Landscape and Visual Assessment

Stoneworthy Battery Energy Storage System

29/05/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The LVIA considers the potential direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development upon the landscape resources, views and visual amenity receptors within the existing landscape and visual baseline across a 5km study zone.

1.2. The Proposed Development will be located within an area of agricultural land, the site is currently being used for pastoral farming. The field itself is bound by a mixture of trees, hedgerows and post-and-wire fencing. The land slopes from east to west and there is an area of scrub present towards the north/ northeast. Small pockets of woodland are adjacent to the Application Site's boundaries to the northeast, south and southwest. The closest settlements to the Proposed Development would be the village of Pyworthy which is located c. 1km northeast with the village of Derril located c. 1.2km north and the town of Holsworthy located c 3.8km northeast. The Application Site comprises of slightly undulating land, lying at an elevation of approximately 110 – 98m AOD and covers a total area of c. 3.6 hectares.

Landscape Effects:

1.3. The Proposed Development is located within the Landscape Character Type 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Farmland[1].

1.4. The proposed Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Development will consist of the construction of battery storage infrastructure, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, a temporary construction compound and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works.

1.5. The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of a new small-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) within fields previously used as agricultural pastureland. The introduction of the BESS site will lead to a change of character within the confines of the Proposed Development boundary, i.e. where the Proposed Development is physically located.

1.6. Indirect changes will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and

[1] https://www.torridge.gov.uk/LCT5A

close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 1.5km radius from the development boundary in views from the surrounding landscape.

1.7. Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in accessible views.

Visual Effects:

1.8. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development are located within 1.5km. These include residential areas in Pyworthy, Devon, along with scattered one-off houses and farmsteads to the north and south of the Proposed Development.

1.9. The highest visual effects will be experienced within an approximate 0.5km radius of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 0.5km are considered to be Medium.

1.10. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents, and road users with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 0.5km to 1km are considered to be Low due to views being mostly screened intervening landform and vegetation.

1.11. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents, path and road users with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 1km to 5km are considered to be Negligible due to views being mostly screened intervening landform and vegetation.

1. INTRODUCTION

Background

1.1. Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by RES Ltd (the "Applicant") to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ("LVIA") for a proposed battery storage development (BESS) (the "Development") on lands near Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District, Devon, England, EX22 6LA (the "Application Site").

Development Description

1.2. Stoneworthy Energy Storage System is a proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) comprising approximately 32no. battery enclosures, 16no. PCS (power conversion systems), 16no. MV skids (PCS transformer and switchgear), a 33kV substation building with a high voltage area containing auxiliary transformer and grid compliance equipment, a 132kV grid transformer with associated equipment and a grid connection to a National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) overhead line.

Site Description

1.3. The area of the proposed Development (the "Application Site") lies at an elevation of approximately 98 - 110m AOD and covers a total area of c. 3.6 hectares. It is centred at approximate National Grid Reference (NGR) E 230354 N 101885 and is located c.1km southwest from the village of Pyworthy, c. 1.2km south from the village of Derril, and c. 3.8km southwest from Holsworthy town.

1.4. Comprising of a single field of agricultural land, the site is currently being used for pastoral farming. The field itself is bound by a mixture of trees, hedgerows and post-and-wire fencing. The land slopes from east to west and there is an area of scrub present towards the north/ northeast. Small pockets of woodland are adjacent to the Application Site's boundaries to the northeast, south and southwest.

1.5. Access will be gained from an unnamed local road adjacent to the northern boundary of the Application Site. This road originates from the Derriton Road c. 1.2km east from the Application Site.

1.6. Recreational Routes include the Public Right of Way (PRoW) Pyworthy 7 located c.0.04km northwest and Pyworthy 3 located c.0.17km southeast of the Proposed Development.

1.7. Electrical infrastructure is present within close proximity to the Application Site with a solar Farm development directly adjacent to its southeastern boundary (including the consented

Derril Water Solar Farm PA Ref: 1/0249/2021/FULM). Two other solar farms are within close proximity to the Application site with one c. 2.29km southwest and another c. 2.63km northeast from the Application site.

1.8. The area surround the Application Site is predominantly agricultural, punctuated by individual properties and farmsteads and renewable energy infrastructure.

REPORT STRUCTURE

1.9. This report considers how:

- Landscape effects associated with a development relate to changes to the fabric, character and quality of the townscape resource and how it is experienced; and
- Visual effects relate closely to landscape effects, but also concern changes in views as visual assessment is also concerned with people's perception and response to changes in visual amenity.

1.10. Landscape and visual effects are interrelated with other environmental effects but are assessed separately. Whilst elements of cultural heritage such as heritage landscapes are important elements of the landscape and contribute to its character and influence its quality and value, effects on the significance of these designated features and their setting do not form part of this assessment. The following figures are appended to this LVIA (Appendix 1A), and aim to complement the content of this report:

- Figure 1.1 – LCA
- Figure 1.2 – Landscape Designations with ZTV
- Figure 1.3 – Viewpoint Locations with ZTV
- Figure 1.4 – Viewpoint 1 & 2
- Figure 1.5 – Viewpoint 3 & 4
- Figure 1.6 – Viewpoint 5 & 6
- Figure 1.7 – Viewpoint 7
- Figure 1.8a – Viewpoint 1PM
- Figure 1.8b – Viewpoint 1 Cumulative PM

- Figure 1.9 – Viewpoint 2PM
- Figure 1.10 - LEMP

2. METHODOLOGY

GUIDANCE

2.1. The following sources and guidelines were used in the assessment:

- *'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment'* (GLVIA), 3rd Edition (2013) Landscape Institute (UK) & Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)[2]
- *'Visual Representation of Development Proposals'*, Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19 (2019)[3]
- National Planning Policy Framework (2023)[4]
- North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted 2018)[5]

[2] https://www.iema.net/download-document/236735

[3] https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/09/LI_TGN-06-19_Visual_Representation.pdf

[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

[5] https://consult.torridge.gov.uk/kse/folder/82776

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT

2.2. The type and duration of the landscape and visual effects fall within three main stages, those being the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

2.3. The potential construction phase (temporary and of a short duration) effects include:

- Physical effects arising from construction of the Proposed Development on the landscape resource within the application site;
- Effects to landscape character and visual amenity within the wider study area of 5km as a result of changes to elements present within the landscape and/ or visual amenity as a result of construction activities;
- Effects of temporary site infrastructure such as site traffic and construction compounds;
- Effects of partially built Proposed Development in various stages of construction; and
- Cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with other permitted developments of a similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.

2.4. The potential operational phase effects include:

- Effects of the Proposed Development on landscape resources and landscape character, including the perceptual qualities of the landscape;
- Effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity; and
- Cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other permitted developments of a similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.

2.5. Elements of the Proposed Development will become a long-term feature in the visual amenity of parts of the study area following the completion of construction works. The assessment takes account of this in the determination of residual visual effects.

2.6. North Devon and Torridge District Council interactive map[6] has been referenced to determine the landscape designations within the site and these have been reviewed as part of this assessment. However, given the nature of the development, its location, scale and setting, it is considered that likely significant effects will occur within 5km of the application site.

2.7. The Proposed Development will be decommissioned when it reaches the end of its useful life. At that time, detailed decommissioning procedures will be produced in line with prevailing best practice to ensure that there will be no significant, negative environmental effects from the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. As a result, additional potential impacts and associated effects arising during the decommissioning phase are not anticipated above and beyond those already assessed during the construction phase.

Assessment Process

2.8. The assessment is undertaken based on the following key tasks and structure:

- Establishment of the Baseline or receiving environment.
- Appreciation of the Proposed Development; and
- Assessment of effects.

Effects Scoped Out

2.9. It is envisaged that the Proposed Development will have a design life of at least 40 years. It will therefore become a long-term feature in the landscape following the completion of construction works. The assessment takes account of this in the determination of residual landscape and visual effects.

2.10. Effects arising from the process of decommissioning of the Proposed Development are considered to be of a similar nature and duration to those arising from the construction process and therefore have not been considered separately in this chapter. Where this assessment refers to potential construction effects of structures, these are also representative of predicted decommissioning effects.

[6] https://maps.torridge.gov.uk/WM9/Map.aspx?MapName=PlanningPolicy

Assessment of Effects

2.11. The landscape and visual impact assessment seeks to identify, predict and evaluate the significance of potential effects to landscape characteristics and established views. The assessments are based on an evaluation of the value and susceptibility, and therefore sensitivity to change and the magnitude of change for each landscape or visual receptor.

2.12. The assessment acknowledges that landscape and visual effects change over time as the existing landscape evolves. The assessment therefore reports on likely effects during both construction and operation of the Proposed Development. The visibility of the Proposed Development in the landscape or view will vary according to the existing screening effects of local topography, structures and buildings, intervening existing vegetation.

Study Area

2.13. The initial 'Area of Search' extended 20km from the Proposed Development boundary to the north, south, east, and west. This was informed by consideration of the location and scale of the Proposed Development and desk-based analysis of mapping and aerial photography. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) incorporating the 5km and 2km initial study area was used to determine the potential visibility of the Proposed Development (refer to Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3: Appendix 1A). Fieldwork was subsequently undertaken to verify the findings of the desk study. This analysis determined the study area, defined as the extent in which the Proposed Development may result in significant landscape or visual effects.

2.14. A core study area of 5km radius has been set from the application site boundary for the assessment. The core study area has been selected to identify potential significant landscape and visual impacts within Aberdeenshire. The extent of the study area has been identified through the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (refer to Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3: Appendix 1A), a review of maps and aerial photographs and site survey data. It is acknowledged that the Proposed Development may be visible from locations beyond the core study area of 5km radius and as such, it is important to note that the core study area defines the area within which potential effects could be significant, rather than defining the extent of visibility.

Landscape Effects

2.15. Landscape effects describe the impact on the fabric or structure of a landscape or landscape character.

2.16. The assessment of landscape effects firstly requires the identification of the components of the landscape. The landscape components are also described as landscape receptors and comprise the following:

- Individual landscape elements or features.
- Specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects; and
- Landscape character, or the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements (natural and man-made) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another.

2.17. The assessment identifies the interaction between these components and the Proposed Development during the construction and operational phases. The condition of the landscape and any evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape will also be documented and described.

Landscape Value

2.18. Landscape value is frequently addressed by reference to international, national, regional and local designations, determined by statutory and planning agencies. However, absence of such a designation does not necessarily imply a lack of quality or value. Factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality, highly valuable as a local resource. The quality and condition are also considered in the determination of the value of a landscape. The evaluation of landscape value is undertaken with reference to the definitions stated in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Landscape Value

Landscape value	Classification criteria
High	Nationally designated or iconic, unspoilt landscape with few, if any, degrading elements.
Medium	Regionally or locally designated landscape, or an undesignated landscape with locally important landmark features and some detracting elements.
Low	Undesignated landscape with few if any distinct features or with several degrading elements.

Landscape Susceptibility

2.19. Landscape susceptibility relates to the ability of a particular landscape to accommodate the Proposed Development. Landscape susceptibility is appraised through consideration of the baseline characteristics of the landscape, and in particular the scale or complexity of a given landscape.

2.20. The evaluation of landscape susceptibility is undertaken with reference to a three-point scale, as outlined in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Landscape Susceptibility Criteria

Landscape susceptibility	Classification criteria
High	Small scale, intimate or complex landscape considered to be intolerant of even minor change.
Medium	Medium scale, more open or less complex landscape considered tolerant to some degree of change.
Low	Large scale, simple landscape considered tolerant of a large degree of change.

Landscape Sensitivity

2.21. Landscape sensitivity to change is determined by employing professional judgement to combine value and susceptibility in order to determine landscape sensitivity, with reference to the table outlined below.

Table 1.3: Landscape Sensitivity to Change Criteria

Landscape sensitivity	Classification criteria
High	Landscape characteristics or features with little or no capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character. Landscape designated for its international or national landscape value or with highly valued features. Outstanding example in the area of well cared for landscape or set of features that combine to give a particularly distinctive sense of place. Few detracting or incongruous elements.

Medium-High	Landscape characteristics or features with a low capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character. Landscape designated for regional or county-wide landscape value where the characteristics or qualities that provided the basis for their designation are apparent or a landscape with highly valued features locally. Good example in the area of a well-cared for landscape or set of features that combine to give a clearly defined sense of place.
Medium	Landscape characteristics or features with moderate capacity to absorb change without fundamentally altering their present character. Landscape designated for its local landscape value or a regional designated landscape where the characteristics and qualities that led to the designation of the area are less apparent or are partially eroded or an undesignated landscape which may be valued locally – for example an important open space. An example of a landscape or a set of features which is relatively coherent, with a good but not exceptional sense of place - occasional buildings and spaces may lack quality and cohesion.
Medium-Low	Landscape characteristics or features which are reasonably tolerant of change without determent to their present character. No designation present or of little local value. An example of an un-stimulating landscape or set of features; with some areas lacking a sense of place and identity.
Low	Landscape characteristics or features which are tolerant of change without determent to their present character. An area with a weak sense of place and/ or poorly defined character/ identity. No designation present or of low local value or in poor condition. An example of monotonous unattractive visually conflicting or degraded landscape or set of features.

Magnitude of Landscape Change

2.22. Magnitude of change is an expression of the size or scale of change in the landscape, the geographical extent of the area influenced and the duration and reversibility of the resultant effect. The variables involved are described below (from Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013):

- The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost, the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape.

- The extent to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or by addition of new ones.
- Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are integral to its distinctive character.
- The geographic area over which the landscape effects will be felt (within the site itself; the immediate setting of the site; at the scale of the landscape type or character area; on a larger scale influencing several landscape types or character areas); and
- The duration of the effects (short term, medium term or long term) and the reversibility of the effect (whether it is permanent, temporary or partially reversible).

2.23. Changes to landscape characteristics can be both direct and indirect. **Direct change** occurs where the Proposed Development will result in a physical change to the landscape within or adjacent to the site. **Indirect changes** are a consequence of the direct changes resulting from the Proposed Development. They can often occur away from the site (for example, off-site construction staff parking) and may be a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway (for example, a new road or footpath construction may increase public access and associated problems e.g. littering). They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects. The magnitude of change affecting the baseline landscape resource is based on an interpretation of a combination of the criteria set out in **Table 1.4**.

Table 1.4: Magnitude of Landscape Change Criteria (Landscape Effects)

Magnitude of landscape change	Classification criteria
None	No change.
Negligible	Little perceptible change.
Low	Minor change, affecting some characteristics and the experience of the landscape to an extent; and Introduction of elements that is not uncharacteristic.
Medium	Noticeable change, affecting some key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of some uncharacteristic elements.
High	Noticeable change, affecting many key characteristics and the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of many incongruous developments.
Very High	Highly noticeable change, affecting most key characteristics and dominating the experience of the landscape; and Introduction of highly incongruous development.

VISUAL EFFECTS

2.24. Visual effects are determined by the extent of visibility and the nature of the visibility (i.e. how a development is seen within the landscape); for example, whether it appears integrated and balanced within the visual composition of a view or whether it creates a focal point.

2.25. Adverse visual effects may occur through the intrusion of new elements into established views, which are out of keeping with the existing structure, scale and composition of the view. Visual effects may also be beneficial, where an attractive focus is created in a previously unremarkable view, or the influence of previously detracting features is reduced. The significance of effects will vary, depending on the nature and degree of change experienced and the perceived value and composition of the existing view.

Receptors

2.26. For there to be a visual impact, there is the need for a viewer. Views experienced from locations such as settlements, recognised routes and popular vantage points used by the public have been included in the assessment. Receptors are the viewers at these locations. The degree to which receptors, i.e. people, will be affected by changes as a result of the Proposed Development depends on a number of factors, including:

- Receptor activities, such as taking part in leisure, recreational and sporting activities, travelling or working.
- Whether receptors are likely to be stationary or moving and how long they will be exposed to the change at any one time.
- The importance of the location, as reflected by designations, inclusion in guidebooks or other travel literature, or the facilities provided for visitors.
- The extent of the route or area over which the changes will be visible.
- Whether receptors will be exposed to the change daily, frequently, occasionally or rarely.
- The orientation of receptors in relation to the site and whether views are open or intermittent.
- Proportion of the developments that will be visible (full, sections or none);
- Viewing direction, distance (i.e. short-, medium- and long-distance views) and elevation.
- Nature of the viewing experience (for example, static views, views from settlements and views from sequential points along routes);
- Accessibility of viewpoint (public or private, ease of access).
- Nature of changes (for example, changes in the existing skyline profile, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new man-made objects, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale, landform and change to the degree of visual enclosure); and

- Nature of visual receptors (type, potential number and sensitivity of viewers who may be affected).

Value of the View

2.27. Value of the view is an appraisal of the value attached to views and is often informed by the appearance on Ordnance Survey maps, tourist maps and in guidebooks, literature, or art. Value can also be indicated by the provision of parking or services and signage and interpretation. The nature and composition of the view is also an indicator. The value of the view is determined with reference to the definitions outlined in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5: Value of the View

Value	Classification criteria
High	Nationally recognised view of the landscape, with no detracting elements.
Medium	Regionally or locally recognised view, or unrecognised but pleasing and well composed view, with few detracting elements.
Low	Typical or poorly composed view often with numerous detracting elements.

Visual Susceptibility

2.28. GLVIA3 identify that the susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at a particular location; and
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focused on the views and visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

2.29. For example, residents in their home, walkers whose interest is likely to be focused on the landscape or a particular view, or visitors at an attraction where views are an important part of the experience often indicate a higher level of susceptibility. Whereas receptors occupied in outdoor sport, where views are not important, or at their place of work, are often considered less susceptible to change. Visual susceptibility is determined with reference to the three-point scale and criteria outlined in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6: Visual Susceptibility

Susceptibility	Classification criteria
High	Receptors for which the view is of primary importance and are likely to notice even minor change.
Medium	Receptors for which the view is important but not the primary focus and are tolerant of some change.
Low	Receptors for which the view is incidental or unimportant and are tolerant of a high degree of change.

Visual Sensitivity

2.30. Sensitivity to change considers the nature of the receptor; for example, a person occupying a residential dwelling is generally more sensitive to change than someone working in a factory unit. The importance of the view experienced by the receptor also contributes to an understanding of the susceptibility of the visual receptor to change as well as the value attached to the view.

2.31. A judgement is also made on the value attached to the views experienced. This takes account of:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations.
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (sign boards, interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art; and
- Possible local value: it is important to note that the absence of view recognition does not preclude local value, as a view may be important as a resource in the local or immediate environment due to its relative rarity or local importance.

2.32. The visual sensitivity to change is based on interpretation of a combination of all or some of the criteria outlined in Table 1.7.

Table 1.7: Sensitivity to Change Criteria

Visual sensitivity	Classification criteria
High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, on recognised national cycling or walking routes or in nationally designated landscapes. Residential buildings.
Medium-High	Users of outdoor recreational facilities, in highly valued landscapes or locally designated. Landscapes or on local recreational routes that are well publicised in guidebooks. Road and rail users in nationally designated landscapes or on recognised scenic routes, likely to be travelling to enjoy the view.
Medium	Users of outdoor recreational facilities including public open space in moderately valued landscapes. Users of primary transport road network, orientated towards the site, likely to be travelling for other purposes than just the view.
Medium-Low	People engaged in active outdoor sports or recreation and less likely to focus on the view. Primary transport road network and rail users likely to be travelling to work with oblique views of the Proposed Development or users of minor road network.
Low	People engaged in work activities indoors, with limited opportunity for views of the Proposed Development.

Magnitude of Visual Change

2.33. Visual effects are direct effects as the magnitude of change within an existing view will be determined by the extent of visibility of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of the visual effect resulting from the development at any particular viewpoint or receptor is based on the size or scale of change in the view, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The variables involved, as per Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute, IEMA, 2013, are described below:

- The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the development.

- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape form, scale, mass, line, height, sky lining, back-grounding, visual clues, focal points, colour and texture.
- The nature of the view of the Proposed Development, in relation to the amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses.
- The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor, distance of the viewpoint from the development and the extent of the area over which the changes will be visible; and
- The duration of the effects (short term, medium term or long term) and the reversibility of the effect (whether it is permanent, temporary or partially reversible).

2.34. The magnitude of visual effect resulting from the development at any particular viewpoint or receptor is based on the interpretation of the above range of factors and is set out in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8: Magnitude of Visual Change Criteria (Visual Effects)

Magnitude of visual change	Classification criteria
None	No change in the existing view.
Negligible	The Proposed Development will cause a barely discernible change in the existing view.
Low	The Proposed Development will cause very minor changes to the view over a wide area or minor changes over a limited area.
Medium	The Proposed Development will cause modest changes to the existing view over a wide area or noticeable change over a limited area.
High	The Proposed Development will cause a considerable change in the existing view over a wide area or a significant change over a limited area.
Very High	The Proposed Development will cause significant changes in the existing view over a wide area or a change which will dominate over a limited area.

DURATION AND QUALITY OF EFFECTS

2.35. Table 1.9 provides the definition of the duration of landscape and visual effects.

Table 1.9: Definition of Duration of Effects

Duration	Description
Temporary	Effects lasting one year or less.
Short Term	Effects lasting one to seven years.
Medium Term	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years.
Long Term	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years.
Permanent	Effects lasting over sixty years.

2.36. Both, landscape and visual effects, can be beneficial (positive), adverse (negative) or Neutral according to the definitions set out in the Table 1.10.

Table 1.10: Definition of Quality of Effects

Quality of effects	Description
Neutral	This will neither enhance nor detract from the landscape character or view.
Beneficial (positive)	This will improve or enhance the landscape character or view.
Adverse (negative)	This will reduce the quality of the existing landscape character or view.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

2.37. The objective of the assessment process is to identify and evaluate the potentially significant effects arising from the Proposed Development. The assessment will identify the residual effects likely to arise from the finalised design considering mitigation measures and the change over time.

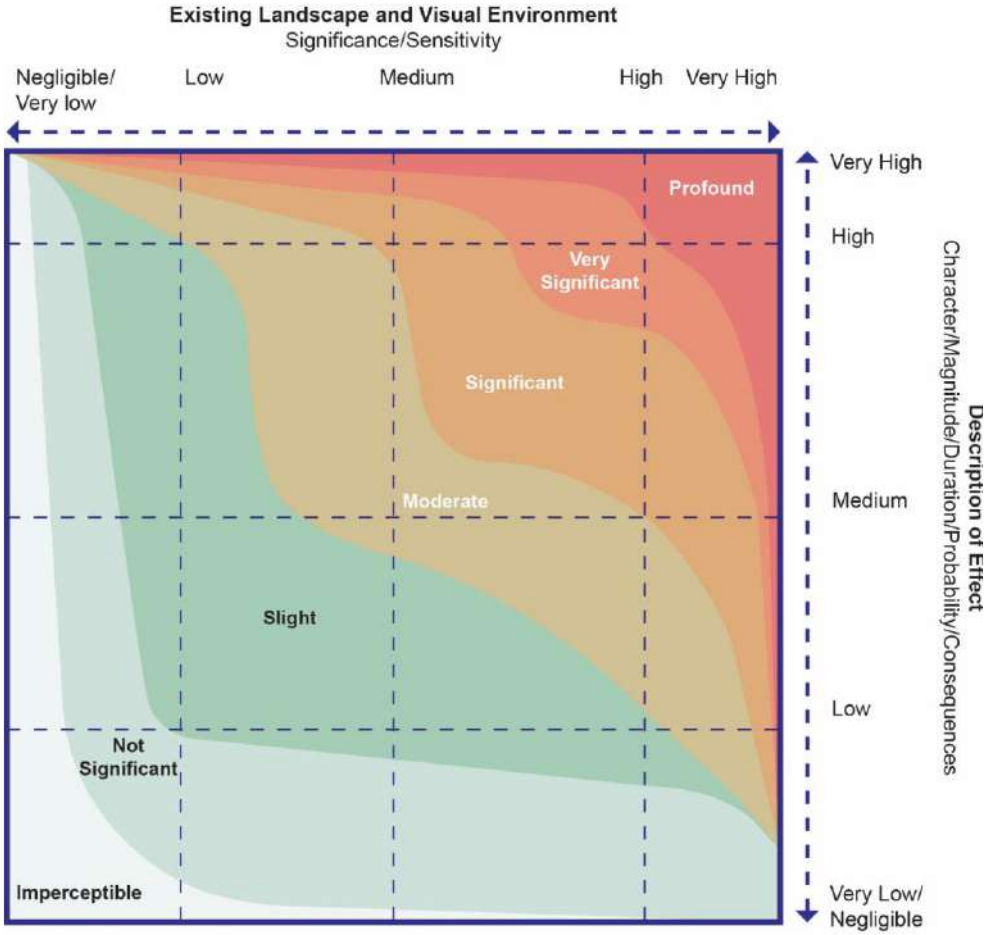
2.38. The significance of effects is assessed by considering the sensitivity of the receptor and the predicted magnitude of effect in relation to the baseline conditions. In order to provide a level of consistency and transparency to the assessment and allow comparisons to be made between the various landscape and visual receptors subject to assessment, the assessment of significance is informed by pre-defined criteria as outlined in Table 1.11. When assessing significance, individual effects may fall across several different categories of significance and professional judgement is therefore used to determine which category of significance best fits the overall effect to a landscape or visual receptor.

Table 1.11: Categories of Significance of Landscape and Visual Effects

Significance category	Description of effect
Profound	An effect that obliterates sensitive characteristics within the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration, or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the landscape and/ or visual environment.
Moderate	An effect that alters the landscape in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
Slight	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the landscape and/ or visual environment without affecting its sensitivities.
Not Significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the landscape and/ or visual environment but without significant landscape and/ or visual consequences.
Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant landscape and/ or visual consequences.

2.39. The significance of the effect is determined by considering the magnitude of the effect and the quality of the baseline environment affected by the Proposed Development. The basis for consideration of the significance of effects is included in Image 1.1 below.

Image 1.1: Basis for considering the significance of effects



2.40. Effects will be assessed for all phases of the Proposed Development. Construction and decommissioning effects are considered to be temporary, short-term effects which occur during the construction and decommissioning phases only. Operational/ residual effects are those long-term effects, which will occur as a result of the presence or operation of the Proposed Development.

2.41. The quality of each effect is based on the ability of the landscape character or visual receptor to accommodate the Proposed Development, and the impact of the development within the receiving context. Once this is done, the quality of the effect is then assessed as being neutral, beneficial or adverse. A change to the landscape or visual resource is not considered to be adverse simply because it constitutes an alteration to the existing situation.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

2.42. The approach used to determine cumulative effects has drawn on guidance on cumulative impact assessment published by the GLVIA3. Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or views as a result of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other developments of a similar type and scale.

2.43. Cumulative effects are those that accrue over time and space from a number of development activities. The impact of the Proposed Development is considered in conjunction with the potential impacts from other projects or activities which are both reasonably foreseeable in terms of delivery (i.e. have planning consent or relevant applications which have been submitted and are in the planning system) and are located within a realistic geographical scope, where environmental impacts could act together with the Proposed Development to create a more significant overall effect.

2.44. Combined effects are those resulting from a single development (the Proposed Development) on any one receptor that may collectively cause a greater effect.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects

2.45. The principle of magnitude of cumulative effects makes it possible for the Proposed Development to have a major impact on a particular receptor, while having only a minor cumulative impact in conjunction with permitted developments of similar scale and nature as the Proposed Development.

2.46. The evaluation of the magnitude of cumulative change is based on the criteria outlined in the assessment methodology for landscape and visual effects as stated above as well as on the interpretation of the following parameters:

- The additional extent, direction and distribution of existing and other developments in conjunction with the Proposed Development.
- The distance between the viewpoint, the Proposed Development and the cumulative developments; and
- The landscape setting, context and degree of visual coalescence of the Proposed Development and cumulative developments.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

2.47. As for the assessment of landscape and visual effects, the significance of any cumulative effects follows a same classification as illustrated in **Image 1.1** and as listed in **Table 1.11**, and will be assessed as Profound, Very Significant, Moderate, Slight, Not Significant, Imperceptible.

2.48. The cumulative assessment focuses on potential cumulative effects relating to the main permanent structure of a cumulative development. This is due to the uncertainty of the timing of construction activities for identified developments. As a result, temporary structures and activity relating to construction have not been considered within the cumulative assessment.

FIELDWORK

2.49. Site surveys of the study area were carried out in January 2024 identifying the potential visibility of the Proposed Development and key viewpoints within the study area. The extent of the study area has been identified through the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping, (see **Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3: Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs, and site survey data. Photomontages showing the existing view and the superimposed development on photomontages have been produced from key representative viewpoints, considering topography, existing buildings, screening vegetation and other localised factors. The viewpoints and photomontages included in **Appendix 1A** (**Figures 1.4 – Figure 1.9**) provides details on viewpoint locations.

INTERACTION OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

2.50. The landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) focuses on the physical and visual appearance and character of the landscape as it is experienced today.

2.51. Landscape is also a consideration under other environmental aspects and assessments, e.g. the natural landscape (biodiversity), the geological landscape (soil and geology), the cultural/ historical landscape (cultural heritage), the human landscape (human health).

2.52. While it is evident that an interaction of effects exists between the landscape and visual environment and these other related landscape environments/environmental factors – not least in terms of potential for interactions of effects – assessments under these areas are generally addressed separately by other competent specialists in separate appendices of this planning application. However, the presence/absence of such indicators can inform judgements on quality and therefore, sensitivity.

SELECTION OF VIEWPOINTS

2.53. It is not feasible to take photography from every possible viewpoint located in the study area. Photography has been taken from viewpoints, which are representative of the nature of visibility at various distances and in various contexts. Viewpoint photography is used as a tool to come to understand the nature of likely significant effects. The selection process of viewpoint locations is consistent with the Guidance Note; *'Visual Representation of Development Proposals'*, Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17 September 2019 and is as follows:

- The location of viewpoints within the study area is informed by desktop and site surveys.
- Production of a 5km radius ZTV mapping from the Proposed Development.
- Identification and selection of representative viewpoints showing typical open or intermittent views within a local area, which will be frequently experienced by a range of viewers; and
- Identification and selection of specific viewpoints from key viewpoints in the landscape such as protected focal points and views.

PHOTOMONTAGES

2.54. Photomontages are photorealistic visualisations produced using specialist software. They illustrate the likely future appearance of the Proposed Development from a specific viewing point. They are useful tools for examining the impact of the development from a number of critical viewpoint positions along the public road network within the study area.

2.55. However, photomontages in themselves can never provide the full picture in terms of potential effects, they can only inform the assessment process by which judgements are made. A visualisation can never show exactly what the Proposed Development will look like in reality due to factors such as; different lighting, weather and seasonal conditions which vary through time and the resolution of the image. As the photomontages are representative of viewing conditions encountered, some of them may show existing buildings or vegetation screening some or all parts of the developments. Such conditions are normal and representative.

2.56. The images provided give a reasonable impression of the scale of the development and the distance to the development, but it is recognised and understood within the industry that they can never be 100% accurate. It is recommended that decision-makers and any interested parties or members of the public should ideally visit the viewpoints, where visualisations can be compared to the 'real life' view, and the full impact of the Proposed Development can be understood.

2.57. The LVIA identified a range of viewpoints located within the study area at varying distances from the Application Site to show the effect of the Proposed Development in key close, middle and distant views.

2.58. Photomontage images have been produced according to the following industry guidelines:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, IEMA, 2013; and
- 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals', Landscape Institute, Technical Guidance Note 06/19, 17 September 2019.

ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY

2.59. Mapping the extent of the area from which a development is likely to be visible is commonly referred to as a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV).

2.60. ZTV mapping has been produced for a 5km radius from the Proposed BESS location to illustrate the theoretical visual extent of the highest point of the Proposed Development. ZTV has been assessed based upon the BESS Development.

2.61. It should be noted that ZTV mapping does not consider the effects of seasons, lighting, weather conditions or visibility over distance. Moreover, a ZTV does not consider the screening effects of existing vegetation or built structures and therefore indicates a 'worst case scenario'. Therefore, ZTV mappings' principal use was to assist during the desktop viewpoint selection process identifying viewpoints for further analysis on site.

3. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

3.1. A hierarchy of strategies, policies and legislation operates to underpin the management of both land and landscape. Some of these enable statutory designation at national level and others provide for local designations and appropriate management, with the aim of conserving and protecting the quality of the landscape.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), September 2023[7]

3.2. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied, and the environmental role of sustainable development. The NPPF sets out that development should be *"visually attractive and sympathetic to local character".*

3.3. In particular section 12 of the NPPF states:

> *"The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process."*

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN1), November 2023[8]

3.4. EN1 sets out the Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure, to help deliver the Government's climate change objectives. It clearly explains the urgent need for significant amounts of large-scale energy infrastructure in meeting government's energy objectives.

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[7] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182995/NPPF_Sept_23.pdf

[8] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfbdc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf

3.5. EN1 explains that *"Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.*

NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN3), November 2023[9]

3.6. EN3 provides the primary basis for recommendations by the Planning Inspectorate on applications it receives for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure. EN3 states that *"Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity."*

NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN5), November 2023 [10]

3.7. EN5 states: *"Applicants should ensure that their applications, and any accompanying supporting documents and information, are consistent with the instructions and guidance given to applicants in this NPS, EN-1 and any other NPSs that are relevant to the application in question."*

3.8. EN5 sets out how applicants *"should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts."*

National Design Guide

National Design Guide (NDG), January 2021[11]

3.9. The National Design Guide addresses the question of how we recognise well-designed places, by outlining and illustrating the Government's priorities for well-designed places in the form of ten characteristics.

Local Development Plan

[9] Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7889996a5ec000d731aba/nps-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en3.pdf

[10] Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a78a5496a5ec000d731abb/nps-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en5.pdf

[11] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide

3.10. The Joint North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031 [12] (LDP) was adopted in October 2018 sets out the policies that will encourage and facilitate sustainable development and growth within northern Devon during the period to 2031. It is noted that as the LDP was adopted prior to the NPFF (2023) being published that some inconsistencies may occur, in which case NPFF will take priority. Policies that are considered to be relevant to the Proposed Development in the context of this assessment are discussed in more detail below.

Sustainable Development

3.11. Policy ST01: Principles of Sustainable Development states:

> *"(1) When considering development proposals the Councils will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Councils will always work proactively with applicants and local communities to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.*
>
> *(2) Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and where relevant with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise.*
>
> *(3) Where there are no policies relevant to an application, or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision, then the Councils will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether:*
>
> *(a) any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or*
>
> *(b) specific policies in that Framework or guidance in the National Planning Practice Guidance indicate that development should be restricted."*

Mitigating Climate Change

3.12. Policy ST02: Mitigating Climate Change states:

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[12] file:///C:/Users/MichaelDoran/Downloads/North%20Devon%20and%20Torridge%20Local%20Plan%20-%20Adopted%20October%202018%20(Reduced).pdf

"Development will be expected to make a positive contribution towards the social, economic and environmental sustainability of northern Devon and its communities while minimising its environmental footprint by:

(b) conserving and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment through the prudent use of key resources including land, buildings and energy, whilst protecting and enhancing the area's biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape, coastline, air, water, archaeology and culture.

(d) promoting opportunities for renewable and low-carbon energy generation whilst conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment."

Adapting to Climate Change

3.13. Policy ST03: Adapting to Climate Change and Strengthening Resilience states:

"Development should be designed and constructed to take account of the impacts of climate change and minimise the risk to and vulnerability of people, land, infrastructure and property by:

(i) conserving and enhancing landscapes and networks of habitats, including cross-boundary green infrastructure links, strengthening the resilience of biodiversity to climate change by facilitating migration of wildlife between habitats and improving their connectivity."

Improving the Quality of Design

3.14. Policy STO4: Improving the Quality of Design states:

"Development will achieve high quality inclusive and sustainable design to support the creation of successful, vibrant places. Design will be based on a clear process that analyses and responds to the characteristics of the site, its wider context and the surrounding area taking full account of the principles of design found in policy DM04."

Spatial Development Strategy for Northern Devon's Rural Area

3.15. Policy ST07: Spatial Development Strategy for Northern Devon's Rural Area states:

"Development will be supported, in accordance with the following hierarchy, to achieve an economically resilient and active rural area.

In the Countryside, beyond Local Centres, Villages and Rural Settlements, development will be limited to that which is enabled to meet local economic and social needs, rural building reuse and development which is necessarily restricted to a Countryside location."

Enhancing Environmental Assets

3.16. Policy ST14: Enhancing Environmental Assets states:

"The quality of northern Devon's natural environment will be protected and enhanced by ensuring that development contributes to:

(g) protecting and enhancing local landscape and seascape character, taking into account the key characteristics, the historical dimension of the landscape and their sensitivity to change."

Renewable Energy and Heat

3.17. Policy ST16: Delivering Renewable Energy and Heat states:

"(1) Proposals for development incorporating on-site provision of renewable energy (other than wind energy) or renewable heat and/or low carbon technologies will be supported and encouraged where appropriate.

(2) Proposals by community-led enterprises and schemes that meet the needs of local communities to offset their energy and heat demand from renewable and low carbon sources (other than wind energy) will be supported where appropriate.

(3) Renewable and low carbon energy and heat generating development (other than wind energy) will be supported in the landscape character types where:

(a) landscape sensitivity is best able to accommodate them, assessed in accordance with the Councils' Landscape Sensitivity Assessments and by the landscape's sensitivity to accommodate the scale of development.

b) there is no significant impact on local amenities; and

(c) the special qualities of nationally important landscape, biodiversity and heritage designations and their settings are conserved or enhanced.

(4) Renewable and low carbon energy development (other than wind energy) will be supported where it can demonstrate that the cumulative impact of operational, consented and proposed development on landscape character does not become a significant or defining characteristic of the wider fabric, character and quality of the landscape."

Amenity Considerations

3.18. Policy DM01: Amenity Considerations states:

3.19. "Development will be supported where:

(a) it would not significantly harm the amenities of any neighbouring occupiers or uses; and

(b) the intended occupants of the proposed development would not be harmed as a result of existing or allocated uses."

Design Principles

3.20. Policy DM04: Design Principles states:

"(1) Good design seeks to guide overall scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials, access and appearance of new development. It seeks not just to manage land use but support the creation of successful places and respond to the challenges of climate change. Development proposals need to have regard to the following design principles.

(a) are appropriate and sympathetic to setting in terms of scale, density, massing, height, layout appearance, fenestration, materials and relationship to buildings and landscape features in the local neighbourhood.

(b) reinforce the key characteristics and special qualities of the area in which the development is proposed.

(d) contribute positively to local distinctiveness, historic environment and sense of place.

(e) create inclusive environments that are legible, connected and facilitate the ease of movement and permeability through the site, allowing everyone to easily understand and find their way around.

(f) retain and integrate existing landscape features and biodiversity to enhance networks and promote diversity and distinctiveness of the surrounding area."

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

3.21. Policy DM08: Biodiversity and Geodiversity states:

"(1) Development should conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance biodiversity and geodiversity interests and soils commensurate with their status and giving appropriate weight to their importance. All development must ensure that the importance of habitats and designated sites are taken into account and consider opportunities for the creation of

a local and district-wide biodiversity network of wildlife corridors which link County Wildlife Sites and other areas of biodiversity importance.

Avoidance, Mitigation and Compensation for Biodiversity and Geodiversity Impacts

(8) Development should avoid adverse impact on existing features as a first principle and enable net gains by designing in biodiversity features and enhancements and opportunities for geological conservation alongside new development. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated, If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort."

Landscape and Seascape Character

3.22. Policy DM08A: Landscape and Seascape Character states:

(1) Development should be of an appropriate scale, mass and design that recognises and respects landscape character of both designated and undesignated landscapes and seascapes; it should avoid adverse landscape and seascape impacts and seek to enhance the landscape and seascape assets wherever possible. Development must take into account and respect the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape/seascape asset, considering cumulative impact and the objective to maintain dark skies and tranquillity in areas that are relatively undisturbed, using guidance from the Joint Landscape and Seascape Character Assessments for North Devon and Torridge.

4. BASELINE STUDY

INTRODUCTION

4.1. A baseline study has been undertaken through a combination of desk-based research and site appraisal in order to establish the existing conditions of the landscape and visual resources of the study area. Desk based research involved a review of mapping and aerial photography, relevant planning, and policy documents, the relevant Landscape Character Assessments and other relevant documents and publications.

4.2. A study area radius of 5km from the Application Site boundary has been selected to identify potential significant landscape and visual effects (**Figure 1.1: Appendix 1A**). The study area was defined to an area where landscape and visual effects could potentially be significant rather than defining the extent of the visibility of the Proposed Development, which has been identified through the production of ZTV mapping (**Figure 1.2: Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs and site surveys.

4.3. Given the nature of the Proposed Development works and existing site context, the visual extent, in reality, is often far less than 5km, and significant effects are mainly confined to immediately adjacent locations.

LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

4.4. The joint North Devon and Torridge Interactive Online Policy Map[13] has been reviewed and the Application Site is not located within any designated areas.

4.5. The Proposed Development has been designed to have the least amount of impact upon this area of North Devon. The introduction of mitigation/infill planting to all boundaries of the Application Site will be recommended in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP), as illustrated in **Figure 1.10: Appendix 1A.** The introduction of the mitigation planting will help alleviate any Visual Impacts that may occur in the local area. Mitigation measures along with enhancements and improvements to the areas of agricultural grassland to species

[13] https://consult.torridge.gov.uk/kse/folder/85661

rich grasslands and meadows where possible will contribute to improving this area of North Devon for future generations.

4.6. No designations within the 5km Study Area will be directly visually impacted by the introduction of the Proposed Development due to their distance, existing mature vegetation and the topography of the landscape within the LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land and surrounding LCT'S.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE ASSESSMENT

4.7. The Application Site lies within National Character Area (NCA) 149 The Culm[14] as defined by Natural England at a regional level.

4.8. The NCA 149 covers the setting of the Proposed Development. The NCA Profile for 149, summarises the wider area as; *"The rolling ridges and plateaux of the Culm extend across north-west Devon and north-east Cornwall, reaching from the foot of Dartmoor in the southwest and the edge of the Cornish Killas in the west, to the spectacular Atlantic coast of cliffs and sandy beaches in the north. North-eastwards they meet the Exmoor landscape and stand high above the Devon Redlands. The open, often treeless, ridges are separated by an intricate pattern of small valleys forming the catchments of the Rivers Taw, Torridge and Mole. This is largely a remote and sparsely populated landscape."*

4.9. At a more refined, local level the North Devon and Torridge Joint Landscape Character Assessment[15] covers the landscape of the Application Site and has been used as the baseline for the assessment of potential landscape effects resulting from the introduction of the Proposed Development.

4.10. Within the 5km study area overlaps into areas covered by the Cornwall Council Interactive Map[16]

4.11. The Proposed Development lies within the LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land, LCT 3C – Sparsley Settled Farmland Valley Floors, LCT 1F – Farmed Lowland Moorland & Culm Grassland, LCT – Downs (Cornwall), LCT – Undulating Historic Farmland (Cornwall), LCT – Valley

[14] https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4292167?category=587130

[15] https://www.torridge.gov.uk/LCT5A

[16] https://map.cornwall.gov.uk/website/ccmap/?zoomlevel=5&xcoord=227489&ycoord=101305&wsName=ccmap&layerName=Landscape%20Character%20Types%202022

Systems (Cornwall), and LCT – River Valley Floodplain are located within the 5km study area are shown on Figure 1.1 of Appendix 1A.

4.12. The Proposed Development lies within the LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land. The host LCA stretches from the Application Site and most of the surrounding context within 2km. It therefore provides the key focus of landscape character across the Application Site setting and covers most of the principal zones of visibility from key points to the north and east.

4.13. The overarching landscape characteristics for the LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land relevant to the Application Site include:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform. Parts are high and remote with far-reaching views to Dartmoor, including summits of over 200 metres.*
- *Underlying geology of Culm Measures - comprising smooth bands of mudstones, siltstones and harder outcrops of sandstone. Rich red soils are often exposed through ploughing.*
- *Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms.*
- *Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly hawthorn and blackthorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences.*
- *Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys.*
- *Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland (occasionally ancient) providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods (including remnant orchards), occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech provide further woodland cover.*
- *Important areas of Culm grassland designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.*
- *Species-rich fen and rush pasture, valley mire, unimproved grasslands and scrub found in valley bottoms and areas of impeded drainage.*

- *Linhays (traditional livestock shelters) of local stone and cob, with corrugated iron or slate roofs, forming notable farmland features.*
- *Local vernacular of white-washed or local sandstone buildings with slate or thatch roofs, often with red brick detailing. Square church towers with ornate pinnacles form distinctive local landmarks.*
- *Scattered historic features including clusters of Bronze Age bowl barrows, an Iron Age hillfort and enclosure, a Roman marching camp and the remains of a 13th century Priory. Many are Scheduled Monuments.*
- *Farms dispersed throughout, often on exposed ridges protected by evergreen shelterbelts. Nucleated villages also occupy prominent ridgeline positions, often with linear development of white/cream houses and bungalows spreading outwards from the historic core.*
- *Straight roads traversing ridges and dipping down into valleys, crossing streams on sandstone bridges.*
- *Strongly rural character diluted by the presence of prominent pylon lines, industrial developments outside some settlements, and busy roads including the main A388 road.*
- *Wind turbines are becoming more prevalent in the landscape, with occasional small wind farms as well as scattered single turbines elsewhere.*
- *Overall high levels of tranquillity with dark night skies."*

4.14. The North Devon and Torridge Joint Landscape Character Assessment 2023 describes LCT 3C – Sparsley Settled Farmland Valley Floors as:

4.15. *"This Landscape Character Type (LCT) covers the broad valley floors and floodplains of the main river valleys of the Taw, Torridge, Bray, Mole, Carey, Claw, Deer and Tamar which flow through the two districts."*

4.16. Key Characteristics of the LCT 3C – Sparsley Settled Farmland Valley Floors include:

- *"Gently meandering courses of the districts' main rivers, flowing through open valley floors and floodplains contained by steep valley sides.*

- *Underlying geology comprising Culm Measures (mudstones, siltstones and shales) with more resistant bands of sandstone. Red/orange soils exposed by river channels cutting through the landform.*
- *Open pastoral fields enclosed by low-cut thorn hedges, with some areas of unenclosed rough grazing on wet meadows / rushy pasture. Fields form a regular pattern, of post-medieval and modern origin.*
- *Valley floors include traditional orchards, bands of wet woodland and areas of estate parkland with ancient trees.*
- *Rich semi-natural habitats including Culm grasslands, Molinia-rich mire, rush pasture, unimproved meadows, ponds and wet woodland - including willow and alder carr. Some are County Wildlife Sites.*
- *Some important river, floodplain meadows and ancient oak woodlands habitats designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.*
- *Grade I and II listed historic parkland estates with ancient wood pasture on the flanks of rivers.*
- *Other cultural features include Iron Age hillforts occupying commanding positions above the river valleys (outside this LCT), and mills, weirs and arched stone bridges relating to the valleys' rich industrial heritage.*
- *Strong literary association of the Taw and Torridge valleys with Henry Williamson's 1927 novel Tarka the Otter.*
- *Historic hamlets and villages located at river crossing points, with some extending in linear form along the valley floors.*
- *Strong local vernacular of cream, whitewash and pale-yellow cottages with slate or thatched roofs, with some use of local sandstone with red brick detailing.*
- *Winding courses of the valley floors sometimes traced by roads including the main A377, and A386, with minor routes crossing the rivers on historic stone hump-backed bridges.*

- *High levels of peace and tranquillity with scenic views along the open valleys and to the surrounding wooded slopes (LCT 3G). Perceptions of tranquillity are broken locally by the presence of main roads and nearby large settlement fringes.*
- *The multi-user Tarka Trail follows the course of the old railway line."*

4.17. The North Devon and Torridge Joint Landscape Character Assessment 2023 describes LCT 1F – Farmed Lowland Moorland & Culm Grassland as:

4.18. *"This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is distributed across large areas of Torridge District, stretching into the south and south-eastern corner of North Devon. It covers the landscape's high open tracts of Culm grassland and 'moors' which sit on the poorly drained soils and sandstone ridges of the Culm Measures geological series."*

4.19. Key Characteristics of the LCT 1F – Farmed Lowland Moorland & Culm Grassland include:

- *"Gently undulating landform, in some places of a plateau-like character.*
- *Underlying geology of Culm Measures - mudstones and siltstones with bands of sandstone creating gently rolling topography. Areas where sandstone dominates are of a higher, plateau character.*
- *Landscape crossed by frequent streams, springs, wet ditches and small ponds fringed by wet woodland, rush pasture and meadows.*
- *Open areas of Culm grassland and patches of heath surrounded by a regular pattern of medium-scale post-medieval and modern fields, with some earlier fields of medieval origin with curving boundaries.*
- *Square-cut beech hedge banks with rushy verges bordering wet ditches. Patches of bracken and gorse, as well as wind-sculpted beech trees, give an exposed feel to higher locations. Areas on the fringes of more intensive farming include mixed species hedges with flower and fern-rich banks.*
- *Pastoral character including rough cattle/sheep grazing on expanses of Culm grassland and heath. More intensive farming, including occasional arable fields, poultry units and localised pony paddocks on the fringes of the 'moors'.*

- *Large blocks of conifer plantation (particularly in Torridge), as well as frequent patches of beech/oak woodland, secondary woodland on plantation edges and willow carr associated with streams.*
- *Expanses of herb-rich Culm grassland (within the Culm Grasslands Special Area of Conservation) supporting rich wildlife. Large tracts of wet heath, rich flushes, valley mires, fen and marshy grasslands found elsewhere, many designated as County Wildlife Sites.*
- *Frequent clusters of nationally important Bronze Age barrows on elevated sites, disused quarries and the remains of a medieval castle.*
- *Variety of traditional building styles, particularly white/cream cob render with slate. Villages often include white and cream modern bungalows on the outskirts; several are Conservation Areas.*
- *Sparse settlement pattern with scattered farmsteads, clustered hamlets and nucleated villages often occupying ridgetop positions.*
- *Straight roads crossing along ridgelines, occasionally running through tunnels created by mature beech trees particularly on the fringes of settlements. Distinctive white fingerposts at road crossing points.*
- *Wind turbines visually influence parts of the landscape, notably a large wind farm in North Devon and several small wind farm developments in Torridge.*
- *Golf courses, fishing lakes, caravan parks, equestrian centres, disused airfields, industrial land uses and main roads dilute perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness locally.*
- *Elevation affording long views across the landscape and beyond - e.g. to the contrasting lush green fields of the surrounding farmland and the high moorland landscapes of Dartmoor and Exmoor."*

4.20. The Cornwall Landscape Character Types 2022 describes the landscape attributes and key sensitivities of the LCT: Downs as:

- *"Dramatic and far-reaching views enjoyed by people.*

- *Smooth, rolling skylines, often only broken by wind turbines and occasional woodlands.*
- *Valued pockets of heathland, reflect the former unenclosed nature of the downland.*
- *Scattered rural communities create a peaceful landscape.*
- *Historic features (with many scheduled monuments) give a sense of time depth.*
- *Important for recreation, with large areas of Open Access Land. "This Landscape Character Type (LCT) is distributed across large areas of Torridge District, stretching into the south and south-eastern corner of North Devon. It covers the landscape's high open tracts of Culm grassland and 'moors' which sit on the poorly drained soils and sandstone ridges of the Culm Measures geological series."*

4.21. Several of the Key Characteristics of the LCT: Downs include.

- *"Rolling downland landscape rising above adjacent landscapes with broad rounded ridges and hilltops.*
- *The landscape is drained by springs which feed into adjacent valleys. The source of some major rivers, including the Camel, is located within the LCT.*
- *Land use is mixed and is prominently used for grazing, although arable cropping is also frequent. Boundary features are primarily hedges, although these tend to be low-cut compared to field boundaries on lower-lying ground.*
- *A mixture of medium scale curving medieval fields on the edges of LCT and larger post-medieval and modern fields with straight boundaries atop the downs. Some areas of open downland remain.*
- *Commercial-scale wind farms occur on several of the downs due to the elevated character of the landscape and high wind speeds.*
- *Sparsely settled, with dispersed farmsteads scattered across the landscape and nucleated villages and hamlets located around crossroads.*
- *Extensive views from the LCT are enabled by the relative elevation of the landscape, low field boundaries and limited woodland. Views to the coast are often possible.*

- *A large scale open and exposed moorland-type landscape with high levels of tranquillity and dark night skies. Noise and movement from the major roads crossing the LCT impact on tranquillity.*
- *Wind turbines form dominant features on the skyline and are highly visible from surrounding LCTs. Pylons and telecommunications masts also form prominent vertical features."*

4.22. The Cornwall Landscape Character Types 2022 describes the landscape attributes and key sensitivities of the LCT: Undulating historic farmland as:

- *"Historic pattern of medieval fields enclosed by a network of Cornish hedgerows.*
- *Important pockets of semi-natural habitat within the farmed landscape, including nationally and locally significant areas of lowland heathland, broadleaved woodland, purple moor grass and rush pasture and lowland meadow.*
- *Frequent heritage features legible within the agricultural landscape, including prehistoric remains, evidence of medieval activity and historic designed parklands.*
- *Mining remains which provide evidence of the industrial past of the landscape, including internationally significant sites which form part of the World Heritage Site.*
- *Sparsely settled character, with characterful villages constructed in a local vernacular (often containing Conservation Areas) and scattered hamlets and farmsteads.*
- *Narrow sunken lanes and species-rich hedge banks.*
- *Intact rural character with high levels of tranquillity, representing the agricultural heartland of Cornwall.*
- *Valued for recreation with a network of footpaths and bridleways (including promoted routes) providing access and allowing people to experience the landscape including the open views from higher ground."*

4.23. Several of the Key Characteristics of the LCT: Undulating historic farmland include.

- *"Gently undulating and rolling landform with minor valleys carved by watercourses (often transitioning to the 'Valley Systems' LCT). Many springs occur throughout the landscape, including the origins of some of Cornwall's main rivers.*

- *Mixed agricultural land use, with improved pasture and arable most common. Rough pasture also occurs in pockets of unenclosed land and along stream valleys.*
- *The landscape is generally sparsely settled with small hamlets, villages and isolated farms. Some more significant settlements also occur in the LCT, usually close to the coast or major rivers.*
- *Major roads and railway routes cross through the LCT, introducing noise and movement into the landscape. Most of the road network comprises narrow rural lanes, often bound by high hedgerows creating the effect of tunnels carving through the landscape.*
- *Informal recreational facilities include a network of footpaths and bridleways (including some promoted routes). There are also numerous National Trust and English Heritage sites in addition to independently run tourist attractions.*
- *The quintessential agricultural heartland of Cornwall which retains its character as a working, strongly rural landscape.*
- *Views are varied depending on the topography and land cover but include some open vistas from higher ground. Features such as pylons and overhead lines punctuate the skyline in places.*
- *Levels of tranquillity are generally high, although areas in proximity to major roads or settlements are often negatively impacted."*

4.24. The Cornwall Landscape Character Types 2022 describes the landscape attributes and key sensitivities of the LCT: Valley System as:

- *"Dense coverage of broadleaved woodland on the valley slopes, contributing to the naturalistic character of the landscape and important for biodiversity, flood mitigation and carbon sequestration.*
- *Significant semi-natural and woodland habitats with associated flora and fauna, with large areas designated for nature conservation.*
- *A strong sense of time-depth due to the historic parklands, prehistoric remains and evidence of the industrial mining past of the landscape.*

- *A sense of peace and tranquillity, with the incised landform and dense vegetation providing a sense of enclosure and escapism.*
- *Importance for recreation, with many rights of way which often trace the valley landform and enable people to access and experience the landscape."*

4.25. Several of the Key Characteristics of the LCT: Valley System include.

- *"Steep valley slopes with folds created by small tributary valleys feeding into the main rivers which ultimately flow to the coast.*
- *Field boundaries are primarily hedges (including traditional Cornish hedgerows). There is considerable variation in the local character of field boundaries as well as their condition. Some are well-vegetated with trees or wildflowers, while others are low cut.*
- *Valleys are generally sparsely settled although the LCT tends to be more settled where valleys meet the coast or at crossing points, with settlements historically building up close to the rivers. Elsewhere settlement comprises occasional farms and individual properties linked by rural lanes.*
- *Roads are primarily narrow rural lanes, which become very steep on the valley slopes and wrap around the valley landform. Some major road and rail routes cross through the valleys, with a localised impact on tranquillity.*
- *Access varies between different valley systems. Where rights of way occur, footpaths and bridleways trace the valley landform, with characterful bridges crossing the rivers.*
- *Views are often limited by the incised landform and the presence of woodland. The elevated landform on the upper valley slopes allows extensive views across river valleys below.*
- *Individual river valleys generally have a strong sense of place.*
- *A mostly peaceful landscape with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity which is occasionally broken by the presence of large settlements or major transport routes."*

4.26. The Cornwall Landscape Character Types 2022 describes the landscape attributes and key sensitivities of the LCT: River Valley Floodplain as:

- *"Unspoilt, 'natural' and peaceful landscape.*

- *Valued riparian and floodplain habitats with associated wildlife.*
- *Trees and woodlands tracing watercourses, important for biodiversity, flood mitigation and carbon sequestration.*
- *Historic features including stone bridges and historic parklands providing a sense of time-depth to the landscape.*
- *Opportunities to experience a sense of 'escapism' with high levels of tranquillity and limited views."*

4.27. Several of the Key Characteristics of the LCT: Valley System include.

- *"Gently meandering courses of the major rivers, flowing through open valley floors and floodplains contained by steep valley sides.*
- *Land use is predominantly grazing on the river floodplain, with very little arable. There are some areas of unenclosed/rough grazing on wet meadows and rush pasture.*
- *Boundary features comprise a mix of hedgerows and Cornish hedgerows. Some hedgerows are cut relatively low, while others are dominated by mature trees.*
- *Generally unsettled due to the location of the LCT on the floodplain, although there are some significant settlements which have historically built up around the rivers.*
- *A generally inaccessible landscape with few rights of way or open access areas. The Launceston Steam Railway runs through the LCT.*
- *Roads are sparse and often cross through the LCT, with fords or bridges located at crossing points.*
- *Views are often limited by the valley landform and tree cover, although sometimes funnelled views along the valley are possible.*
- *High levels of peace and tranquillity, with the naturalistic qualities of the landscape often dominant. The presence of larger settlements or roads can erode the sense of tranquillity.*
- *Perceptual qualities are also influenced by the adjacent valley slopes – for example, dense woodland on the valley slopes creates a more enclosed and intimate landscape."*

Landscape Sensitivity

4.28. The Proposed Development falls within the Landscape Character Type- **LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land.** Throughout LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land the valued landscape attributes are:

- *"Long views from elevated ridgelines including to Dartmoor National Park.*
- *Patchwork of fields and hedges provide texture the landscape.*
- *A traditional working agricultural landscape with a strong rural character.*
- *Important Culm grassland and wetland habitats support a range of species.*
- *Quiet, relaxed and tranquil."*

4.29. The landscape within close proximity to the Proposed Development is mainly agricultural with elements of electrical infrastructure found within this LCT. **The Application Site is not located with any designated areas.**

4.30. There is no attached Sensitivity associated to the Application Site therefore the Sensitivity Valuation of the site has been assessed and is deemed **Medium - Low**. The Application Site is located within LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land there is electrical infrastructure present within the existing landscape due to the following planning applications 1/0883/2012/FULM, 1/0249/2021/FULM, 1/1318/2007/FUL, 1/0754/2015/FULM and 1/1107/2008/FUL being located within 1km to the Proposed Development.

LANDFORM

4.31. While North Devon and Torridge Joint Landscape Character Assessment considers a large area of the LCT, on a more localised scale within the surrounding study area of the landscape containing existing medium to large rectilinear agricultural fields enclosed by woodland and hedgerows along field boundaries.

LAND USE AND SETTLEMENT

4.32. The Proposed Development will be located within agricultural land currently being used for pastoral farming. The field itself is bound by a mixture of trees, hedgerows and post-and-wire fencing. The land slopes from east to west and there is an area of scrub present towards the

north/ northeast. Small pockets of woodland are adjacent to the Application Site's boundaries to the northeast, south and southwest. The closest settlements to the Proposed Development would be the village of Pyworthy located c. 1km northeast, the village of Derril located c. 1.2km north and the town of Holsworthy located c. 3.8km northeast.

4.33. The immediate land-use which surrounds the site is mainly agricultural land. The medium to large field systems are enclosed with fences, hedgerows and tress within the landscape.

National to Local Landscape Designations

4.34. Landscape designations are landscapes which are attributed special protection at national (legislative) to local (Local Development Plan) level, to protect against inappropriate development. Historic and ecological designations also contribute to the overall landscape character and quality. These are briefly outlined below.

4.35. There are **no nationally or locally designated landscapes within the Application Site** boundaries within the study area.

FUTURE BASELINE

4.36. In landscape terms, if the works did not go ahead, the Application Site and agricultural, pastural character will remain unchanged.

4.37. In visual terms, the content in available views will remain the same, although changes will occur to introduced vegetation due to maturing, pruning or natural decay.

5. CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

5.1. Areas experiencing landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will vary, depending on active construction works. During the temporary construction phase, there would be a notable increase of construction activity within the confines of the Application Site. The works will have a localised temporary disturbance to a small portion of the rural landscape within the LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land.

5.2. Construction phase effects will result in:

- Likely effects to landscape character or visual amenity within the locality or the wider study area as a result of the visibility of construction activities such as, the movement of construction vehicles along local roads, and other tall equipment such as machinery on site;
- Effects of temporary site infrastructure, such as site traffic; and
- Likely physical effects arising from the construction of the development will be confined to the Application Site.

5.3. The highest landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will be experienced in the immediate vicinity of the development site, from locations with open or partial views of the site. Principal views of construction works will likely be experienced within a radius of up to approximately 0.5km from the boundary of the site.

5.4. More distant views at the construction works, beyond 0.5km will be unlikely due to screening provided by landform, distance and existing intervening vegetation. While discernible, the construction effects in long distance views are not considered significant as they form part of a wide panoramic view in which they form one visible component of many.

5.5. The landscape and visual effects and their significance at construction stage will be temporary, adverse and range from **Not Significant** in the wider study area and from **Moderate** to **Slight Adverse** for areas in close proximity, up to approximately 0.5km radius from the boundary of the Application Site, where intervening existing vegetation does not fully screen views of the Proposed Development.

OPERATIONAL PHASE

5.6. Figure 1.3: Appendix 1A illustrates viewpoints from locations selected as 'Representative Viewpoints' for the assessment of landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development.

5.7. Operational effects will result in:

- Likely effects of the development on views and visual amenity such as the potential for the development to alter (beneficial or adverse) the composition of the view from a viewpoint; and
- Likely cumulative effects of the development in conjunction with other committed developments of similar type and scale upon the landscape and visual resource of the study area.

Landscape Effects

5.8. The following likely direct and indirect landscape effects have been identified (along with their duration and nature) arising from the Proposed Development. Direct or indirect landscape effects on the fabric of the landscape and its receptors are closely related to the nature and extent of visibility.

5.9. The Proposed Development is located within LCT 5A – Inland Elevated Undulating Land as illustrated on Figure 1.1: Appendix 1A.

5.10. The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of a BESS Development within fields previously used as agricultural land with elements of existing electrical infrastructure. The introduction of the BESS will lead to a change of character within the confines of the Proposed Development boundary, i.e. where the Proposed Development is physically located. It is considered that the development will alter the landscape character within the confines of the Application Site, adding further industrial features to the Application Site and immediate site surroundings where views are possible. The magnitude of landscape change is considered **High to Medium**, and the resulting significance **Significant to Moderate Adverse** as the Application Site is currently used for agricultural purposes.

5.11. Indirect change will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 0.5km

radius from the development boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Medium**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Moderate Adverse**.

5.12. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 0.5km and 1km from the Site boundary) to **Low**. Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in available views. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight Adverse**.

5.13. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 1km and 5km from the Site boundary) to **Not Significant**. Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in available views.

5.14. A summary of landscape effects on receptors located within the study area is provided in **Table 1.12.**

Table 1.12: Summary of Landscape Effects

Receptor	Susceptibility	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Landscape Effects	Significance / Quality of Landscape Effects
Landscape Character Area – within 500m of the Site.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Moderate/ Adverse
Landscape Character Area – within 1km of the Site.	Medium	Medium	Low	Slight Adverse
Landscape Character Area – within 5km of the Site.	Medium	Medium	Negligible	Not Significant

Visual Effects

5.15. The nearest major town is Holsworthy located c. 3.8km northeast of the Proposed Development boundary with the nearest settlement being the village of Pyworthy located c. 1.0km northeast of the site. There are a number of residential dwellings and farmsteads along the local road network which surround the Application Site. The nearest local road in relation to the Proposed Development is located adjacent to the northern boundary of the site.

5.16. The main visual receptor groups are local residents, vehicle travellers and pedestrians. Residents and pedestrians will have a higher sensitivity to change than the road users. Vehicle travellers will focus primarily on traffic and not on available views, however, the Proposed Development will be seen in transit making the views fleeting in nature.

5.17. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located within 1.0km of the site in the form of one-off houses and farmsteads.

5.18. The highest visual effects will be experienced within a radius of approximately 0.5km of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of visual change for views up to 0.5km is considered **Medium** and the significance **Moderate Adverse.**

5.19. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 0.5km - 1km are considered to be **Low** and the significance **Slight Adverse**, due to intervening screening by vegetation, topography or built structures.

5.20. In long distance views ranging between approximately 1km – 5km, the magnitude of visual effects is considered to be **Negligible** and their significance from **Not Significant**.

5.21. Both viewpoints and photomontages shown in **Figures 1.3 – 1.9**: **Appendix 1A** illustrate views from representative viewpoints within both the core study area and the wider study area.

Viewpoint 1 - View southeast from Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District northwest of the Proposed Development.

5.22. Viewpoint 1 (**Figure 1.4: Appendix 1A**) is representative of views south from along a local road. The distance to the nearest section of the Proposed Development is c. 0.373km. The immediate context is one of arable/pastureland. The open, undulating landscape consists of large field systems with tree lined hedgerow boundaries as well as pockets of woodland within the landscape. The view also highlights the presence of electrical infrastructure in distant views of electrical masts and views towards the existing Solar Farm on hills to the southeast.

5.23. The value of this view is considered to be Medium. The visual receptors are road users travelling east and residential receptors in close proximity to the viewpoint. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low**, as the main receptor groups will be road users and residential receptors who experience similar views on a daily basis.

5.24. The Proposed Development will be partially screened for residential receptors in close proximity to this viewpoint due to residential boundary hedgerow and roadside planting, however, upper-level views towards the Proposed Development are likely. Road users are likely to experience distant transient views towards the site through gaps in the hedgerow from along this local unnamed road whilst travelling east. Existing views show elements of electrical infrastructure within the landscape and therefore the introduction of the Proposed Development will not alter the view dramatically.

Approved planning application 1/0756/2015/FULM (Derril Water Solar Farm) has been represented in **Figure 1.8b** with the cumulative viewpoint highlights the proposed Solar Farm application that will be introduced to fields northwest of the Proposed Development. This will result in combined views for residential receptors in close proximity to Viewpoint 1 from upper floor levels of the Proposed Development and the approved planning application 1/0249/2021/FULM. Roads users in close proximity to Viewpoint 1 are unlikely to experience views towards the Proposed Development following the introduction of approved planning application 1/0249/2021/FULM.

Mitigation planting along the northern and western boundary of the site is being proposed that will further screen views towards the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will be partially visible above the introduced mitigation planting due to the elevation of the viewpoint in relation to the site. However, the design, size and colour of the Proposed Development will be incorporated into the existing landscape as farm buildings in the wider context of the view. This will result in a **Medium** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Moderate** change to the visual significance which will reduce to **Low to Negligible** as mitigation planting is added. Please refer to the Photomontage in **Figure 1.8a and Figure 1.8b (Appendix 1A)**.

Viewpoint 2 - View looking south from Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District, north of the Proposed Development

5.25. Viewpoint 2 (**Figure 1.4: Appendix 1A**) is representative of views looking south from along the local unnamed road, north of the Proposed Development. The distance to the nearest section of the main development area from this viewpoint is c. 0.005km. The immediate context is one of arable land. The undulating landscape consists of large field systems with tree lined hedgerow boundaries, pockets of woodland and elements of electrical infrastructure within the landscape.

5.26. The value of this view is considered to be **Medium**. The visual receptors are road and path users travelling along this local unnamed road. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low**, as the main receptor groups will be road users and path users who experience similar views on a daily basis.

5.27. The Proposed Development will be mostly screened for road and path users travelling along the local unnamed road however, transient views towards the site are likely through gaps in the field boundary hedgerow. Mitigation planting along the northern boundaries of the site is being proposed that will further screen views towards the Proposed Development. This will result in a **Medium to Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Moderate to Slight change** to the visual significance which will reduce to **Low to Negligible** as mitigation planting is added. Please refer to the Photomontage in **Figure 1.9: Appendix 1A.**

Viewpoint 3 – View looking north from Pyworthy, Torridge District. South of the Proposed Development.

5.28. Viewpoint 3 (**Figure 1.5: Appendix 1A**) is representative of views north from along a local unnamed road south of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is c. 0.902km. The landscape consists of large agricultural field systems with tree lined boundaries, with pockets of woodland. The view also highlights the presence of electrical infrastructure in views of Overhead powerlines, Electrical Pylons, the Operational Solar Farm and distant views of a wind turbines visible to the north.

5.29. The value of this view is considered to be **Medium**. The visual receptors are residential receptors located in close proximity to the viewpoint and road users travelling along the local unnamed road. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low**, as the main receptor groups will be road users and residential receptors who experience similar views on a daily basis.

5.30. Residential Receptors and road users in close proximity to this viewpoint are unlikely to experience views towards to Proposed Development due to residential boundary vegetation, roadside planting and existing mature vegetation found within the landscape screening views north towards the site. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant to Imperceptible change** to the visual significance.

Viewpoint 4 - View looking northeast from Pyworthy Footpath 3, Pyworthy, Torridge District southwest of the Proposed Development.

5.31. Viewpoint 4 **(Figure 1.5: Appendix 1A)** is representative of views northeast from along Public Right of Way (PRoW) Pyworthy 3. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is c 0.481km. The immediate context of the view is one of a rising landscape to the

north with established tree lined hedgerow located along the apex of the hill. The view also highlights the electrical pylon overhead lines to the west of the view.

5.32. The value of this view is considered to be **Medium**. The visual receptors are path users using the Pyworthy 3 PRoW in close proximity to this viewpoint. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low**, as the main receptor groups will be path users who experience similar views on a daily basis.

5.33. PRoW users using the Pyworthy 3 footpath are unlikely to experience views towards the Proposed Development from this viewpoint due to intervening landform and established mature field hedgerow vegetation found within the landscape. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant to Imperceptible** change to the visual significance.

Viewpoint 5 - View looking west from Pyworthy Footpath 1, Pyworthy, Torridge District east of the Proposed Development.

5.34. Viewpoint 5 **(Figure 1.6: Appendix A)** is representative of views looking west from along Pyworthy Footpath 1, Pyworthy, east of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is c.0.60km. The undulating landscape slopes west towards the Proposed Development and show the large agricultural field systems with tree lined boundaries along roadways and pockets of woodland within the landscape. The view also highlights the presence of electrical infrastructure with distant views of electrical pylons and further west.

5.35. The value of this view is considered to be **Medium**. The visual receptors are road users travelling along this local unnamed road and path users Pyworthy Footpath 1 in close proximity of the viewpoint. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low** as the main receptor groups will mainly be road and path users who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.

5.36. Road users and PRoW users using the Pyworthy 1 footpath are unlikely to experience views towards the Proposed Development from this viewpoint due to intervening landform and established mature field hedgerow vegetation found within the landscape and along the eastern boundary of the site. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a Not Significant to Imperceptible change to the visual significance. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant to Imperceptible** change to the visual significance.

Viewpoint 6 - View looking southwest from Pyworthy Footpath 7, Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District northeast of the Proposed Development.

5.37. Viewpoint 6 **(Figure 1.6: Appendix A)** is representative of views looking southwest from along Pyworthy Footpath 7, Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is c.0.842km. The undulating landscape sloping south consists of large agricultural field systems with well-established field hedgerow boundaries and pockets of woodland looking southwest. The view also highlights the presence of electrical infrastructure with distant views of electrical pylons and further southwest.

5.38. The value of this view is considered to be **Medium**. The visual receptors are path users of the Pyworthy Footpath 7 in close proximity of the viewpoint. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low** as the main receptor groups will mainly be path users who experience this or similar views on a daily basis.

5.39. PRoW users using the Pyworthy footpath 7 are unlikely to experience views towards the Proposed Development from this viewpoint due to intervening landform and established mature field hedgerow vegetation found within the landscape. Mitigation planting along the northern boundaries of the site is being proposed that will further screen views towards the Proposed Development. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant to Imperceptible** change to the visual significance which will reduce further as mitigation planting is added.

Viewpoint 7 - View looking southeast from Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District, Devon northwest of the Proposed Development.

5.40. Viewpoint 7 **(Figure 1.7: Appendix A)** is representative of views looking southeast from along a local road at Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District, Devon northwest of the Proposed Development. The distance to the Proposed Development from this viewpoint is c. 0.954km. The immediate context of the view highlights the mature hedgerow found bordering fields and roadways in the landscape of Devon. Slightly undulating agricultural fields highlight the distant views of tree lined hedgerow enclosed fields and electrical infrastructure elements found within the landscape looking further southeast.

5.41. The value of this view is considered to be Medium. The visual receptors are road users travelling east and residential receptors in close proximity to the viewpoint. The visual sensitivity of the view is considered **Medium to Low** and the visual susceptibility to change is considered **Medium to Low**, as the main receptor groups will be road users and residential receptors who experience similar views on a daily basis.

5.42. The Proposed Development will be screened for residential receptors and road users located in close proximity to this viewpoint due to residential boundary hedgerow, roadside planting and intervening landform. Existing views show elements of electrical infrastructure within the landscape and therefore the introduction of the Proposed Development will not alter the view dramatically. Mitigation planting along the northern and western boundary of the site is being proposed that will further screen views towards the Proposed Development. This will result in a **Low to Very Low** magnitude of visual change resulting in a **Not Significant to Imperceptible** change to the visual significance which will reduce further as mitigation planting is added.

5.43. A summary of visual effects from representative viewpoint locations is provided in **Table 1.13** below.

Table 1.13 - Summary of Visual Effects from representative viewpoint locations

Receptor	Susceptibility	Visual Sensitivity	Magnitude of visual effects	Significance / quality of visual effects
Viewpoint 1	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Medium	Moderate Adverse
Viewpoint 2	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Moderate to Slight Adverse
Viewpoint 3	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Low to Very Low	Not Significant to Imperceptible
Viewpoint 4	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Low to Very Low	Not Significant to Imperceptible
Viewpoint 5	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Low to Very Low	Not Significant to Imperceptible
Viewpoint 6	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Low to Very Low	Not Significant to Imperceptible
Viewpoint 7	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Low to Very Low	Not Significant to Imperceptible

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

5.44. Cumulative landscape and visual effects may result from additional changes to the baseline landscape or views as a result of the Proposed Development in conjunction with other developments of a similar type and scale.

5.45. A search was conducted of relevant planning applications within the vicinity of the Application Site, using the Torridge District Council and the Cornwall Council planning portal online search. These are listed in Table 1.14

Table 1.14 – Cumulative developments

Planning Reference	Description	Proximity	Planning Status
1/0883/2012/FULM	Proposed PV solar farm with associated infrastructure	0.00km east	Permitted 17/01/2013
1/0249/2021/FULM	Proposed 42MW photovoltaic (PV) solar farm, all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works	0.01km north	Permitted 10/11/2021
1/1318/2007/FUL	Erection of single vertical axis wind turbine (12 metres high)	0.25km south	Permitted 21/12/2007
1/0754/2015/FULM	Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure	0.32km southeast	Permitted 30/09/2015
1/1107/2008/FUL	Erection of single vertical axis wind turbine	0.90km south	Permitted 21/01/2009
1/0756/2015/FULM	Installation and operation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure	1.23km northwest	Permitted 04/12/2015
1/0502/2015/FULM	Erection of wind turbine max hub height 37.5m, rotor diameter 39 m. Max tip height 57m	1.55km northwest	Permitted 04/09/2015
1/0127/2024/FUL	Construction of a containerised Battery Energy Storage System with	1.74km southwest	Application is being considered

	the ability to store and export up to 25 MW of electricity		
1/0766/2013/FUL	Erection of a wind turbine measuring 30m to hub and 45m to blade tip	2.12km west	Permitted 07/02/2014
1/0657/2013FUL	Erection of a wind turbine, measuring 50m to hub and with a rotor radius of 27m, with an overall height of 77 metres, with ancillary equipment	2.35km southwest	Permitted 02/10/2014
1/0978/2012/FULM	Installation of a solar farm and associated infrastructure - 14.8ha 11.2MW	2.56km northeast	Permitted 05/02/2013
PA13/05242	Erection of a single wind turbine of max 37m to tip, along with associated infrastructure	2.59km southeast	Permitted 12/06/2013
1/0218/2011/FULM	Proposed Solar PV Farm and associated infrastructure	2.73km northeast	Permitted 23/06/2021
1/0833/2012/FULM	Proposed PV solar farm with associated infrastructure	2.79km northwest	Permitted 04/07/2013
1/0595/2012/FUL	Erection of single 500kw turbine (60.7m to blade tip) and associated infrastructure	3.97km north	Permitted 08/11/2012
1/0812/2012/FUL	Erection of a single wind turbine (77m to blade tip) together with associated works and access	4.16km east	Permitted 07/02/2013

5.46. The above Planning Applications have all been considered in this cumulative assessment. Planning Applications 1/0883/2012/FULM, 1/0754/2015/FULM, and 1/0249/2021/FULM will result in combination views of the Proposed Development regarding residential receptors and road users within 0.5km of the site from the northwest and elevated locations.

Cumulative Landscape

5.47. All developments have been largely designed to consider the existing field hedgerow boundaries. Mitigation planting has been proposed along the northern and western boundaries of the Proposed Development where required helping to enhance their boundaries and help to further enclose the development.

5.48. The cumulative developments located within the 5km study area are listed above in **Table 1.14.** The Proposed Development in combination with the existing solar farm, substation and the permitted planning application 1/0249/2021/FULM will read as one unified electrical infrastructure development within the landscape. Within the wider context of the Proposed Development beyond 0.5km the landscape has various electrical infrastructure elements in situ. The introduction of the Proposed Development in combination with these existing electrical infrastructure features operational or permitted do not impose further upon the effects upon the landscape character of the LCT – 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land.

5.49. The addition of the Proposed Development, together with other noted developments within the landscape will collectively have a cumulative **Low** effect upon the landscape character of the LCT – 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land during the construction and operational phases.

5.50. Overall, the magnitude of change to the landscape would be **Low.**

Cumulative Visual

5.51. The potential for cumulative views of the Proposed Development with the approved planning references was found to be limited, as many potential views are hindered by distance, localised variations in the topography and screening by natural and built elements across the local landscape.

5.52. The introduction of the Proposed Development will result in combined views with the operational planning applications 1/0883/2012/FULM, 1/0754/2015/FULM, and the permitted planning application 1/0249/2021/FULM. The residential receptor located in close proximity to Viewpoint 1 is likely to experience upper floor views as shown in **Figure 1.4: Appendix 1A** towards the Proposed Development. However, views towards the Proposed Development will be lessened following the introduction of the permitted planning application 1/0249/2021/FULM as shown in **Figure 1.8a and Figure 1.8b.**

5.53. Combined views of the cumulative projects listed will be viewed at distance and will be perceived as one development within the landscape. Thus, the addition of the Proposed Development in combination with the above planning references will result in **Low Change to** cumulative views.

5.54. Within the wider context of the Proposed Development beyond 0.5km combined views of the operational and permitted planning applications for Residential Receptors, Road and Path Users are unlikely due to distance, intervening landform, natural and built elements across the local landscape.

5.55. Therefore, the addition of the Proposed Development will overall result in a **Low to Negligible** effect on cumulative views.

MITIGATION MEASURES

5.56. Mitigation is a term used to describe the measures or actions that may be taken to minimise environmental effects. The purpose of mitigation is to avoid, reduce and where possible remedy or offset, any significant adverse direct and indirect effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development. The following main landscape and visual mitigation categories have been defined and are outlined below:

Mitigation Planting-

5.57. A Landscape and Ecology Management Plan outlining the mitigation planting proposals has been included within Figure 1.10: Appendix 1A. The main interventions are outlined below.

- 142 metres of New Native Planting to be introduced to the northern boundary of the Proposed Development.
- 54 metres of New Native Planting to be introduced to the western boundary of the Proposed Development.

RESIDUAL EFFECTS

5.58. Given the scale and location of the Proposed Development, the main landscape and visual mitigation measures focus on design elements which soften or help integrate the Proposed Development into its surroundings. Hence measures will be implemented immediately and come into effect following the completion of construction works. The existing vegetation, while retained (i.e. it is off site and outside the control of the applicant), will screen the lower parts of the existing and Proposed Development.

5.59. Considering the possible often localised nature of available views, landscape mitigation will further reduce landscape and visual effects. There may be a slight increase in visual effects during the winter season due to the absence of foliage. The majority of differences in visibility will be experienced locally within an approximate 0.5km radius depending on the pruning status of intervening hedgerows, as well as the amount of other intervening vegetation. Overall, the difference in visibility is considered not material.

6. CONCLUSION

CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS

6.1. Landscape and visual effects and their significance at construction stage will be temporary adverse and will result in:

- Likely effects to landscape character or visual amenity within the locality or the wider study area as a result of the visibility of construction activities such as, cranes, the movement of construction vehicles along local roads, and other tall equipment such as machinery on site.
- Effects of temporary site infrastructure such as site traffic and temporary site construction compounds; and
- Likely direct effects arising from construction of the development.

6.2. The highest landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will be experienced in the vicinity of the Site, from locations with open or partial views. Construction works will not be visible beyond 1km, within the 5km core study area in views at elevation, particularly to the north where there is little vegetation screening. While discernible, the construction effects in long-distance views are not considered significant as they form part of a wide panoramic view in which they form one visible component of many.

OPERATIONAL EFFECTS

Landscape Effects

6.3. The Proposed Development is located within LCT – 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land (**Figure 1.1: Appendix 1A**). The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of a new small-scale battery energy storage system (BESS) facility into the agricultural land to the southwest of Pyworthy, Devon. The introduction of the BESS site will lead to a change of character within the confines of the Proposed Development boundary, i.e. where the Proposed Development is physically located. It is considered that the development will alter the landscape character within the confines of the site, adding an industrial character to the site and immediate site surroundings where views are possible. The

magnitude of landscape change is considered **Medium to High** within the confines of the Proposed Development and the resulting significance **Significant to Moderate Adverse** as the site is used for agricultural.

6.4. Indirect change will occur outside of the Proposed Development boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within an approximate 0.5km radius from the development boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Medium**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Moderate Adverse**.

6.5. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 0.5km to 1km from the Site boundary). The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Low**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight Adverse**.

6.6. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area between approximately 1km to 5km from the Site boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Negligible**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Not Significant.** Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in available views.

Visual Effects

6.7. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located within 0.5km in the form of one-off houses and residential properties located in the district of Pyworthy, Devon.

6.8. The highest visual effects will be experienced within an approximate 0.5km radius of the Proposed Development boundary, from locations with open or partial views of the Proposed Development. However, areas experiencing visibility within 0.5km, some elements of electrical infrastructure are visible within the local landscape from local residential properties. The magnitude of visual change for views up to 0.5km is considered **Medium** and the significance **Moderate Adverse.**

6.9. Views between approximately 0.5km – 1km will comprise mainly of the taller elements of the Proposed Development, such as fencing or mitigation planting. However, they will be seen in

conjunction with the existing field structure and field pattern components. The magnitude of visual change is considered **Low** and the significance **Slight Adverse**.

6.10. In views between approximately 1km – 5km, whilst the Proposed Development will add an industrial element to the landscape, The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development is considered **Negligible** and the significance **Not Significant.**

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1A: Figures

Figure 1.1 – LCA

Figure 1.2 – Landscape Designations with ZTV

Figure 1.3 – Viewpoint Locations with ZTV

Figure 1.4 – Viewpoint 1 & 2

Figure 1.5 – Viewpoint 3 & 4

Figure 1.6 – Viewpoint 5 & 6

Figure 1.7 – Viewpoint 7

Figure 1.8a – Viewpoint 1PM

Figure 1.8b – Viewpoint 1 Cumulative PM

Figure 1.9 – Viewpoint 2PM

Figure 1.10 - LEMP

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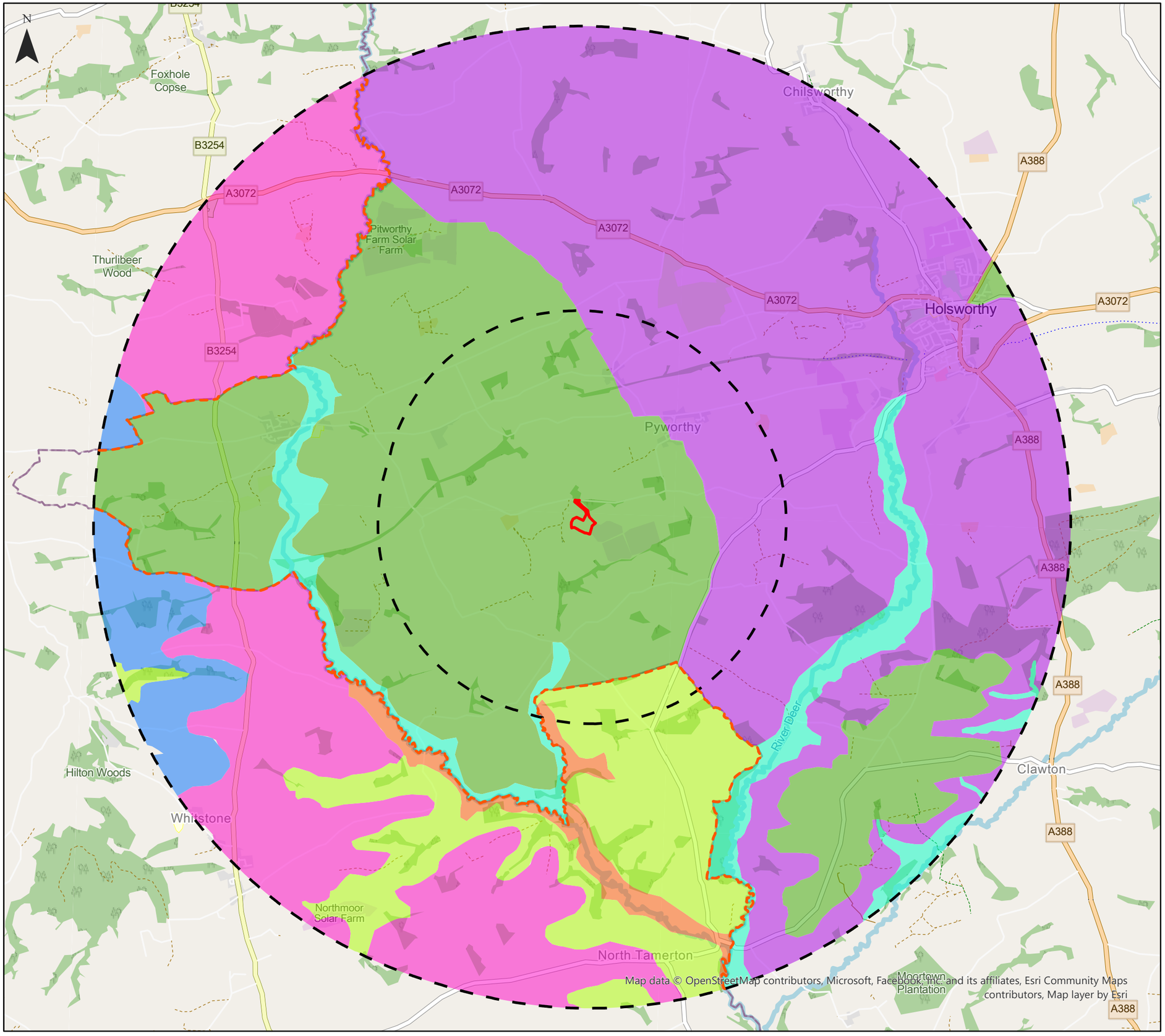
Appendix 1A

Stoneworthy BESS
Landscape Character Types
Figure 1.1



Key

- Development Boundary
- 2km, 5km Study Area
- Farmed lowland moorland and Culm grassland LCT
- Inland elevated undulating land LCT
- Sparsely settled farmed valley floors LCT
- Downs LCT
- River Valley Floodplains LCT
- Undulating Historic Farmland LCT
- Valley System LCT
- Council Boundary

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Drawing No: NEO01389/005I/A

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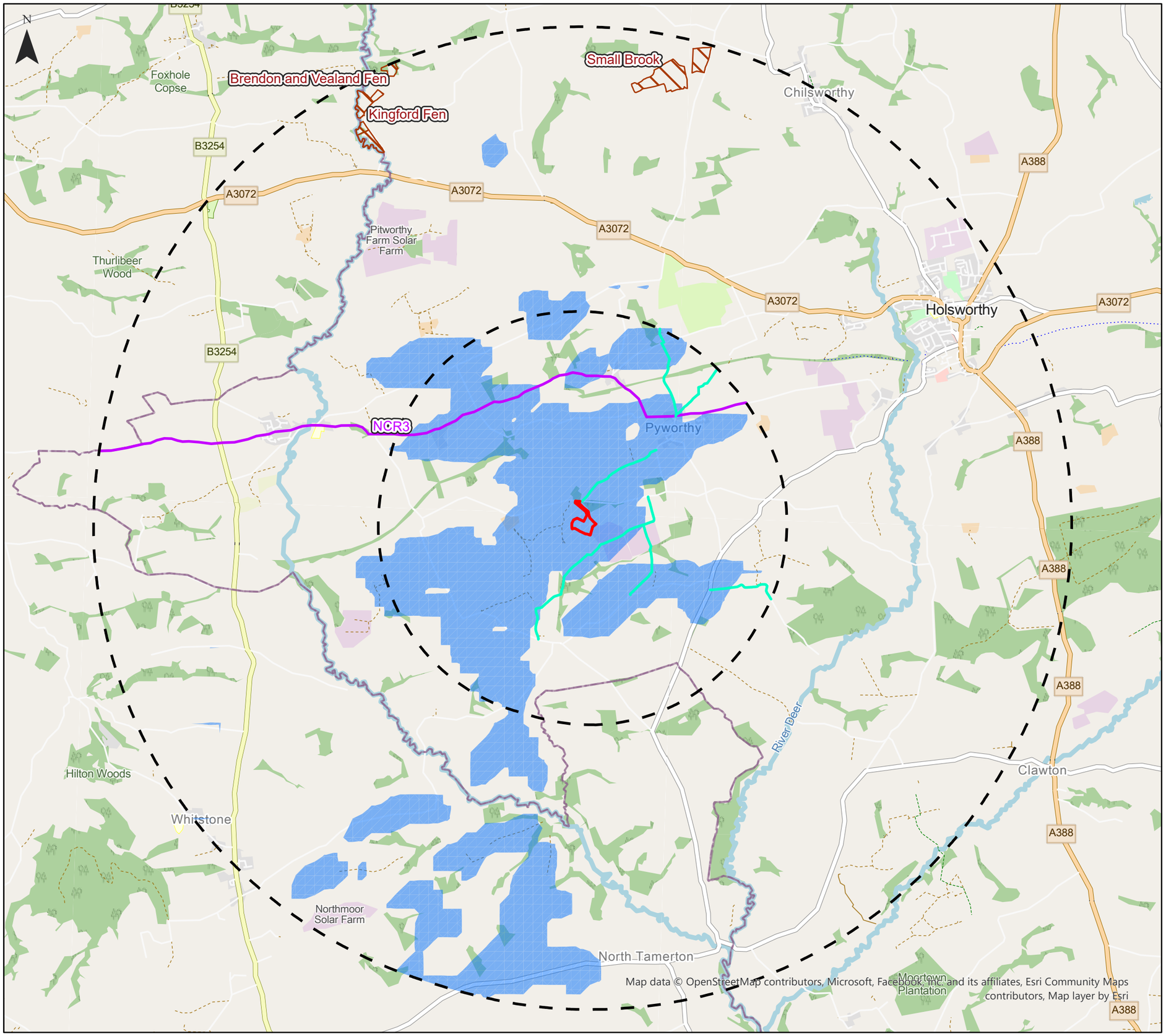
Stoneworthy BESS
Landscape Designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility
Figure 1.2



Key

- Development Boundary
- 2km, 5km Study Area
- Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Cycle Route (NCR)
- Public Right of Way
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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Drawing No: NEO01389/007I/A

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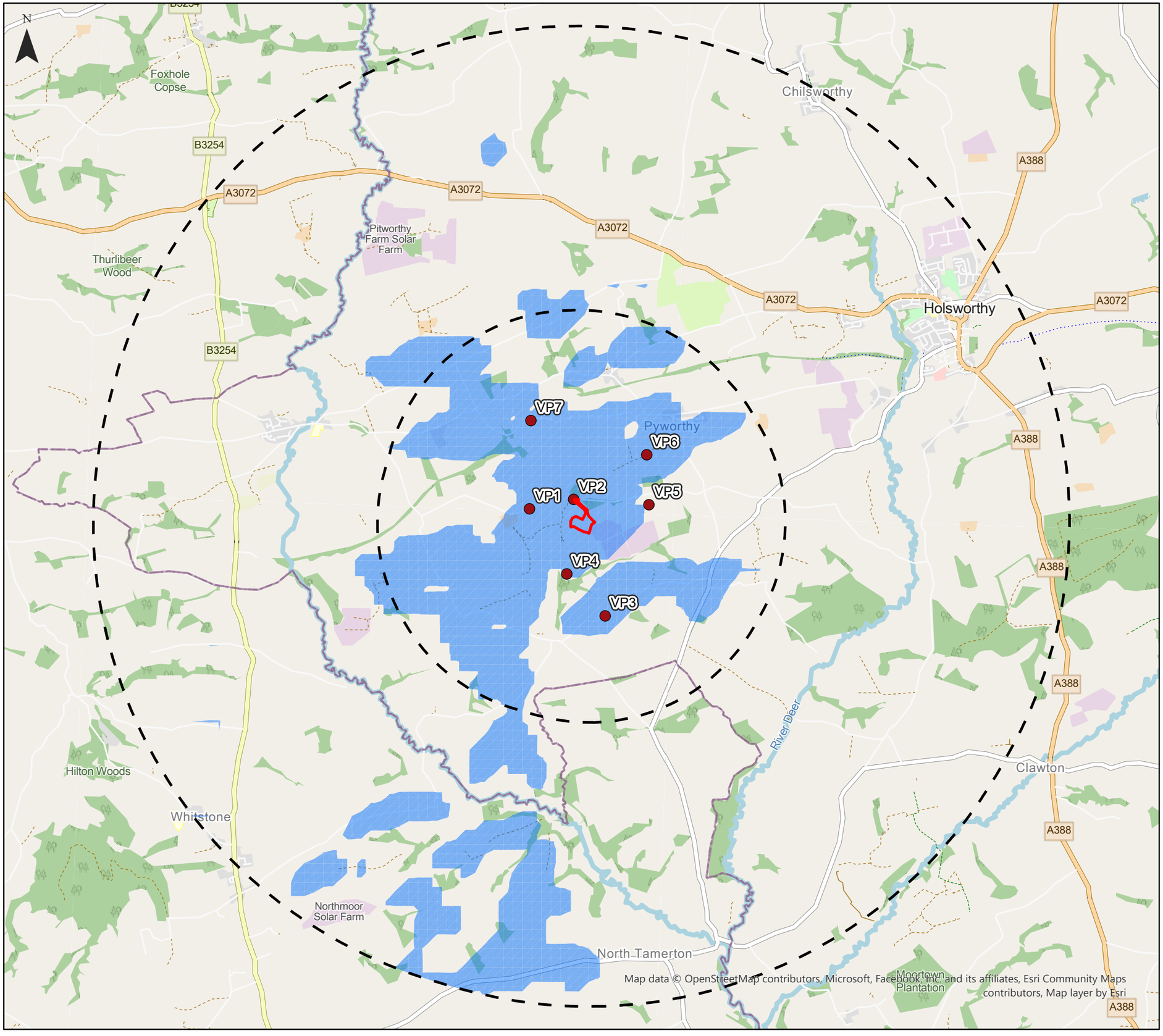
Stoneworthy BESS
Viewpoint Locations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility
Figure 1.3



Key

- Development Boundary
- 2km, 5km Study Area
- Viewpoint Locations
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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Date: 03/05/2024
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OS Reference: E229920 N102010
Eye Level: 117.5m
Direction of View: 109°
Distance to Site: 0.373km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

OS Reference: E230278 N102067
Eye Level: 103.5m
Direction of View: 153°
Distance to Site: 0.005km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

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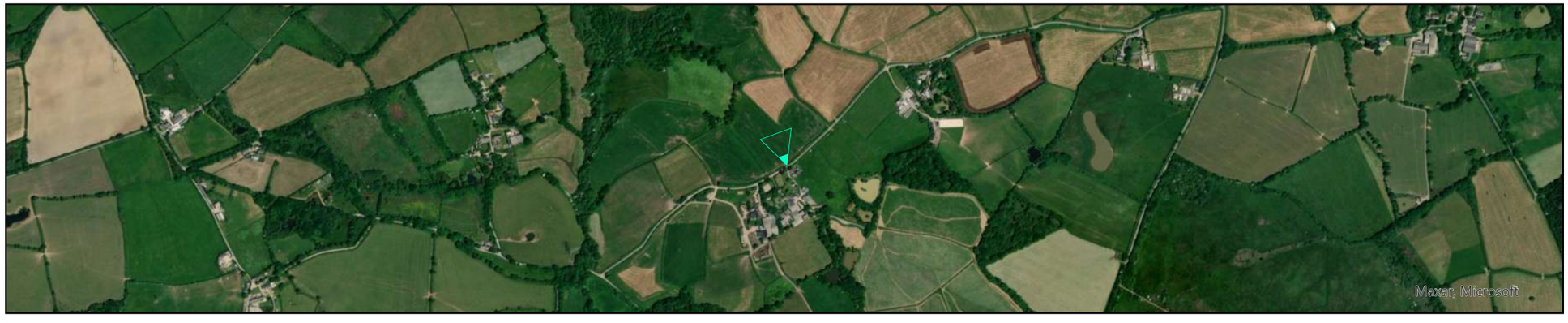
Figure 1.4

Date: 12/04/2024
Drawn By: James Greenan
Drawing No.: NEO01389/008I/A

Fields with Development

Viewpoint 3: Pyworthy, Torridge District



OS Reference: E230611 N100836
Eye Level: 123.5m
Direction of View: 170°
Distance to Site: 0.902km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint 4: Pyworthy Footpath 3, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS Reference: E230206 N101279
Eye Level: 102.5m
Direction of View: 347°
Distance to Site: 0.481km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

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Figure 1.5

Date: 12/04/2024
Drawn By: James Greenan
Drawing No.: NEO01389/009I/A

Fields with Development

Viewpoint 5: Pyworthy Footpath 1, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS Reference: E231073 N102010
Eye Level: 129.5m
Direction of View: 017°
Distance to Site: 0.600km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

Viewpoint 6: Pyworthy Footpath 7, Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS Reference: E231050 N102538
Eye Level: 135.5m
Direction of View: 252°
Distance to Site: 0.842km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

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Figure 1.6

Date: 15/04/2024
Drawn By: James Greenan
Drawing No.: NEO01389/010I/A

Fields with Development

OS Reference: E229890 N102908
Eye Level: 123.5m
Direction of View: 149°
Distance to Site: 0.954km

Horizontal Field of View: 90 Degrees
Vertical Field of View: 18.7 Degrees
Paper Size (A3): 420x270mm

Camera: Canon 6D
Lens: 50mm
Camera Height: 1.5m AGL
View flat at comfortable arm's length

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Figure 1.7

Date: 15/04/2024
Drawn By: James Greenan
Drawing No.: NEO01389/011I/A

Fields with Development

Figure: 1.8a
Viewpoint 1: Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS reference:	229920E 102010N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	117.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	109°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	0.373km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	08/05/2024

Figure: 1.8b
Viewpoint 1: Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS reference:	229920E 102010N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	117.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	109°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	0.373km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	08/05/2024

Figure: 1.9
Viewpoint 2: Lower Hopworthy, Pyworthy, Torridge District

OS reference:	230278E 102067N	Horizontal field of view:	90° (planar projection)	Camera:	Canon 6D
Eye Level:	103.5m AOD	Principal Distance:	812.5mm	Lens:	50mm
Direction of view:	153°	Paper Size	841 x 297mm (half A1)	Camera Height:	1.5m
Distance to Site:	0.005km	Corrected printed image size	820 x 260mm	Date and Time:	07/05/2024

Outline Landscape Specifications:

Existing Vegetation:

Any necessary works being undertaken within close proximity and to the retained tree lined hedgerows should be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree work Recommendations and BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition and construction.

Proposed Planting:

Planting to be supplied in accordance with BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery Stock. specification for trees and shrubs, BS 3936-4:2007 Nursery Stock.Specification for forest trees, poplars and willows, BS 8545:2014 Trees:from nursery to independence in the landscape. All landscaping works to be in accordance with BS4428:1989 "General Landscaping Works." All planting should be sourced from local provenance certified seed stock where possible and from an approved supplier of the Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS),other sources will need to be approved.

Hedgerow Planting:

The new hedgerows will be planted into a hand dug trench, measuring a min of 600mm wide and 300mm deep, allowing enough width and depth for the roots. Similarly, infill planting of whips along existing hedgerows to be carried out by slit planting or trenching. Layering may be considered where it can possibly achieve better filling out of gaps of less than 1m wide. Prior to planting up gaps in the existing hedgerows any scrub or ivy should be cleared from around their bases. The existing soil should be improved by digging in well rotten Farm Yard Manure or other soil improver. All hedging will be supported with rabbit guards and canes and 1m wide mulch matting.Temporary stock proof fencing should be used to prevent grazing of new hedgerows by livestock if necessary.

Grassland & Wildflower Planting:

The fields will be sown with a low growing species rich grassland and wildflower mix, which will be managed by cutting. This seeding mix should be applied only to areas of disturbed lands within the areas indicated on the plan. The areas of grassland/wildflower mix will be separated from this grassland by a stock-proof fencing to prevent any possible grazing by animals.

Timing & Aftercare:

Planting of the hedgerow mixes to take place during the months of November to March, preferably before January and at a time when the soil is not frozen or waterlogged. The new plants will be watered in at the time of planting and regularly during their first year. All hedgerow and tree species will have a minimum 1m wide radius free of any weeds until 3 years after planting, when they are well established. Weeding will be done using a mulch mat and an approved herbicide as required in order to prevent competition for nutrients from weeds and grasses.

The planting supports and guards will be inspected regularly to ensure they are not impeding the plant's growth and will be adjusted or replaced as required. These will be removed when the planting is established within the initial 3 years.

Areas of grassland/wildflower mix to be planted in early spring or late summer. The grassland/wildflower mix will need to be continuously managed with an appropriate cutting regime to maintain a high level of flowering species. If any areas become scarce of wildflowers these should be reestablished as required.

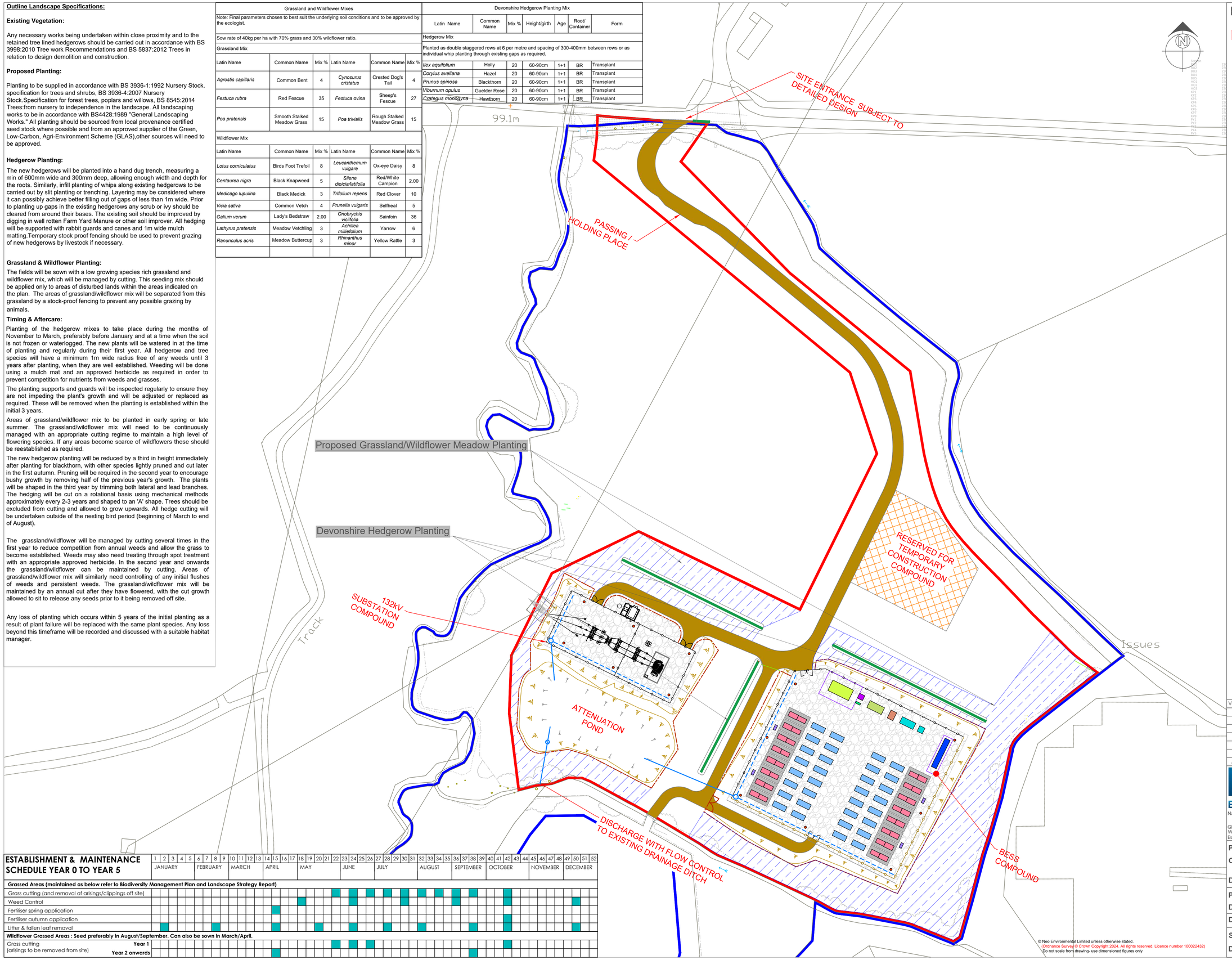
The new hedgerow planting will be reduced by a third in height immediately after planting for blackthorn, with other species lightly pruned and cut later in the first autumn. Pruning will be required in the second year to encourage bushy growth by removing half of the previous year's growth. The plants will be shaped in the third year by trimming both lateral and lead branches. The hedging will be cut on a rotational basis using mechanical methods approximately every 2-3 years and shaped to an 'A' shape. Trees should be excluded from cutting and allowed to grow upwards. All hedge cutting will be undertaken outside of the nesting bird period (beginning of March to end of August).

The grassland/wildflower will be managed by cutting several times in the first year to reduce competition from annual weeds and allow the grass to become established. Weeds may also need treating through spot treatment with an appropriate approved herbicide. In the second year and onwards the grassland/wildflower can be maintained by cutting. Areas of grassland/wildflower mix will similarly need controlling of any initial flushes of weeds and persistent weeds. The grassland/wildflower mix will be maintained by an annual cut after they have flowered, with the cut growth allowed to sit to release any seeds prior to it being removed off site.

Any loss of planting which occurs within 5 years of the initial planting as a result of plant failure will be replaced with the same plant species. Any loss beyond this timeframe will be recorded and discussed with a suitable habitat manager.

Grassland and Wildflower Mixes					
Note: Final parameters chosen to best suit the underlying soil conditions and to be approved by the ecologist.					
Sow rate of 40kg per ha with 70% grass and 30% wildflower ratio.					
Grassland Mix					
Latin Name	Common Name	Mix %	Latin Name	Common Name	Mix %
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	4	*Cynosurus cristatus*	Crested Dog's Tail	4
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	35	*Festuca ovina*	Sheep's Fescue	27
Poa pratensis	Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass	15	*Poa trivialis*	Rough Stalked Meadow Grass	15
Wildflower Mix					
Latin Name	Common Name	Mix %	Latin Name	Common Name	Mix %
Lotus corniculatus	Birds Foot Trefoil	8	*Leucanthemum vulgare*	Ox-eye Daisy	8
Centaurea nigra	Black Knapweed	5	*Silene dioicia/latifolia*	Red/White Campion	2.00
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	3	*Trifolium repens*	Red Clover	10
Vicia sativa	Common Vetch	4	*Prunella vulgaris*	Selfheal	5
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	2.00	*Onobrychis viciifolia*	Sainfoin	36
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	3	*Achillea millefolium*	Yarrow	6
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	3	*Rhinanthus minor*	Yellow Rattle	3

Devonshire Hedgerow Planting Mix						
Latin Name	Common Name	Mix %	Height/girth	Age	Root/ Container	Form
Hedgerow Mix						
Planted as double staggered rows at 6 per metre and spacing of 300-400mm between rows or as individual whip planting through existing gaps as required.						
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	20	60-90cm	1+1	BR	Transplant
Corylus avellana	Hazel	20	60-90cm	1+1	BR	Transplant
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	20	60-90cm	1+1	BR	Transplant
Viburnum opulus	Guelder Rose	20	60-90cm	1+1	BR	Transplant
Crategus monogyna	Hawthorn	20	60-90cm	1+1	BR	Transplant



ESTABLISHMENT & MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE YEAR 0 TO YEAR 5	1 2 3 4 5	6 7 8 9	10 11 12 13	14 15 16 17	18 19 20 21	22 23 24 25 26	27 28 29 30 31	32 33 34 35	36 37 38 39	40 41 42 43	44 45 46 47	48 49 50 51 52
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Grassed Areas (maintained as below refer to Biodiversity Management Plan and Landscape Strategy Report)												
Grass cutting (and removal of arisings/clippings off site)												
Weed Control												
Fertiliser spring application												
Fertiliser autumn application												
Litter & fallen leaf removal												
Wildflower Grassed Areas : Seed preferably in August/September. Can also be sown in March/April.												
Grass cutting (arisings to be removed from site) — Year 1												
Year 2 onwards												

Key

- DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY (OUTSIDE OF LINE DENOTES BOUNDARY)
- SECURITY FENCE
- ACOUSTIC FENCE
- BATTERY STORAGE ENCLOSURE (BSE)
- POWER CONVERSION SYSTEM (PCS) WITH SINGLE MV SKID AND APRON SLAB
- BESS SUBSTATION BUILDING
- AUXILIARY TRANSFORMER
- LV DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT
- AGGREGATION PANEL WITH LV PILLAR
- PRE-INSERTION RESISTOR
- CAPACITOR BANK
- HARMONIC FILTER AND RESISTOR
- SPARES CONTAINER
- LIGHTING / CCTV COLUMN
- SURFACE FINISH TYPICALLY COMPRISING STONE OR ASPHALT
- ACCESS TRACK
- EARTHWORKS BATTER
- STOCK PROOF FENCE
- DEVON HEDGE BUND (SHOWN INDICATIVELY)
- PROPOSED GRASSLAND MIX
- PROPOSED WILDFLOWER MIX
- PROPOSED HEDGEROW PLANTING

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Ver.	Date	Comments
A	20/05/2024	

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Project: Stoneworthy BESS
Client: RES Ltd
Drawing: LEMP

Project No.: NEO01389
Drawing No. : NEO01389_015I_A
Drawn: MD **Checked:** KB **Approved:** PN
Scale: 1:500 @ A1 **Revision:** A
Date: 20th May 2024