteristics; absence of landscape detractors.
Consideration of Other Value Criteria				
Condition/Quality				
A landscape with no or few areas intact and/or in poor condition.	A landscape with few areas that are intact and/or in a reasonable condition.	A landscape with some areas that are intact and/or in reasonable condition.	A landscape with many areas that are intact and/or in a reasonable condition.	A landscape with most areas intact and/or in good condition.
Scenic Quality				
A landscape of little or no aesthetic appeal.	A landscape of low aesthetic appeal.	A landscape of some aesthetic appeal.	A landscape of high aesthetic appeal.	A landscape of very high aesthetic appeal.
Rarity and Representativeness				
A landscape that does not contain rare landscape types or features.	A landscape that contains few distinct landscape types or features.	A landscape that contains distinct but not rare landscape types or features.	A landscape that contains one or more rare landscape types or features.	A landscape that is abundant in rare landscape types or features.
Conservation Interests				
A landscape with no or very limited cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content.	A landscape with limited cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content.	A landscape with some cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content.	A landscape with rich cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content.	A landscape with abundant cultural, geological and/or nature conservation content.

Landscape Character Area Value				
Recreation Value				
A landscape with no or very limited contribution to recreational experience.	A landscape with no or limited contribution to recreational experience.	A landscape that provides some contribution to recreational experience.	A landscape that provides a good contribution to recreational experience.	A distinct landscape that forms a strong contribution to recreational experience.
Perceptual Aspects				
A landscape with prominent detractors, probably part of the key characteristics.	A landscape with landscape detractors, and is not particularly wild, tranquil or unspoilt.	A landscape with few detractors that also retains some perceptual values.	A landscape with very few detractors that has a relatively wild, tranquil or unspoilt landscape.	A wild, tranquil or unspoilt landscape without noticeable detractors.
Cultural Associations				
A landscape without recorded associations.	A landscape with few recorded associations.	A landscape with some and/or moderately valued associations.	A landscape with numerous and/or highly valued associations.	A landscape of rich and/or very highly valued associations.
Overall Judgement of Landscape Value				
Very Low value – receptor largely reflects very low value criteria above.	Low value – receptor largely reflects low value criteria above.	Medium value – receptor largely reflects medium value criteria above.	High value – receptor largely reflects high value criteria above.	Very High value – receptor largely reflects very high value criteria above.

Table EDP A2.2: Assessment of Landscape Susceptibility

Very Low Susceptibility to Change	Low Susceptibility to Change	Medium Susceptibility to Change	High Susceptibility to Change	Very High Susceptibility to Change
Pattern, Complexity and Physical Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development				
A simple, monotonous and/or degraded landscape with common/indistinct features and minimal variation in landscape pattern.	A landscape with an occasionally intact pattern and/or with a low degree of complexity and with few features in reasonable condition.	A landscape with some intact pattern and/or with a degree of complexity and with features mostly in reasonable condition.	A landscape with mostly patterned/textured or a simple but distinctive landscape and/or with high value features and essentially intact.	A strongly patterned/-textured or a simple but distinctive landscape and/or with high value features intact.
Visual Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development				
A very enclosed landscape that contains or strongly filters views, with an absence of visual landmarks and a lack of intervisibility with designated landscapes.	A predominantly enclosed landscape that contains or filters most views, with very few views of visual landmarks or intervisibility with designated landscapes.	A partially enclosed landscape with some visual containment and filtering, possible limited intervisibility with visual landmarks and designated landscapes.	An open landscape with intervisibility and limited visual filtering or enclosure. Prominent visual landmarks may be present, and/or intervisibility with designated landscapes may occur.	An open or exposed landscape with extensive intervisibility and no or very limited visual filtering or enclosure. Prominent visual landmarks are present, and/or intervisibility with designated landscapes occurs.

Very Low Susceptibility to Change	Low Susceptibility to Change	Medium Susceptibility to Change	High Susceptibility to Change	Very High Susceptibility to Change
Experiential Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development				
A landscape with prominent visual and/or aural intrusion and close relationship with large-scale built development/infrastructure. A landscape that contains many light sources and essentially suffers from widespread light pollution.	A busy landscape with frequent visual and/or aural intrusion and nearby relationship with large-scale built development/- infrastructure. A landscape that contains frequent light sources and suffers from light pollution.	A partially tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/ infrastructure may be present. A landscape that contains some light sources.	A tranquil landscape with limited visual and/or aural intrusion, some relationship with built development/- infrastructure may be present. A landscape that contains few light sources.	A very tranquil, wild or remote landscape with little or no sense of visual or aural intrusion. A landscape that contains very few light sources and provides dark skies.
Overall Judgement of Susceptibility to Change to the Proposed Development				
Very Low susceptibility – receptor largely reflects very low criteria above.	Low susceptibility – receptor largely reflects low criteria above.	Medium value – receptor largely reflects medium criteria above.	High susceptibility – receptor largely reflects high criteria above.	Very High susceptibility – receptor largely reflects very high criteria above.

A2.16 **Table EDP A2.3** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall sensitivity of the landscape resource is judged within this assessment and considers both value and susceptibility independently.

Table EDP A2.3: Assessment of Landscape Sensitivity

		Susceptibility of Landscape Receptor				
		Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Receptor Value	Very High	Very High	Very High/High	High	High/Medium	Medium
	High	Very High/High	High	High/Medium	Medium	Medium/Low
	Medium	High	High/Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Low
	Low	High/Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Low	Low/Very Low
	Very Low	Medium	Medium/Low	Low	Low/Very Low	Very Low

A2.17 For visual receptors, judgements of susceptibility and value are closely interlinked considerations. For example, the most valued views are those that people go and visit because of the available view, and it is at those viewpoints that their expectations will be highest and thus most susceptible to change.

A2.18 **Table EDP A2.4** provides an indication of the criteria by which the overall sensitivity of a visual receptor is judged within this assessment and considers both value and susceptibility independently.

Table EDP A2.4: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Category	Visual Receptor Criteria
Very High	Designed view (which may be to or from a recognised heritage asset or other important viewpoint), or where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. Key promoted viewpoint, e.g. interpretative signs. References in literature and art and/or guidebooks tourist maps. Protected view recognised in planning policy designation. Visual receptors with a very high susceptibility to change may include those with views from residential properties, especially from rooms normally occupied in waking or daylight hours; national PRoWs, e.g. National Trails and nationally designated countryside/landscape features with public access, which people might visit purely to experience the view; and visitors to heritage assets of national importance.

Category	Visual Receptor Criteria
High	View of clear value but may not be formally recognised, e.g. framed view of high scenic value, or destination hill summits. It may also be inferred that the view is likely to have value, e.g. to local residents. Visual receptors with a high susceptibility to change are considered to be those whose attention or interest is focussed on their surroundings and may include those with views from recreational receptors where there is some appreciation of the landscape, e.g. golf and fishing; local PRoWs, access land and National Trust land, also panoramic viewpoints marked on maps; road routes promoted in tourist guides for their scenic value.
Medium	View is not promoted or recorded in any published sources and may be typical of the views experienced from a given receptor. Visual receptors with a medium susceptibility to change may include people engaged in outdoor sport other than appreciation of the landscape, e.g. football and rugby, or road users on minor routes passing through rural or scenic areas.
Low	View of clearly lesser value than similar views experienced from nearby visual receptors that may be more accessible. Visual receptors with a low susceptibility to change may include road users on main road routes (motorways/A roads) and users of rail routes or people at their place of work (where the place of work may be in a sensitive location). Also views from commercial buildings where views of the surrounding landscape may have some limited importance.
Very Low	View affected by many landscape detractors and unlikely to be valued. Visual receptors with a very low susceptibility to change may include people at their place of work, indoor recreational or leisure facilities or other locations where views of the wider landscape have little or no importance.

A2.19 The tables above offer a template for assessing overall sensitivity of any landscape or visual receptor as determined by combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape as set out at paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3. However, the narrative in this report may demonstrate that assessment of overall sensitivity can change on a case-by-case basis.

A2.20 For example, a high susceptibility to change and a low value may result in a medium overall sensitivity, unless it can be demonstrated that the receptor is unusually susceptible or is in some particular way more valuable. A degree of professional judgement applies in arriving at the overall sensitivity for both landscape and visual receptors.

Magnitude of Change

A2.21 The magnitude of any landscape or visual change is determined through a range of considerations particular to each receptor. As set out within GLVIA3 (Page 39), the following steps are considered in defining the magnitude of change.

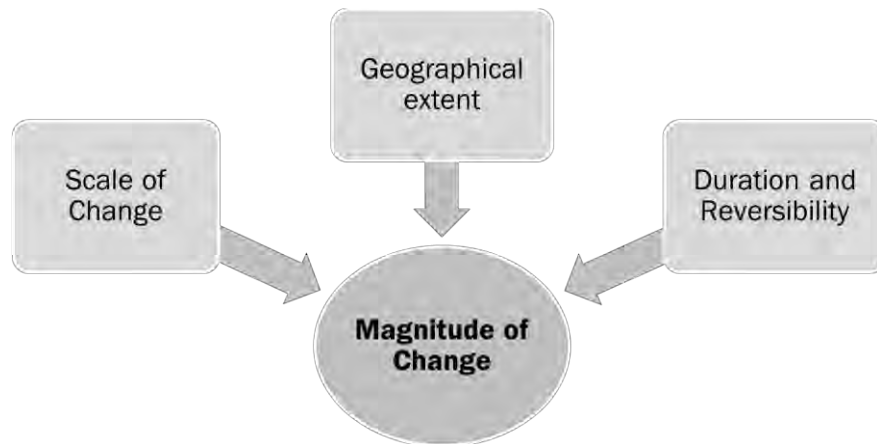


Figure EDP A2.1: Assessing the magnitude of change.

A2.22 Receptor locations from which views of the proposed development are not likely to occur will receive no change and therefore no effect. With reference to the ZTV and site survey, the magnitude of change is defined for receptor locations from where visibility of the proposed development is predicted to occur.

A2.23 **Table EDP A2.5** provides an indication of the criteria by which the size/scale of change at a landscape or visual receptor is judged within this assessment.

Table EDP A2.5: Landscape and Visual Receptor Size/Scale of Change Criteria

Category	Landscape Receptor Criteria	Visual Receptor Criteria
Large Scale 	Total loss of or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements which strongly conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape.	There would be a substantial change to the baseline, with the proposed development creating a new focus and having a defining influence on the view.
	Notable loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that are prominent and may conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape.	The proposed development will be clearly noticeable, and the view would be fundamentally altered by its presence.
	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that may be evident but do not necessarily conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape.	The proposed development will form a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor.

Table EDP A2.6: Geographical Extent Criteria

A2.25 The third, and final, factor, in determining the predicted magnitude of change is duration and reversibility. Duration and reversibility are separate but linked considerations. Duration is judged according to the defined terms set out below, whereas reversibility is a judgement about the prospects and practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation. The categories used in this assessment are set out below.

- Long-term (15 years+);
- Medium to long-term (10 to 15 years);
- Medium-term (5 to 10 years);

- Short-term (1 year to 5 years); or
- Temporary (less than 12 months).

Reversibility:

- Permanent with unlikely restoration to original state, e.g. major road corridor, power station, urban extension, etc.;
- Permanent with possible conversion to original state, e.g. agricultural buildings, retail units;
- Partially reversible to a different state, e.g. mineral workings;
- Reversible after decommissioning to a similar original state, e.g. wind energy development; or
- Quickly reversible, e.g. temporary structures.

A2.26 With consideration of the judgements set out above, **Table EDP A2.7** combines these judgements to provide the overall criteria by which the magnitude of change may be judged. While not all of the criteria may apply, the size/scale, geographical extent criteria and the duration/reversibility of effects on receptors are taken together to form a reasoned assessment of the magnitude of change. The overall magnitude of change is derived using professional judgement.

Table EDP A2.7: The Assessment of the Overall Magnitude of Change

Category	Receptor Criteria
Very High	Total loss of, or major alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements which strongly conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. The proposed development would create a new focus and have a defining influence on the view. Landscape and visual effects are typically large in scale, resulting in a permanent and irreversible change, influencing several landscape types or character areas. Visual changes would be experienced in direct, close ranging views with changes over a wide horizontal and vertical extent.
High	Notable loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that are prominent and may conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape. The proposed development would be clearly noticeable, and the view would be fundamentally altered by its presence. Direct or oblique views at close range with changes over a notable horizontal and/or vertical extent. Notable landscape and visual effects may be experienced in the medium to long-term, with possible conversion to original state, at the scale of the landscape type or character area/s within which the proposal lies.

Category	Receptor Criteria
Medium	Partial loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline condition. Addition of elements that may be evident but do not necessarily conflict with the key characteristics of the existing landscape within the immediate setting of the Site. The proposed development would form a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor. Visual change would be experienced in direct or oblique views at medium range with a moderate horizontal and/or vertical extent of the view affected. Effects may be partially reversible to a different state, being experienced in the medium term.
Low	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements, largely at the site level, that may not be uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. The proposed development would form a minor constituent of an oblique view, being partially visible or at sufficient distance to be a small component at medium or long range and with a small horizontal/vertical extent of the view affected. The duration of the change may be short-term, being reversible to a similar original state.
Very Low	Barely discernible loss or alteration to key elements/features/characteristics of the baseline landscape. Addition of elements, experienced on parts of the Site at a very localised level, not uncharacteristic within the existing landscape. The proposed development would form a barely noticeable component of the view, often being seen as a small component in a long-range view where, although slightly altered, the change would be similar to the baseline situation. Effects may be temporary and quickly reversible to the original state of the baseline context.

Significance of Effect

A2.27 The purpose of the EIA process is to identify the significant environmental effects (both beneficial and adverse) of development proposals. Schedule 4 to the *EIA Regulations* specifies the information to be included in all environmental statements, which should include a description of:

“The description of the likely significant effects ...should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development”.

A2.28 In order to consider the likely significance of any effect, the sensitivity of each receptor is combined with the predicted magnitude of change to determine the significance of effect, with reference also made to the geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the effect within the assessment. Having taken such a wide range of factors into account when assessing sensitivity and magnitude at each receptor, the significance of effect can be derived by combining the sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the matrix in **Table EDP A2.8**.

Table EDP A2.8: Level of Effects Matrix

Overall Sensitivity	Overall Magnitude of Change				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Very High	Very Substantial	Substantial	Major	Major/- Moderate	Moderate
High	Substantial	Major	Major/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/- Minor
Medium	Major	Major/- Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/- Minor	Minor
Low	Major/- Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/- Negligible
Very Low	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Minor/- Negligible	Negligible

A2.29 In certain cases, where additional factors may arise, a further degree of professional judgement may be applied when determining whether the overall change in the view will be significant or not. For example, in cases where a moderate effect is experienced by a high or very high sensitivity receptor, this may be considered to be significant. Similarly, where a moderate effect is experienced by a very low sensitivity receptor, this may not be considered significant. Where this occurs, further explanation is given within the assessment.

Definition of Effects

A2.30 Taking into account the levels of effect described above, and with regard to effects being either adverse or beneficial, the following table represents a description of the range of effects likely at any one receptor.

Table EDP A2.9: Definition of Effect

Category	Definition of Adverse Effects	Definition of Beneficial Effects
Very Substantial	Typically, the landscape or visual receptor is very highly sensitive with the proposals representing a very high adverse magnitude of change. The changes would be at complete variance with the landscape character and would permanently diminish the integrity of a valued landscape or view.	The removal of substantial existing incongruous landscape or visual elements and the introduction or restoration of highly valued landscape elements or built form which would reinforce local landscape character and substantially improve landscape condition and visual amenity.
Substantial	Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a very high to high sensitivity with the proposals representing a very high to high adverse magnitude of change to the view or landscape resource. Changes would result in a fundamental change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.	The removal of existing incongruous landscape/visual elements and the introduction or restoration of some valued landscape or visual elements would complement landscape character and improve landscape condition and improve the local visual amenity.

Category	Definition of Adverse Effects	Definition of Beneficial Effects
Major	Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a high to medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a high to medium magnitude of change. The proposals would represent a material but non-fundamental change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.	The removal of some existing incongruous landscape elements and/or the introduction or restoration of some potentially valued landscape elements which reflect landscape character and result in some improvements to landscape condition and/or visual amenity.
Moderate	Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a medium sensitivity with the proposals representing a medium magnitude of change. The proposals would result in a slight but non-material change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.	Some potential removal of incongruous landscape features or visual amenity, although more likely the existing landscape and/or resource is complemented by new landscape features or built features compliant with the local landscape and published landscape character assessments.
Minor	Typically, the landscape or visual receptor has a low sensitivity with the proposals representing a low magnitude of change. There would be a detectable but non-material change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.	The proposals would result in minimal positive change to the landscape or visual resource, either through perceptual or physical change, and any change would not be readily apparent but would be coherent with ongoing change and process, and coherent with published landscape character assessments.
Negligible	Typically, the landscape receptor has a very low sensitivity with the proposals resulting in very limited loss or alteration to the landscape resource or change to the view. There would be a barely perceptible change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.	There would be a barely perceptible positive or negative change to the landscape resource or visual amenity.

A2.31 Effects can be adverse (negative), beneficial (positive) or neutral. The landscape effects will be considered against the landscape baseline, which includes published landscape strategies or policies if they exist. Changes involving the addition of large-scale man-made objects are typically considered to be adverse as they are not usually actively promoted as part of published landscape strategies. Accordingly, the assessment of landscape effects as a result of these aspects of the proposed development will be assumed to be adverse, unless otherwise stated within the assessment.

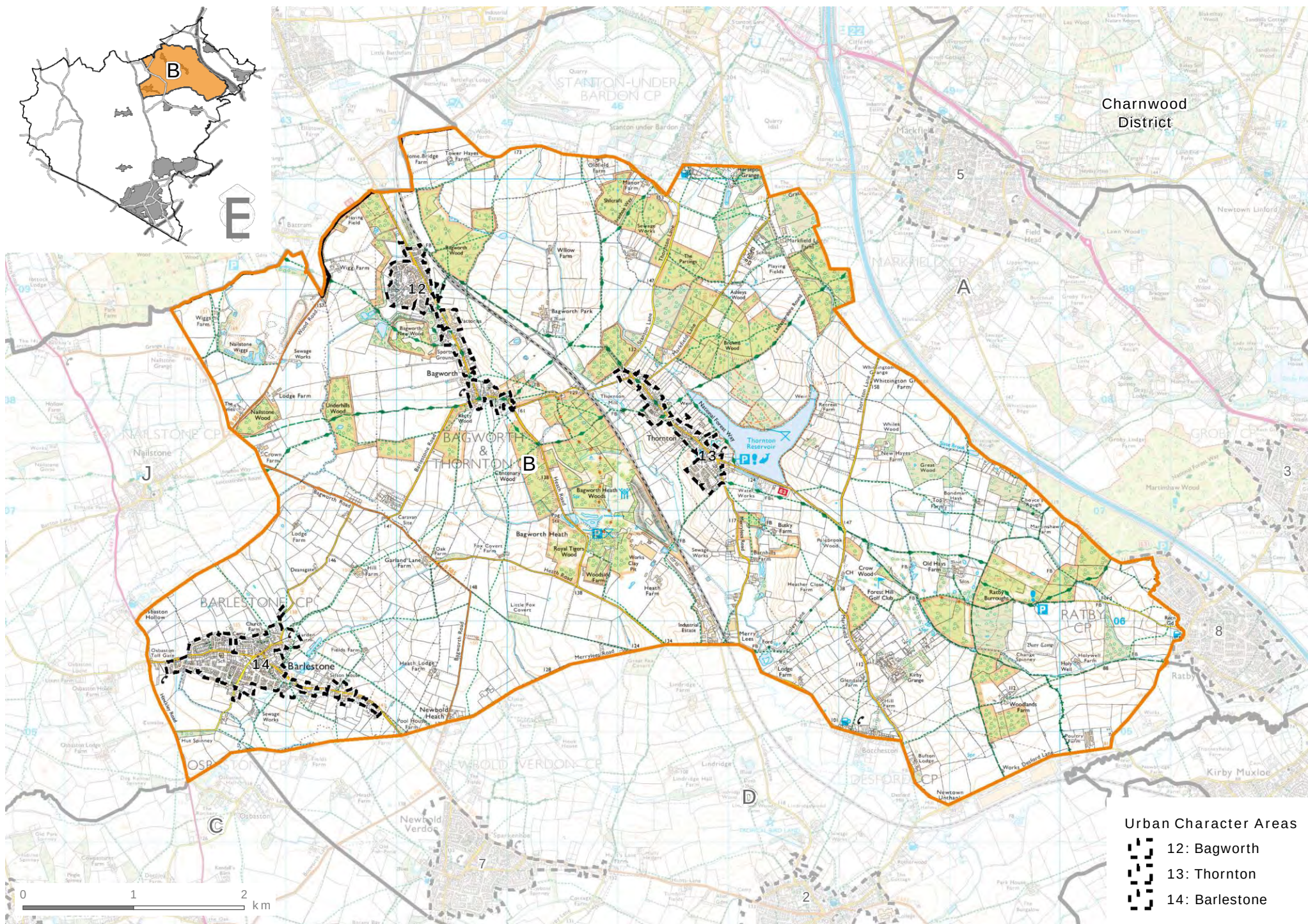
A2.32 Visual effects are more subjective as people's perception of development varies through the spectrum of negative, neutral and positive attitudes. In the assessment of visual effects, the assessor will exercise objective professional judgement in assessing the level of effects

and, unless otherwise stated, will assume that all effects are adverse, thus representing the worst-case scenario.

Appendix EDP 3

Findings of EDP Data Trawl

LCA B: Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills



LCA B: CHARNWOOD FRINGE



Location and Boundaries

- 5.22 The Charnwood Fringe character area is located in the north of the borough between LCA J Barton Village Farmlands and LCA A Charnwood Forest. The western boundary follows the A447 and skirts around Nailstone, broadly following the transition to the higher ground within this area which continues to rise further east into Charnwood Forest. The eastern boundary is drawn to exclude the more industrial/ urban influences of LCA A Charnwood Forest, most notably the M1 motorway and quarries at Stanton under Bardon. The majority of the area apart from the south west extent around Barlestone is within the National Forest. The area to the east is part of Charnwood Forest – a landscape designation recognised in local planning policy.
- 5.23 Towns/ villages within the character area:
- *Barlestone*
 - *Bagworth*
 - *Thornton*

Key Characteristics

- 1) Gently undulating landform with small plateaus on higher ground and rising to the adjacent Charnwood Forest area to the east.
- 2) Contrast between areas which are visually open and enclosed depending on the elevation of the landscape and the presence of woodlands and vegetation.
- 3) Large scale irregular field pattern of mainly arable and some pasture, with smaller fields around settlements. Fields enclosed by hedgerows with scattered trees.
- 4) Industrial heritage of quarrying and mining resulting in areas of restored land.
- 5) Part of the National Forest and Charnwood Forest with areas of new woodland plantations associated with former industrial areas.
- 6) Dispersed pattern of former mining villages following a linear pattern on ridgetops, either located close to a colliery or providing housing for mine workers. Good public access and footpath network throughout, especially within National Forest area.
- 7) Predominantly rural landscape with arable and rough set-aside, influenced by industrial / urban features such as masts, poles and pylons.



Landscape Character

- . This is a rolling landform with small plateaus and gentle ridges rising to the north-east at Bagworth, continuing to rise steadily in the adjacent Charnwood Forest character area. This area is part of the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield national character area which continues outside of the borough to the north-west indicating the influence of the coal measures on the character of the landscape. Within this area the coal measures are concealed beneath Mercia Mudstone and pockets of sandstone, and covered by a layer of glacial till with patches of glaciofluvial sand and gravel. Previous exploitation of the coal seams in the northern part of the area around Bagworth and east of Nailstone has left a legacy of former mine sites which have since been restored as part of landscape initiatives related to the National Forest. Most of the soils across the area are slowly permeable seasonally wet loamy and clayey soils which are of moderate fertility, supporting grassland and arable, grass production for dairying or beef and some cereal production often for feed.
- . Land use is predominantly arable, with occasional pasture farming within irregular fields generally large in size but with smaller irregular fields surrounding settlements (such as Barlestone and Thornton), which create a more intimate and complex pattern. Fields are generally enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees and some scattered individual mature trees. In the north of the character area there are extensive areas of young woodland as a result of National Forest initiatives, which is having an increasing influence on the character of the area, augmenting existing woodland areas and prominent amenity trees around settlements with developing woodland on former colliery sites.
- . Openness and visibility varies with the changing topography and presence of vegetation, with the landscape more enclosed in the lower lying areas and where hedgerows and woodlands successively combine to create a well-vegetated appearance, whilst there are longer distance panoramas possible from the higher levels.
- . 7 This is a predominantly rural landscape but its proximity to the large settlements around Leicester and major transport routes with traffic travelling at speed does make some areas seem busy. This reduces the tranquillity of the area, especially when combined with aircraft noise overhead and urbanising features such as pylons, wind turbines, solar farms and industrial buildings which are occasionally visible. Away from the settlements however, there is little light pollution, indicating dark skies and a stronger sense of rurality – such as around Thornton Reservoir, Bagworth Heath and the landscape between Barlestone, Bagworth Heath and Bagworth.
- . 8 Accessibility is good with a comprehensive network of footpaths and bridleways (especially within the National Forest), including the Leicestershire Round long distance path and the National Forest Way, and a good road network linking the settlements. Thornton Reservoir, Bagworth Heath and the Tropical Bird Land near Desford provide visitor attractions. The National Forest provides a wider recreational resource.
- . 9 Settlement is characterised by small, predominantly linear villages and scattered farms. The villages of Barlestone and Thornton are situated on raised ground of sand and gravels, and the larger village of Bagworth is on a high ridge in the north-east of the character area. Originally agricultural villages, nearby coal mines became the principal source of employment during the 19th century. Prevalent building materials are red brick with occasional use of yellow, orange and blue bricks with clay tiles, with granite setts, cobbles and bricks in internal courtyards.
- .30 Barlestone has its origins as a small agricultural village which retains a few historic buildings.



Bagworth has its origins as a small village and Bagworth Colliery operated in the village from 1828.

Thornton is situated on a locally prominent ridgeline and characterised by red brick cottages and terraces and large detached properties.



Historical and Cultural Influences

- 5.33 The legacy of coal mining has a strong influence on local character. There were three collieries in the north and east of the character area: Bagworth Colliery, Desford Colliery (now Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park) and Nailstone Colliery and brickworks. Bagworth colliery is entered in the Guinness Book of Records for its outstanding production per man-shift. The pit closed in 1991; the last pit in Leicestershire. The Leicester to Swannington Railway line which passes along the eastern boundary of the character area, was built in 1832 with Robert Stephenson as engineer, to transport coal from the collieries in West Leicestershire to Leicester and included a direct connection to Bagworth Colliery from Bagworth Station.
- 5.34 There are three Scheduled Monuments: Located to the east of Bagworth, the moat with fishponds at Bagworth is an unusual example of a manorial site with well-documented evidence of the manor and associated fishponds. Another moated site is located at Old Hays Farm and has associated with Leicester Abbey. The former moats would have enclosed islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings and remain as status symbols indicating the distribution of wealth in the countryside in the medieval period. Another Scheduled Monument marks an Iron Age hillfort of Bury Camp. Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and Roman pottery sherds have been discovered here.
- 5.35 There are some large areas of piecemeal enclosure around Barlestone indicating survival of post-medieval (late 16th and early 17th century) field systems. These intact areas of small to medium

irregular fields provide historical interest and visual amenity. These are interspersed with planned enclosure fields of a more regular pattern which are more recent but characteristic of the wider area.

Natural Influences

- 5.36 Intensive farming has resulted in only limited remnants of semi natural vegetation and there is limited biodiversity. Manor Farm Local Wildlife Site near Bagworth is designated for its good quality semi-improved grassland. Individual trees including black poplar and ash trees are locally valued and designated as Local Wildlife Site. Small patches of ancient woodland (Nailstone Wiggs in the north of the area) and fragments of deciduous woodland add to the local biodiversity.
- 5.37 There is open access woodland across much of the northern and eastern part of the character area which was planted as part of the National Forest – including Nailstone Wood, Underhills Wood and other woodlands and lakes around Bagworth. These woodlands connect to the wooded areas in Charnwood to the east and outside of the borough to the north at Battran Wood and beyond in the National Forest.
- 5.38 Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park is a 75ha reclaimed colliery site owned by Leicestershire County Council and is part of the National Forest. The area contains woodland, grassland, heathland, lakes and ponds with a network of paths and visitor facilities. It contains a series of subsidence flashes which provide habitats for wildfowl and aquatic plants. A demonstration woodland shows different techniques for woodland establishment and maintenance on the reclaimed colliery spoil.

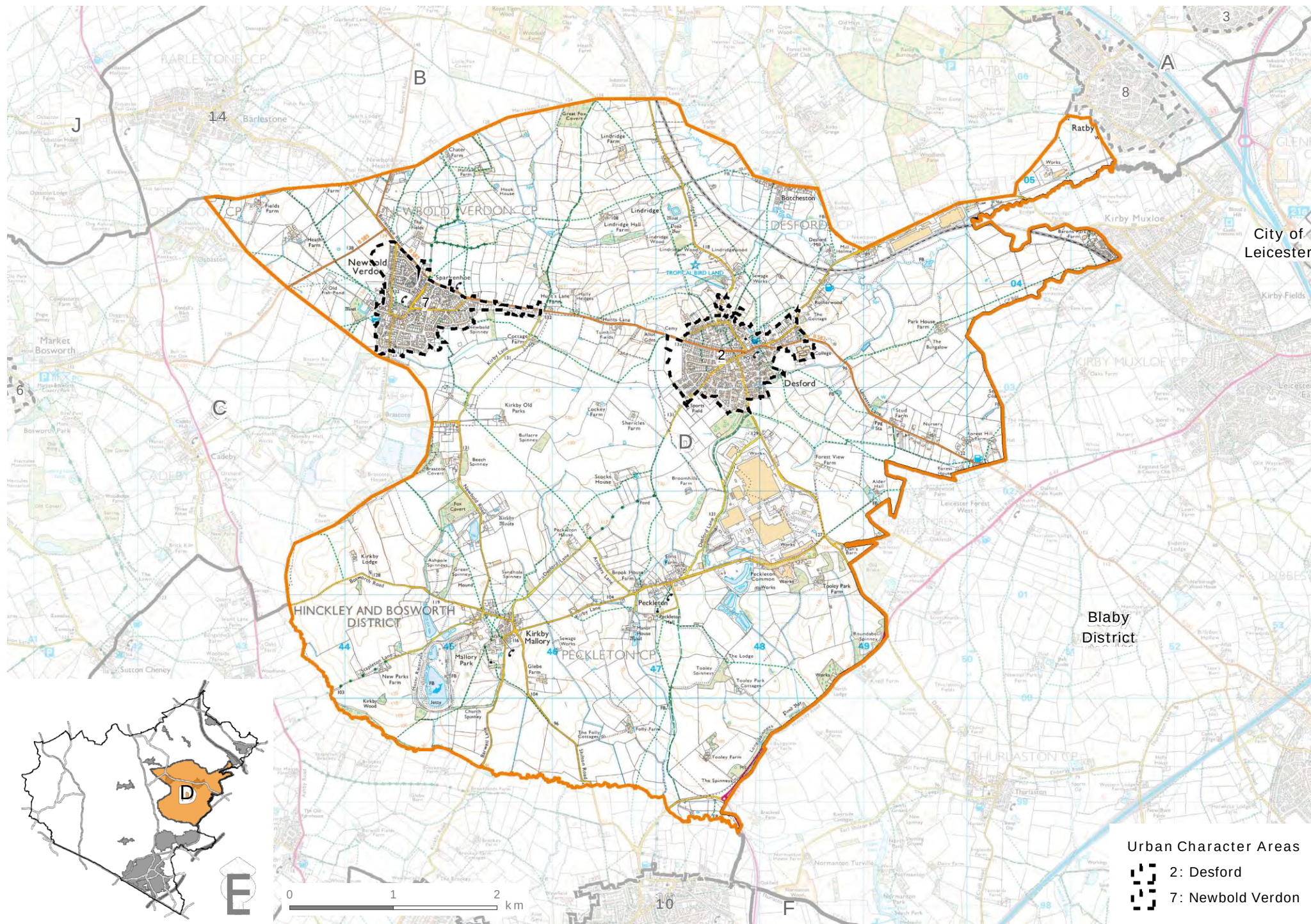
Key Sensitivities and Values

- 1) Woodlands, copses and individual trees are important as areas of connective habitats such as hedgerows and river corridors which link to the nearby woodlands of the National Forest. They are also important for their recreational value for local communities.
- 2) Rural character and the dispersed pattern of villages where the landscape away from the settlements is characterised by dark skies at night and a sense of tranquillity.
- 3) Recreational value of the restored mining sites including Bagworth Heath Woods Country Park as well as the value for leisure and access provided by the network of footpaths and bridleways including the Leicestershire Round.
- 4) Thornton Reservoir which provides a popular recreational facility on the edge of Thornton village.
- 5) The historic and cultural associations with mining in the area related to the former pits.
- 6) The historic character of the landscape evident in the presence of Scheduled Monuments and the pattern of irregular fields of piecemeal enclosure and the small irregular fields surrounding settlements. Hedgerow boundaries and mature trees reinforce this character which also provides visual interest and biodiversity value.
- 7) Semi-improved grasslands and lowland meadow habitats which are particularly valued in the area due to the relative scarcity of biodiversity assets as a result of intensive farming regimes.

Landscape Strategies

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support the vision of the National Forest Strategy – to unify the forest area by planting native and mixed species woodland– as well as for areas beyond the National Forest boundary, encouraging, connecting and enhancing habitats such as hedgerows, tree planting, farm woodlands and lowland meadows. 2) Conserve and enhance the historic core of village settlements and ensure extensions are well integrated within this wooded landscape. 3) Restore typical zones of woodland types from alder, crack willow, hazel and grey willow in valleys, to oak/birch woodland on higher slopes; developing and managing transitional | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) The siting and design of new development should complement the existing settlement pattern. New developments, extensions or alterations should be of appropriate materials, scale, massing and location within their plot to the rural context of the area. Removal of traditional building features such as crown chimney pots and boundary walls of brick, stone, metal railings and timber fences should be avoided. 5) Conserve the historic features of the landscape including industrial heritage of mining villages, railways. |
|---|--|

LCA D: Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland



Urban Character Areas

2: Desford

7: Newbold Verdon

LCA D: NEWBOLD AND DESFORD ROLLING FARMLAND



Location and Boundaries

- 5.61 The Desford Vales character area lies on gently undulating farmland in the east of the Borough between the Charnwood Fringe to the north and the Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland in the south. The land slopes down to the River Soar in the east and shares its western boundary with the Bosworth Parkland Landscape Character Area.
- 5.62 Villages within the character area:
- *Desford*
 - *Peckleton*
 - *Kirkby Mallory*
 - *Newbold Verdon*

Key Characteristics

- 1) Gently rolling landform rising to the north from the lower lying land around the River Soar.
- 2) Clustered villages of varying size centred on crossroads.
- 3) Predominantly arable farmland with clustered areas of industry and recreational facilities near to the village fringes.
- 4) Tree cover is limited, with scattered trees and small linear woodland copses.
- 5) Large to medium sized field pattern defined by single species hawthorn hedgerows.
- 6) Good network of footpaths link settlements.
- 7) Few major roads.
- 8) Open views where hedgerows have been removed, giving an impression of a large scale landscape.
- 9) Electricity pylons and wind turbines are often prominent vertical features in this open landscape.



Landscape Character

The Desford Vales geology is characterised by Triassic Mercia Mudstone interspersed with some bands of sandstone and overlain by Quaternary diamiction and sand and gravel. Alluvium is found beneath the River Soar tributary. The majority of the area consists of reddish fine loamy clayey soils which are slowly permeable and therefore prone to seasonal waterlogging. A section of more permeable coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater can be found on the middle slopes, forming a band through the area. The landform is gently undulating, rising to the north, whilst the southern part of the area flattens out into a valley which contains a tributary to the River Soar.

Land cover consists of generally open, medium to large scale agricultural fields with a mix of arable and pasture in a regular shaped pattern. Some small scale uses exist, such as the allotments on the edge of Brascote village as well as some industrial influences including active sand and gravel quarrying, warehouses and factories. Small areas of woodland, often linear in form, can be found throughout the area, especially associated with Mallory Park and the Caterpillar works. Hedgerows with hedgerow trees of varying frequency are common, as are scattered trees, although some hedgerows have been removed along road sides.

A number of public footpaths and bridleways serve the area. There are few major roads, with a network of rural lanes and minor roads connecting the villages and the Caterpillar works to the A47 and A447 major transport corridors on the edges of the area. These have localised urban influences and create a strong sense of movement. However, areas of tranquillity can be found away from the settlement concentrations; areas with little light pollution in the north of the character area between Newbold Verdon and Desford indicate dark skies and a rural character.

Long distance panoramic views are possible from the higher ground and more open land in the north. Views from in and around the villages are occasionally restricted by vegetation and landform and punctuated by the pylons and wind turbines which together with quarries have urbanising and industrial influences on the otherwise rural landscape.

7 Settlement is characterised by clustered villages of varying sizes, including the larger centres of Desford and Newbold Verdon. Many isolated farmsteads are scattered throughout the farmland and were typically built in response to agricultural enclosure. Several farms are still located in the villages and more recently modern farm complexes and industrial agricultural units have become more apparent.

8 Desford is the most significant settlement in the area comprising a compact, nucleated village made up of two storey terraced cottages of mixed building materials. Red brick chimneys and small sub-divided windows are a feature whilst rough cast rendering, slate roofing and some timber framed thatched buildings are also present. The character is described in more detail in the Desford Urban Character Area.

9 The Caterpillar works form a major developed area to the south of Desford, yet is well-assimilated by woodland and tree planting around its boundary.

5.20 Peckleton and Kirkby Mallory are other small villages with farming origins that occupy the centre of the character area. These consist of a mix of former agricultural two storey cottages made from red brick and slate roofs contrasting with red brick, white render and clay roof tiles of modern infill and expansion.

71 Newbold Verdon is a compact settlement with a well-defined historic core characterised by two-storey, red brick dwellings with slate roofs. The urban form is made up of a mix of different styles



and is discussed as part of Urban Character Area 7.

Historical and Cultural Influences

5.72 Until the Industrial Revolution, the villages comprised small agricultural communities of farmhouses with associated strip fields, remains of which are evident in the ridge and furrow within fields surrounding some of the settlements such as Desford.

5.7 Mallory Park and the associated estate have Anglo-Saxon origins: Kirkby Moats, located to the north of Kirkby Mallory, consists of a series of rectilinear ditches, resembling a double moated enclosure with adjacent fish ponds. The present day motorcycle track began as a standby landing ground for the Royal Air Force Station during WWII, before it was later sold as part of the estate in 1953 and became a pony trotting circuit. It was less than a decade later that the first motorcycle sidecar racing was first held at Mallory Park when several motorcycle clubs hired the circuit from the previous owners. Since then a number of high profile races have been held at the circuit including the British Superbike Championships and British Touring Cars.

5.74 A tree in an uncultivated field near to the footpath between Peckleton and Earl Shilton known as the 'oak and ash tree' holds special value in local legend. The tree is two trees that have bonded together, making one which is unusual because they are two different species – oak and ash. Local legend says this unusual tree stems from two seeds being planted decades ago by lovers who were forced apart. The folk tale serves as an important piece of local history that ties Earl Shilton to its surrounding landscape and serves as a reminder of how the settlement used to be.

5.75 Desford Hall is a Grade II listed country house dating from around 1875. The manor of Desford belonged to many Earls of Leicester and was important as it had associations with the royal

hunting forest, Leicester Forest, within which people had important rights of common.

5.76 A moated site to the south west of Lindridge Fields Farm is designated as a Scheduled Monument. Another Scheduled Monument marks a moated site at the edge of Newbold Verdon (see Urban Character Area) which is likely to have housed a previous manor house. The former moats would have enclosed islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings and remain as status symbols indicating the distribution of wealth in the countryside in the medieval period. These have been modified through ploughing and are generally buried but are discernible on the ground through slightly raised land and water-filled ditches.

Natural Influences

5.77 The area is predominantly made up of agricultural fields with little ecological value. However a number of rectilinear blocks of deciduous woodland are scattered throughout the landscape, some of which is Ancient Woodland. Charity Fields to the north east of Desford and Manor Farm Meadow on the edge of Brascote Village are also recognised as Local Wildlife Sites for their communities of mesotrophic grassland.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- 1) The remaining areas of ridge and furrow which create a sense of historic time depth.
- 2) The rural settlement pattern of compact and nucleated agricultural settlements connected by a network of rural lanes and minor roads is largely unspoiled. The rural landscape and sense of tranquillity is sensitive to change from further development.
- 3) Isolated farmsteads interspersed throughout the farmland contribute to the historic rural character and provide continuity to the past.
- 4) The estate at Mallory Park has strong historic and cultural associations and provides a nationally-popular attraction.
- 5) Long distance and panoramic views from the elevated land in the north creates a high scenic quality and adds to the visual amenity.
- 6) Relatively small communities of mesotrophic grassland and deciduous woodland provide valuable habitat in a predominantly agricultural landscape.
- 7) The areas which provide a rural setting to the settlements are sensitive to changes as a result of new development, as well as views from the wider landscape to church spires.

Landscape Strategies

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Conserve historic field patterns where possible, and the agricultural setting to isolated farmsteads. 2) Conserve the relatively small-scale villages and ensure any new development contributes positively to the character and built vernacular. 3) Conserve and enhance pedestrian access between adjacent villages including the recreational and ecological corridor of Rotherley Brook. 4) Conserve Mallory Park and its predominantly rural setting. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Conserve and enhance the long, panoramic views from higher ground of uncluttered skylines and church spires, and consider the visual impact of vertically prominent elements in any new development. 6) Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the landscape through a mosaic of habitats. 7) Identify opportunities for replacement of hedgerows along roadsides and their future management as landscape features 8) Promote regeneration and enhancement of tree cover through establishment of linear copses and hedgerow trees within field boundaries and around urbanising influences. |
|---|---|

Appendix EDP 4

Representative Photoviewpoints

(edp7530_d013a 11 February 2025 DJo/CMa)

Photoviewpoint EDP 1: Footpath S14 from the centre of the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 2: Footpath S14 from within the Site to the east

Photoviewpoint EDP 3: Merrylees Road at the Site boundary

Photoviewpoint EDP 4: Merrylees Road to the west of the Site boundary

Photoviewpoint EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 6: Footpath S70 north-west of the Site

Photoviewpoint EDP 7: Heath Road from the Site boundary

Photoviewpoint EDP 8: Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert

Photoviewpoint EDP 9: Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm

Photoviewpoint EDP 10: Footpath S13 near junction with S12

Photoviewpoint EDP 11: Footpath R60 south of Bagworth

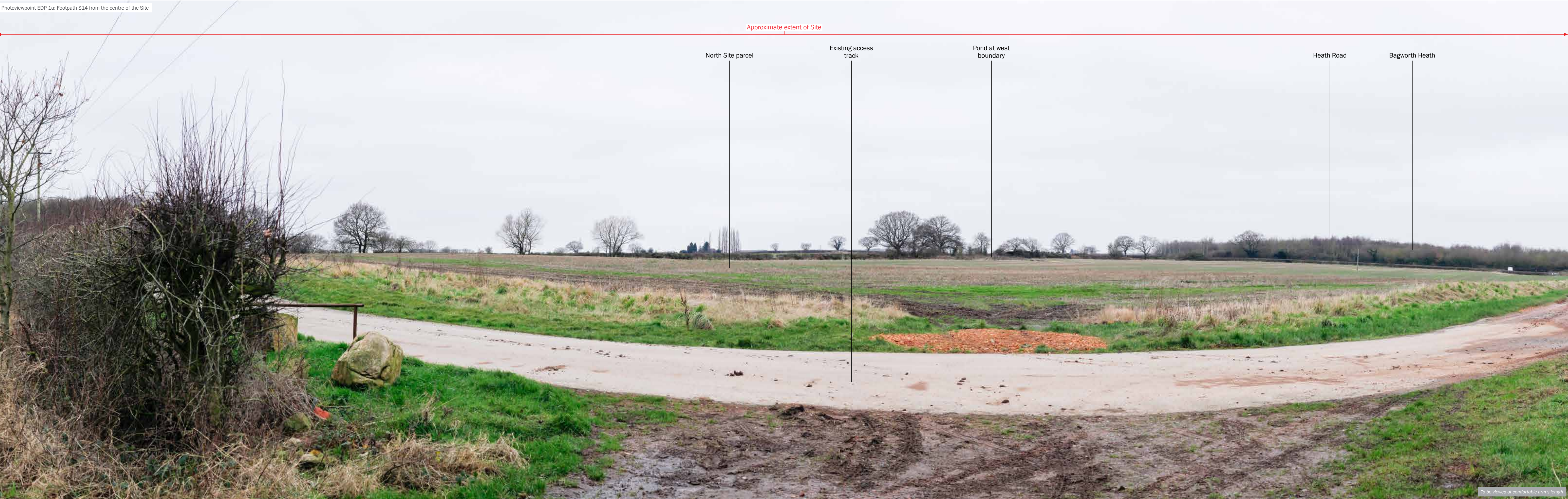
Photoviewpoint EDP 12: Footpath R72 at southern edge of Thornton

Photoviewpoint EDP 13: National Forest Way near Thornton Lane

Photoviewpoint EDP 14: Desford Cemetery

Photoviewpoint EDP 15: Footpath R12 Adjacent to woodland near Stanton under Bardon

Photoviewpoint EDP 16: Footpath S2 near Park House Farm



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length











To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444910, 306418
Date and Time: 11/01/2024 @ 12:10
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: SE
Distance: 890m
aOD: 148m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMa
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 6



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 445569, 306331
Date and Time: 11/01/2024 @ 13:53
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: S
Distance: 0m
aOD: 137m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMa
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 7



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



Approximate extent of Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 445180, 304365
Date and Time: 04/08/2023 @ 14:24
Projection: Planar
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 39.6°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 100% @ A3

Direction of View: N
Distance: 1.13km
aOD: 130m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 10

Approximate extent of Site

Wind turbine
adjacent to Site

Wind turbines
common in views

To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444829, 307758
Date and Time: 04/08/2023 @ 09:47
Projection: Planar
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 39.6°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK2, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 100% @ A3

Direction of View: SSE
Distance: 1.95km
aOD: 166m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 11

Approximate extent of Site

To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: **446835, 307151**
Date and Time: **04/08/2023 @ 11:25**
Projection: **Planar**
Visualisation Type: **1**

Horizontal Field of View: **39.6°**
Height of Camera: **1.6m**
Make, Model, Sensor: **Canon 5D MK2, FFS**
Enlargement Factor: **100% @ A3**

Direction of View: **SW**
Distance: **1.68km**
aOD: **140m**
Focal Length: **50mm**

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 12

Approximate extent of Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: **448032, 306844**
Date and Time: **04/08/2023 @ 11:36**
Projection: **Planar**
Visualisation Type: **1**

Horizontal Field of View: **39.6°**
Height of Camera: **1.6m**
Make, Model, Sensor: **Canon 5D MK2, FFS**
Enlargement Factor: **100% @ A3**

Direction of View: **SW**
Distance: **2.44km**
aOD: **147m**
Focal Length: **50mm**

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 13

Approximate extent of Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: **446980, 303573**
Date and Time: **04/08/2023 @ 14:03**
Projection: **Planar**
Visualisation Type: **1**

Horizontal Field of View: **39.6°**
Height of Camera: **1.6m**
Make, Model, Sensor: **Canon 5D MK2, FFS**
Enlargement Factor: **100% @ A3**

Direction of View: **NW**
Distance: **2.38km**
aOD: **129m**
Focal Length: **50mm**

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 14

Approximate extent of Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: **445798, 309696**
Date and Time: **04/08/2023 @ 10:39**
Projection: **Planar**
Visualisation Type: **1**

Horizontal Field of View: **39.6°**
Height of Camera: **1.6m**
Make, Model, Sensor: **Canon 5D MK2, FFS**
Enlargement Factor: **100% @ A3**

Direction of View: **S**
Distance: **3.81km**
aOD: **165m**
Focal Length: **50mm**

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMA
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 15

Approximate extent of Site



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: **449616, 303510**
Date and Time: **04/08/2023 @ 13:14**
Projection: **Planar**
Visualisation Type: **1**

Horizontal Field of View: **39.6°**
Height of Camera: **1.6m**
Make, Model, Sensor: **Canon 5D MK2, FFS**
Enlargement Factor: **100% @ A3**

Direction of View: **NW**
Distance: **4.35km**
aOD: **106m**
Focal Length: **50mm**

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
11 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d013a
DJo
CMa
JFr

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 16

Appendix EDP 5 Photomontages (edp7530_d016a 07 February 2025 GYa/CMa)

Photomontage EDP 3: Merrylees Road at Site boundary – Existing

Photomontage EDP 3: Merrylees Road at Site boundary – Proposed (Year 1)

Photomontage EDP 3: Merrylees Road at Site boundary – Proposed (Year 15)

Photomontage EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site - Existing

Photomontage EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site – Proposed (Year 1)

Photomontage EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site – Proposed (Year 15)

Photomontage EDP 6: Footpath S70 north-west of the Site - Existing

Photomontage EDP 6: Footpath S70 north-west of the Site – Proposed (Year 1)

Photomontage EDP 6: Footpath S70 north-west of the Site – Proposed (Year 15)

Photomontage EDP 8: Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert - Existing

Photomontage EDP 8: Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert – Proposed (Year 1)

Photomontage EDP 8: Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert – Proposed (Year 15)

Photomontage EDP 9: Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm – Existing

Photomontage EDP 9: Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm – Proposed (Year 1)

Photomontage EDP 9: Bridleway R74 near Lindridge Solar Farm – Proposed (Year 15)

Photomontage EDP 11: Footpath R60 south of Bagworth - Existing

Photomontage EDP 11: Footpath R60 south of Bagworth – Proposed (Years 1 and 15)



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 445483, 305565
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 11:44
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 3

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: N
Distance: 0m
aOD: 131m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA

07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
Gyo
Cma
Djo

client
project title
drawing title

Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photomontage EDP 3 - Proposed (Year 1)



Photoviewpoint EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site - Existing



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444771, 305861
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 12:15
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: E
Distance: 310m
aOD: 146m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
Gyo
CMa
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 5 - Existing

Photomontage EDP 5: Footpath S70 west of the Site - Proposed (Year 1)



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444771, 305861
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 12:15
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 3

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: E
Distance: 310m
aOD: 146m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
GYo
CMA
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photomontage EDP 5 - Proposed (Year 1)



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444771, 305861
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 12:15
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 3

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: E
Distance: 310m
aOD: 146m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
Gyo
CMa
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photomontage EDP 5 - Proposed (Year 15)

Photoviewpoint EDP 6: Footpath S70 north-west of the Site - Existing



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444920, 306409
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 10:46
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 1

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: SE
Distance: 890m
aOD: 148m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
GYo
CMA
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photoviewpoint EDP 6 - Existing





To be viewed at comfortable arm's length



the environmental
dimension partnership

Registered office: 01285 740427
www.edp-uk.co.uk
info@edp-uk.co.uk

Grid Coordinates: 444920, 306409
Date and Time: 12/09/2024 @ 10:46
Projection: Cylindrical
Visualisation Type: 3

Horizontal Field of View: 90°
Height of Camera: 1.6m
Make, Model, Sensor: Canon 5D MK3, FFS
Enlargement Factor: 96% @ A1 width

Direction of View: SE
Distance: 890m
aOD: 148m
Focal Length: 50mm

date
drawing number
drawn by
checked
QA
07 FEBRUARY 2025
edp7530_d016a
GYo
CMA
DJo

client
project title
drawing title
Renewable Connections
Heath Road Solar Farm, Bagworth
Photomontage EDP 6 - Proposed (Year 15)

Photoviewpoint EDP 8: Heath Road between Woodside Farm and Great Fox Covert - Existing



To be viewed at comfortable arm's length