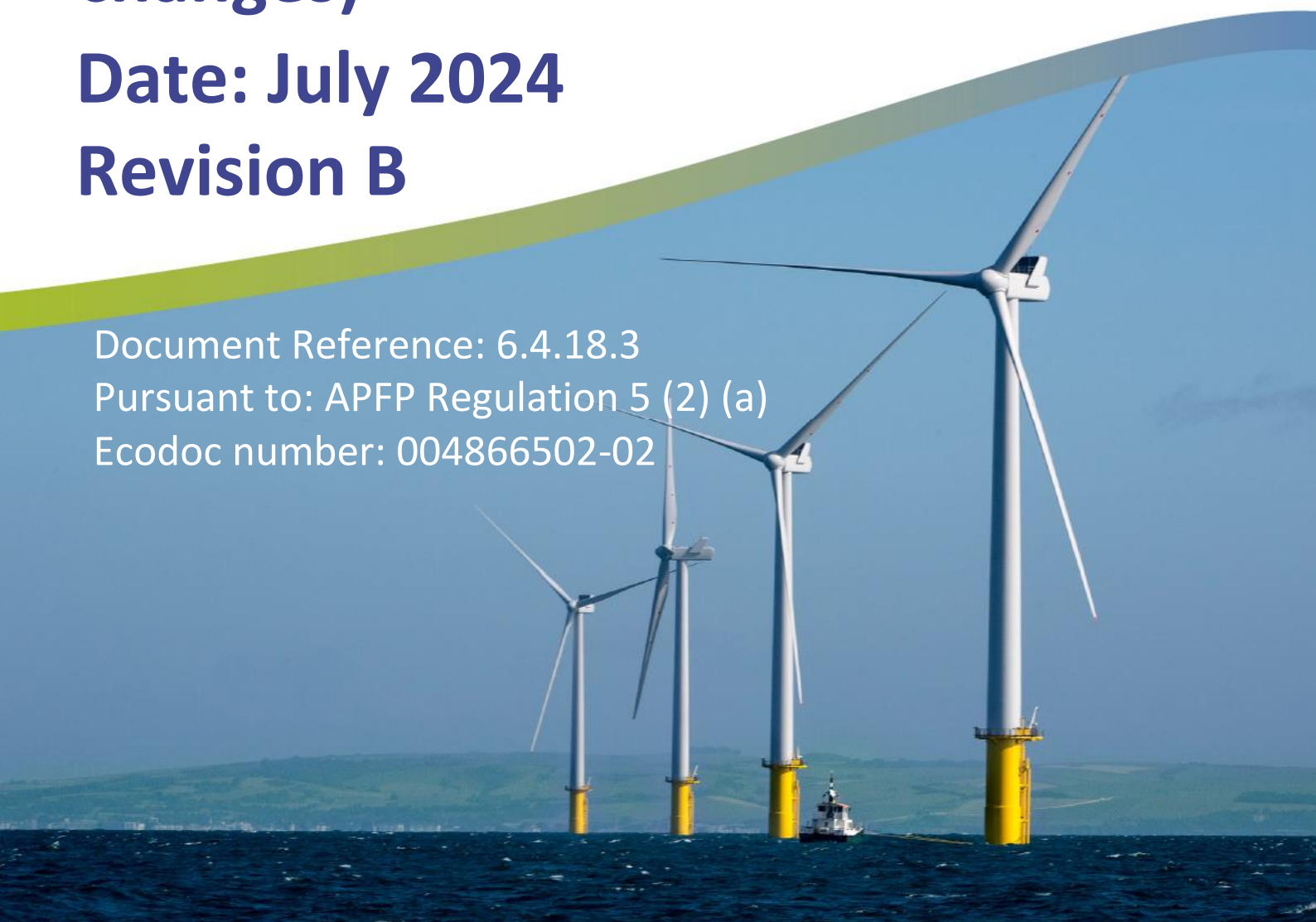


Rampion 2 Wind Farm
Category 6:
Environmental Statement
Volume 4, Appendix 18.3:
Landscape assessment (tracked
changes)
Date: July 2024
Revision B

Document Reference: 6.4.18.3
Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5 (2) (a)
Ecodoc number: 004866502-02



Document revisions

Revision	Date	Status/reason for issue	Author	Checked by	Approved by
A	04/08/2023	Final for DCO Application	WSP	RED	RED
B	09/07/2024	Updates to reflect changes to vegetation retention and removal plan, special qualities of the South Downs National Park and consultation comments.	WSP	RED	RED

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1. Landscape assessment

- 1.1.1 This Appendix reports the landscape assessment for the onshore elements of the Proposed Development. The assessment is set out in two parts as follows:
- assessment of landscape character – reporting the effects on landscape character, characteristics, and landscape elements (trees / woodland / hedges and scrub); and
 - assessment of landscape designations – reporting on the effects on the special qualities (comprising the reason for the designation) setting and integrity of landscape designations.
- 1.1.2 This landscape assessment is also summarised in **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).
- 1.1.3 The assessment of landscape effects resulting from the onshore substation at Oakendene and the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension is provided in **Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18) and therefore not repeated in this Appendix.

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2. Landscape Character Assessment

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2013) in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA 3), paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as follows:
- "An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. ... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed Development may influence in a significant manner."*
- 2.1.2 These effects are assessed by considering the landscape sensitivity (value and susceptibility) against the magnitude of change. The type of effect may also be described as short, medium or long-term, direct or indirect, cumulative and beneficial, neutral, or adverse.
- 2.1.3 The residual landscape effects, assessed here, are those effects remaining after all of the embedded environmental measures ([Section 18.7, Chapter 18 landscape and visual assessment, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18)) have been taken into account. An assessment of the cumulative landscape effects, taking account of other developments, as set out in [Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.5) has been undertaken according to the methodology detailed in [Appendix 18.1: Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume 4](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.1).
- 2.1.4 The onshore elements of the Proposed Development have the potential to significantly affect the landscape character, characteristics and landscape elements as a result of the construction phase and during Years 1-10 of the operation and maintenance phase. Effects during the decommissioning phase are scoped out as the onshore cable corridor will be left *in-situ* at the end of the operation and maintenance phase.
- 2.1.5 The landscape character within the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) Study Area is illustrated in [Figures 18.5b, Volume 3](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18). The assessment also refers to the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) ([Figures 18.4a-e, Volume 3](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and the illustrated viewpoints and viewpoint assessment in [Appendix 18.2: Visual assessment, Volume 4](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.2).
- 2.1.6 Reference is made to the description of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development in [Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4) and the assessment has also drawn from other aspects in particular:

- **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22);
- **Appendix 22.16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.22.16);
- **Chapter 23: Transport, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.23);
- **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25); and
- **Chapter 26: Water environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.26).

2.1.7 Cross reference has also been made to **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15), where the sea / coastline has a characterising influence on the landscape character.

2.1.8 In summary, all the LCAs crossed by the onshore cable corridor (14 out of the 19 included in the assessment) will in part, be significantly affected, four of which are located within the SDNP:

- Part 1: Climping to SDNP:
 - ▶ 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain;
 - ▶ 34: Middle Arun Valley Floor;
 - ▶ 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor;
 - ▶ 40: Lyminster-Angmering Coastal Plain; and
 - ▶ 41: Black Ditch Rife.
- Part 2: SDNP:
 - ▶ R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain;
 - ▶ B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland;
 - ▶ A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs;
 - ▶ J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes.
- Part 3: SDNP to Oakendene / Bolney:
 - ▶ D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands;
 - ▶ F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands;
 - ▶ G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands;
 - ▶ O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks;
 - ▶ J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands; and
 - ▶ LW1: Hickstead Low Weald.

2.1.9 Four of the LCAs are not significantly affected. They include the chalk escarpment at I3: Arun to Adur Down Scarp which will be crossed completely by trenchless

crossing techniques; LCAs 38: Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides and E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands and Heaths which are not crossed by the cable corridor; and SC1: South Coast Shoreline which precedes the landfall and commencement of the trenched installation of the cable corridor further inland.

- 2.1.10 None of the LCAs included in the assessment will be significantly affected overall.
- 2.1.11 The geographical extent of significant landscape effects is largely contained within approximately 250m of the onshore cable corridor due to the screening effects of successive layers of vegetation (existing trees, woodland, and hedgerows). This increases to within approximately 350m of the onshore cable corridor within the more open Arun Valley Floor and Coastal Plain landscapes (LCAs 34, 35, and 40) within the southern (Part 1) section of the onshore cable corridor. A similar effect occurs within the northern (Part 3) section of the onshore cable corridor where it crosses the River Adur valley (LCA O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks).
- 2.1.12 Within the SDNP, the geographical extent of these significant effects will also be largely restricted to approximately <250m of the onshore cable corridor due to the wooded and/or agrarian character of three of the LCAs (R1, B4 and J3) within the SDNP. An exception to this is the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA where significant effects will extend to within approximately 650m of the onshore cable corridor, particularly in relation to multiple elevated areas viewing along the linear onshore cable corridor.
- 2.1.13 The duration of these effects will be short-term, occurring within the 3.5 year onshore cable corridor construction phase (3 years for the onshore cable corridor and 3.5 years including temporary construction compounds). However, construction work along the onshore cable corridor will be carried out in discrete sections (with typically 600m – 1,000m of onshore cable corridor between cable route joint bays/pit~~typically 600m – 1,000m of onshore cable corridor~~) with progressive backfill and reinstatement commenced in as shortest timeframe as practical (embedded environmental measures C-19 and C-20, **Table 18-25 of Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18)). Once topsoil has been reinstated and the temporary construction haul road removed the effects on landscape character would begin to resemble agricultural effects, particularly in areas of arable farming and the effects on landscape character would no longer be significant. In areas of livestock farming, the re-establishment of pasture would occur within the first growing seasons (within the overall construction phase) and again, the effects on landscape character would no longer be significant.
- 2.1.14 Significant effects~~Effects~~ on individual landscape elements, removed as a result of the onshore cable corridor during the construction works are also reported and some of these will be significant. I, in each case, the extent of vegetation loss and effects has been minimised as far as possible and where unavoidable new, replacement planting will be undertaken, monitored and maintained in accordance with the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP4-047] (updated at Deadline 4) and maintained for 10 Years.**
- 2.1.15 The nature of these residual effects will be both direct and indirect, adverse and in some cases cumulative with other whole Proposed Development effects and other development included in the cumulative assessment.

- 2.1.16 There will be no significant effects on landscape character during the operation and maintenance phase (the onshore cable will be buried underground), although there will be some residual effects arising from the loss of landscape elements (treelines, woodland, hedges, and scrub) during the construction phase. New replacement planting will be undertaken and maintained for 10 Years in accordance with the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [REP4-0471] (updated at Deadline 5)**~~(Document Reference 7.10)~~ to mitigate these effects.
- 2.1.17 A summary of the effects on landscape character for the onshore cable corridor is provided in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1 Summary of landscape effects: onshore cable corridor

<u>Visual Landscape Receptor</u>	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
Landscape character areas: Part 1 – Climping to South Downs National Park (SDNP)						
SC1: South Coast Shoreline	Medium	Zero	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements	N/A – No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate (<250m)	Negligible	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements:	N/A – No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
<u>Landscape elements: (Trees / hedgerow on Church Lane)</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Major / Moderate</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Minor / Negligible</u>
34: Middle Arun Valley Floor	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate (<350m)	Negligible	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements: (4No. areas of <u>S</u> scrub and 1No. hedge notched to 14m)	Medium-low	Medium	Moderate / Minor	<u>Minor / Negligible</u>	No Effect	No Effect

<u>Visual Landscape Receptor</u>	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
35: Lower Arun Valley Floor	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate (<350m)	<u>Negligible</u> Minor	<u>No Effect</u> Minor/ <u>Negligible</u>	No Effect
Landscape elements: (3No. scrub cleared to 30m and hedge notched to 14m)	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate	Minor	Minor / Negligible	No Effect
38: Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides	Low	Low	Negligible	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements:	No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
40: Lyminster-Angmering Coastal Plain	Medium	Medium-high	Moderate (<350m)	Moderate / Minor	Minor	No Effect
Landscape elements: (6No. treelines / hedges notched to <u>6-14m</u> and 2No. woods cleared / notched to 6m <u>and an areas of scrub cleared to 20m</u>)	Medium-high	Medium	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor
41: Black Ditch Rife	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate (<250m)	Negligible	No Effect	No Effect

Visual Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
Landscape elements:	Medium-low	Low	Minor / Negligible	Minor / Negligible	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape character areas: Part 2 – SDNP						
R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain	High	Medium-high	Major (<250m)	Moderate	Minor	No Effect
Landscape elements: (Double treeline / notched to 6m and 3 <u>No treeline / hedges</u> notched to 14m)	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor
B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland	High	Medium-high	Major (<250m)	Moderate	Minor	No Effect
Landscape elements: (Double woodland cleared to 2330 <u>2330</u> m and 2No.hedges notched to 14m)	High	Medium-high	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Minor
A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs	High	High	Major (<650m)	Minor	No Effect	No Effect

Visual Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
Landscape elements: (87No. treelines / hedges / scrub notched to 14m)	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Minor	No Effect
I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp	High	Negligible-Zero	Minor	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements:	N/A – No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes	High	Medium-high	Major (<250m)	Moderate	Minor	No Effect
Landscape elements: (1No. woodland cleared to 30m and 194No. treelines / hedges notched to 14m)	High	Medium-high	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Landscape character areas: Part 3 – SDNP to Oakendene / Bolney						
D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands	Medium-low	High <250m	Moderate major (<300m)	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect

<u>Visual Landscape Receptor</u>	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
<u>Landscape elements: (treeline / scrub cleared to 20m)</u>	<u>Medium-high</u>	<u>Medium-high</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Moderate / Minor</u>	<u>Minor</u>
Landscape elements:	N/A — No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands & Heaths	Medium-low	Negligible-Zero	Negligible	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
Landscape elements:	N/A – No trees / woodland / hedges directly affected.					
F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate (<250m)	<u>No Effect</u> Minor	<u>No Effect</u> Minor / Negligible	<u>No Effect</u> No Effect
Landscape elements: (2No. treelines and 1No. hedge cleared 15m / notched to 14m)	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor
G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate (<150m)	<u>Moderate / Minor</u>	Minor / Negligible	No Effect
Landscape elements: (32No. treelines /	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor

<u>Visual Landscape Receptor</u>	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
<u>woodland</u> cleared to 20 m and 30m; and 2013 No. treelines / hedges / <u>scrub</u> notched to 14m)						
O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks	Medium	Medium-high	Moderate (<350m)	<u>Moderate / Minor</u>	Minor / Negligible	No Effect
Landscape elements: (20No. including 1No. wood cleared to 30m 1No. hedge cleared to 20m and 18No. treelines / hedges notched to 6-14m)	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major / Moderate	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Minor
J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands	Medium	Medium-high	Moderate (< 2 450m)	<u>Moderate / Minor</u>	Minor / Negligible	No Effect
Landscape elements: (40 23 No. including 2No. woods cleared to 30m and 20m and 21No. treelines / <u>areas of woodland / treeline /</u>	Medium-high	<u>High to</u> Medium-high	Major to Major / Moderate	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Minor

<u>Visual Landscape Receptor</u>	Sensitivity	Construction phase (3.5 Years)		Operation and maintenance phase		
		Magnitude	Level of effect	Level of effect Year 1	Level of effect Year 5	Level of effect Year 10
<p><u>hedge and scrub clearance hedges and notching of hedges / treelines scrub to 14m and 6m) notched to 6-14m)</u></p>						
LW1: Hickstead Low Weald	Medium-low	Medium-high	Moderate (<150m)	Minor	Minor / Negligible	No Effect
Landscape elements: (1No. wood / <u>hedge</u> cleared to 20m and <u>23</u> No. treelines / hedges notched <u>6</u> to 14- <u>20</u> m)	Medium-high	Medium- <u>high</u>	Major / Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor

*Note: Significant effects in shown in **bold** and extent of significant effect for linear receptors shown in brackets.

2.2 NCA 126: South Coastal Plain (Climping to Arundel)

2.2.1 The South Coastal Plain National Character Area (NCA) 126 is described by Natural England (2014, p.2) as:

“...flat, coastal landscape with an intricately indented shoreline lying between the dip slope of the South Downs and South Hampshire Lowlands and the waters of the English Channel, Solent and part of Southampton Water. The coastline includes several major inlets which have particularly distinctive local landscapes and intertidal habitats of international environmental importance for wildfowl and waders. Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies within the NCA and the foothills of the South Downs, along the northern boundary, fall within the South Downs National Park.

Some three per cent of the area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and there are four Special Protection Areas, two Special Areas of Conservation and four Ramsar sites: Chichester and Langstone Harbour, Pagham Harbour, The Solent and Southampton Water and Portsmouth Harbour.”

2.2.2 Within the South Coastal Plain NCA the onshore cable corridor is routed across the *Lower Arun Valley* (County Landscape Character (CLC) SC10), The *Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes* (SC11) to the north of Littlehampton and the *Angmering Coastal Plain* (SC12) to the south of the SDNP. A small part of the onshore cable corridor and the landfall are located within the *Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain* (CLC SC9).

2.2.3 There will be no landscape effects to the south of the landfall including the *South Coast Shoreline* (CLC SC1) at Climping Beach and the adjacent, southern part of SC9 due to the proposed horizontal directional drill (HDD) method of cable installation at landfall.

2.2.4 **Table 2-2** to **Table 2-8** detail the landscape assessment and set out the landscape effects of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development within this area.

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Table 2-2 Effects on Landscape Character within the South Coast Shoreline (SC1)

South Coast Shoreline (SC1)	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoint A (Figure 18.19, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18))
<p>Note: There will be No Effect on this area of the foreshore at Climping Beach due to the HDD activity being underground as illustrated in Figure 18.19, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18), despite this being in the onshore part of the proposed DCO Order Limits. There will be no other construction or operation and maintenance activities within the South Coast Shoreline (SC1).</p>	

Table 2-3 Effects on landscape character within No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoint A (Figure 18.19, Volume 3) and Viewpoint B1 (Figure 18.21, Volume 3) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	<p>National Character Area: NCA 126: South Coastal Plain</p> <p>County Character Area: SC9: Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain LCA within West Sussex</p>
Designation	None
Character description	This LCA is located within the CLC SC9: Chichester to Yapton Coastal Plain and comprises a low lying, flat open landscape that has been reclaimed from the sea over time and remains below the current high spring tide level. It is characterised by highly productive arable fields and has a fragmented hedgerow and hedgerow tree pattern with occasional shelterbelts. There are long views to Arundel and the Downs from within the area. Sensitivities at the

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

regional level include fragmentation and loss of hedgerows and connection between hedgerows and woodland. [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 21: Worthing Coastal Plain / Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.](#) The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):

Key Characteristics:

- *“Abuts Arun River valley to the east and Ford to the north.*
- *Almost entirely intensively farmed arable land.*
- *Predominately large field sizes.*
- *Blocks of arable fields separated by roads with scattered and ribbon development.*
- *Fields with hedgerows and tree belts providing enclosure.”*

The most relevant features relating to the onshore cable corridor are the large arable fields and hedgerows. [No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the open character and sea views are noted as aspects contributing to the local scenic quality, recreational value and conservation interest in relation to camp sites and PRoW access to the coastline and the Local Wildlife Site.](#)

Landscape elements: comprise arable crops and grassland along field margins. Although there are no trees or hedgerows within this part of the onshore cable corridor [\(Figures 18.8a-u, Volume 3 of the ES \[REP4-026\]\)](#) and [within](#) the Climping construction compound, trees, tree belts and hedgerows are present along roadsides and field boundaries as well as shelterbelts and woodland within the wider LCA. [Vegetation along Church Lane at the access of the Climping construction compound comprises trees and hedgerow \(H10\).](#)

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The overall value of this landscape is stated as ‘Substantial’ in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006). This relates to a cumulative value ascribed to this non-designated landscape by virtue of its proximity to the locally valued Arun Valley, and the scenic value of the undeveloped coastline. In terms of designation alone however, the LCA is not designated at a national or local level.

The landscape is not rare or particularly scenic, being intensively farmed and the flat arable fields are interspersed by tree belts and hedgerows which are not uncommon to the wider area. However, the proximity of this landscape to the coastline affords higher levels of landscape quality in terms of the areas local sense of place and

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

representativeness. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its heritage and recreational attributes. The area includes a number of recreational routes (NCR 2 and local footpaths), campsites, beach access and associated recreational facilities.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006, para. 5.2.2) ascribes an inherently ‘Substantial’ level of landscape susceptibility because it *“Includes the only substantial area of undeveloped coastline, largely rural, within the floodplain and provides separation between Middleton-on-sea and Littlehampton.”* Considering the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, in this case their short-term and temporary duration the landscape susceptibility to this type of development is lower. This is due to the changing character of the landuse and landcover pattern, resulting from development pressures in the north at Horsemere Green and Ferry Road, the relatively flat landscape which limits views of ground-based construction activity and the arable fields which regularly encompass crop rotation, and movement of agricultural machinery. There are limited hedges / trees and woodland. Mature trees and hedgerow along Church Lane are not formal avenues but do contribute to the landscape / townscape edge of Horsemere Green. Collectively these characteristics indicate a higher level of resilience and reduced susceptibility, specifically to the onshore cable corridor during construction. During the operation and maintenance phase, the onshore cable corridor will be buried with only the manhole covers at the landfall visible.

The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **Low** with landscape elements along Church Lane as Medium.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value:	Medium
	Landscape elements: <u>Medium</u>N/A	Landscape susceptibility:	Low <u>(landscape elements Medium)</u>

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

Within the Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 200m in length) crosses up to two arable fields (subject to cropping) and passes through a ‘gap’ between a hedgerow and tree belt on the

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

During construction:

edge of the LCA before continuing northeast into the adjacent open fields and LCA. The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

The TC-01 construction compound (approximately 120m x 100m) will be located at approximately kilometre point (KP) 0m in the arable field to the north of Climping Beach, as indicated in Viewpoint A (**Figure 18.19, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). The trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-01a and TC-02 will be located in the adjacent Lower Arun Valley Floor No. 35 LCA, and although partly screened by intervening vegetation their intervisibility will further indirectly and adversely influence the landscape character. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds ~~will remain in place for approximately six months and~~ will contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

~~Ground-based construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short-term duration with progressive backfill and reinstatement as the onshore cable corridor works are completed along the onshore route within the overall 3.5 year construction phase. The trenchless crossing construction compound TC-01 will remain in place for six months and will contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.~~

The onshore cable corridor and TC-01 construction compound will add a large to medium-scale additional feature, to this landscape, contrasting with the rural character of the open fields and coastal plain. Two further trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-01a and TC-02 will be visible in the adjacent LCA (35 Lower Arun Valley Floor and part of Ford and Horsemere Green townscapes), further reinforcing the effect on landscape character. The geographical extent of the effects of the onshore cable corridor and TC-01 is a maximum of approximately 600m to the west and northwest, before being screened by vegetation along Climping Street. The minimum geographical extent is approximately 200m to the south where the effects on landscape character are contained by the sea defences along the coastline, with further containment provided to the east by shelterbelt / development at The Mill and to the north by Kents Farm and intervening vegetation along Ferry Road to the north.

The magnitude of change affecting the landscape character will be **Medium-high** and the geographical area will be contained within the arable fields within which the onshore cable corridor and TC-01 are located (<250m) reducing to **Low** in the surrounding LCA.

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

The level of effect will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<250m).

The Climping construction compound will occupy an area of approximately 6.1 hectares (ha) for the duration of the construction phase (up to 3.5 years). It will contain welfare facilities / offices, parking, construction plant and storage of soil and materials and equipment (up to 7m high) and a concrete-cement bound sand batching plant up to 20m high. The temporary construction compound will be accessed off Church Lane and contained by security screen fencing, set back from the canopy and root zone of the existing perimeter trees. The existing gate / field entrance will be enlarged and the vegetation (H10) at this location cleared to 20m to allow for the enlarged temporary construction access (A-05) and vegetation managed via pruning / trimming to allow for visibility splay requirements. The compound is located within a single large arable field that will be well screened throughout the year by existing mature vegetation (trees and hedgerows / shrubs) along Church Lane to the weeast and the A259 to the south and along the perimeter of the Climping Village Hall and Playing Fields. There is further perimeter vegetation (mature trees and hedgerows / shrubs) to the north of this field unit and the eawestern boundary of the field is contained by further shrubs and the Climping Park (mobile home park) further east. As a result, the Climping construction compound will be well contained within this LCA although the top of the cement bound sande concrete batching plant will be visible over a wider area. At closer range, along Church Lane, construction vehicle movements and local task and vehicle lighting may be visible in poor weather / light conditions and soil storage at Works No. 11 along the eastern boundary are likely to be visible from the caravan park and A259 containing the perimeter of the construction compound.

The magnitude of change (taking account of construction access A-05 and the cement bound sande concrete batching plant) will be High affecting a small geographical area of the LCA (the arable field in which the compound is located) reducing to Low in the surrounding LCA, beyond the perimeter vegetation screening and mobile home park. The magnitude of change likely to affect the landscape character as a result of the Climping construction compound will be **High to Medium-high** affecting a small geographical area of the LCA (contained within the affected field unit) reducing to non-significant levels in the surrounding LCA.

The level of effect will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<250m).

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate and Significant (<250m)
	Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and Significant No Effect

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

Type of effect	Short-term, <u>(long-term in relation to mature trees)</u> , temporary, direct and adverse. <u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.</u>
During operation and maintenance:- Years 1-10	All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be No Effect on landscape elements.
During operation and maintenance: - Year 1	All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual Negligible effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1. The Climping temporary compound will be reinstated to arable field. The gap created by the removal / <u>management</u> of existing trees and hedgerow (H10) to allow for temporary construction access (A-05) will be replanted with new trees and hedgerow <u>and managed vegetation will re-grow</u> . Although 'mitigated' the change to the existing landscape elements would reduce to Medium magnitude (all seasons). The level of effect would be Moderate and Significant , reflecting a localised loss of vegetation on Church Lane.
- Year 5	Operation and maintenance (Year 5): There will be No effect on landscape character. The new trees and hedgerow would be established and the magnitude of change will reduce to Low . The <u>residual</u> level of effect <u>on landscape character</u> would be Minor and Not Significant .
- Year 10	<u>There will be No effect on landscape character.</u>

No. 31: Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA

Replacement planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain limited to H10. The level of effect on landscape elements (H10) will be **Minor / Negligible** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will be experienced cumulatively with residential development at Ferry Road (ID 61 / 62, Arun Local Plan - reference site SD9) which indirectly affects the neighbouring 35: Lower Arun Floor LCA to the north-east. Both the additional cumulative effect on the onshore elements of the Proposed Development and the combined cumulative effects of other development will be **Significant (Moderate)**.

Table 2-4 Effects on landscape character within No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint C (Figure 18.22), Viewpoint C1 (Figure 18.23), and Viewpoint D (Figure 18.24), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy

National Character Area:

NCA 126: South Coast Plain

No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

	County Character Area:	SC10: Lower Arun Valley LCA
Designation:	None	
Character description	<p>This LCA overlaps with the mid and northeastern parts of the wider SC10: Lower Arun Valley and comprises extensive drained floodplain pastures along the River Arun. Some stretches of the tidal river are contained by high banks engineered to control flooding. The area is influenced by urban development at Littlehampton including wharves, jetties, moorings, and a golf course. Elsewhere there are large open arable fields. There are views to Arundel and Arundel Castle from within the area. Sensitivities at the regional level include unsympathetic reprofiling and changes to riverbanks and associated drainage. The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor. The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):</p> <p><u>Key Characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Open valley floor, predominately pasture with occasional arable fields.</i> • <i>Exposed with wide-open views, including north to Arundel.</i> • <i>Centred on the River Arun and contains a network of railway lines.</i> • <i>Minor recreational uses adjacent to Ford.”</i> <p>The most relevant features relating to the onshore cable corridor are the open pasture fields which tend to be contained by ditches rather than hedgerows and the area generally is un-wooded. No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the open character and views are noted as aspects contributing to the local scenic quality and recreational value.</p> <p><u>Landscape elements:</u> There are trees and hedgerows along some field boundaries within this part of the onshore cable corridor, as well as field drainage / watercourses along the mainly pasture field boundaries.</p>	
Assessment of sensitivity	<u>Landscape value:</u>	

No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

The overall value of this landscape is stated as ‘Substantial’ in the Arun Landscape Study (2006). This relates to a cumulative value ascribed to moderate to high scenic beauty, setting to Arundel and proximity to the SDNP. In terms of designation alone however, the LCA is not designated at a national or local level.

The landscape is not rare or particularly scenic, being intensively grazed with flat open fields that are interspersed by broken tree belts and occasional hedgerows. The River Arun is contained by engineered bunds and the associated drainage ditches are not scenically valued. However, the proximity of this landscape to Arundel Castle and the South Downs to the north affords higher levels of landscape quality in terms of the area’s local sense of place and representativeness. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its heritage and recreational attributes. The area includes a number of recreational routes (River Arundel footpath and local footpaths), campsites and sailing / marinas.

The landscape value is therefore assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006, para. 5.2.2) ascribes an inherently ‘Major’ level of landscape susceptibility due to its *“Intact pastoral landscape, provides setting to Arundel and separation to Littlehampton, low lying floodplain.”* Considering the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, in this case their ground-based, short-term and temporary duration, the landscape susceptibility to this type of development is lower. This is due to the relatively flat topography which limits wider views and the lower sensitivity of grassland and occasional crops within the fields which will quickly recover from the construction works. Permanent pasture will be more sensitive than arable fields which are subject to regular cultivation. Woodland is not a characteristic of the valley flood plain and the treebelts and occasional hedgerows tend to be sparse and or broken. Collectively these characteristics indicate a higher level of resilience and reduced susceptibility to the construction and operation of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **Low** with landscape elements Medium-low.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value:	Medium
	Landscape elements: Medium-low	Landscape susceptibility:	Low <u>(landscape elements Medium-low)</u>

No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 2.3km in length) crosses up to nine arable fields (subject to cropping) and passes through two linear scrub / hedges (the rest being open ditches) before reaching the A284 at Lyminster on the eastern edge of the LCA. The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Two trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-03 and TC-04 (approximately 50m x 75m) will be located just beyond the north-western edge of Littlehampton. Compound TC-03 is in an open arable field (approximate KP 2.3km) and to the north of the trenchless crossing between the River Arun and the Littlehampton / Arundel / Ford railway line; and compound TC-04 in an open pasture field (approximate KP 3.1km) to the south of the trenchless crossing beneath the northernmost branch of the Littlehampton / Arundel / Ford railway line. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

Compound TC-05 will be located in the adjacent Black Ditch Rife No.41 LCA, and although partly screened by intervening vegetation its intervisibility will further indirectly influence the landscape character.

~~Ground-based construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these temporary construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately 350m) or when viewing along the onshore cable corridor, reducing to **Medium-low** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation and accommodated within the wider scale of the flat, open fields, close to the eastern edge of the LCA which is influenced by development at Littlehampton and Lyminster.

The River Arun and railway lines will be subject to trenchless crossing as illustrated in Viewpoint C (**Figure 18.22, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and there will be **No Effect** on the landscape.

No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

Construction access A-09 is located at an existing access point off the A259 to the north of the railway line and continuing along existing farm tracks through pasture fields to the onshore cable corridor. It is assumed that some tree pruning will be required to maintain existing visibility splays at each access point. The magnitude of change will be **Low** affecting a small geographical area of landscape character in the local vicinity of the respective access.

Construction access A-12 is located of Lyminster Road at the edge of the LCA and will require the clearance of hedgerow / scrub (H27 / HS8) along the roadside to allow for access and visibility splays.

The magnitude of change affecting the landscape character will be **Medium-high** and the geographical area will be contained within the fields within which the onshore cable corridor and TC-03 and TC-04 are located, <350m) reducing to **Low** in the surrounding LCA. Overall, the level of effect will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<350m).

Landscape Elements:

The onshore cable corridor will cross ~~three~~ one areas of scrub (HS1002 notched to 14m, and HS336 and HS656 both cleared to 20m) and a hedge (H22 notched to 14m). Construction and operational access A-12 will require total clearance and management of 30m of hedgerow / scrub (H27 / HS8) along the roadside and management (pruning) to allow for access and visibility splays which will be reduced due to temporary speed limit of 30mph.

The removal of ~~14m of~~ vegetation at these locations will appear as a breaks in the already fragmented linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is not identified as a key characteristic and will not significantly affect the LCA. Changes of direction in the onshore cable corridor will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA. The magnitude of change will be Medium and the level of effect on the landscape elements will be **Moderate / Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate and Significant (<350m) Landscape elements: Moderate / Minor and Not Significant
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Type of effect	Short-term, <u>(long-term in relation to mature trees)</u> , temporary, direct and adverse. <u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the</u>
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No. 34 Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA

construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

<p>During operation and maintenance: - Year 1</p>	<p>All construction areas will have been reinstated <u>and there will be a residual Negligible effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1.</u></p> <p>However, <u>two a total of five</u> landscape elements are affected comprising scrub (HS1002, <u>HS336, HS656 and H27 / HS8</u>) and a hedge (H22) <u>cleared to 20-30m or</u> notched to 14m. New replacement <u>hedge / scrub</u> planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss <u>(see Graphic A-3, Annex A, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP4-047]).</u> The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be <u>Negligible - Zero/Low</u> and the level of effect <u>on landscape elements will be Minor / Negligible and Not Significant</u>, reflecting that they are not key characteristics.</p>
<p>- Year 5</p>	<p>Replacement <u>hedge / scrub</u> planting will be established along with retained hedges between the notches <u>and vegetation managed to allow for visibility at access A-12 will re-grow. T-and</u> there will be No Effect on the on the landscape elements <u>or landscape character.</u></p>
<p>- Year 10</p>	<p>There will be No Effect on the on the landscape elements as the new planting will be well established.</p>
<p>Whole Proposed Development effects</p>	<p>The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).</p> <p>The onshore substation at Oakdene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.</p>
<p>Cumulative effects assessment</p>	<p>There will be no significant cumulative landscape effects, residential / mixed development along the urban fringe at Littlehampton is already accounted for in the baseline.</p>

Table 2-5 Effects on landscape character within No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoint B (Figure 18.20) and Viewpoint Q (Figure 18.60), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 126: South Coast Plain
	County Character Area: SC10: Lower Arun Valley LCA
Designation:	None
Character description	<p>This LCA is located within the wider SC10: Lower Arun Valley and comprises extensive drained floodplain pastures along the River Arun. Some stretches of the tidal river are contained by high banks engineered to control flooding. The area is influenced by urban development at Littlehampton including wharves, jetties, moorings, and a golf course. Elsewhere there are large open arable fields. There are views to Arundel from within the area. Sensitivities at the regional level include changes to riverbanks and drainage by unsympathetic reprofiling.</p> <p>The Historic Landscape Character is Area 21: Worthing Coastal Plain / Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.</p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Valley floor with areas of unmanaged scrub, utilities and recreation.</i> • <i>Southern end of area comprised of coastal golf course.</i> • <i>Views, particularly from along riverside footpath, partially enclosed by areas of vegetation.</i> • <i>Area bisected by busy A259 road.</i> • <i>Urban influence from adjoining Littlehampton to the east and from the A259.</i>

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

- *Occasional distant views of Arundel and the South Downs to the north.”*

No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the open character and river / sea views are noted as aspects contributing to the local scenic quality and recreational value in relation to golf course.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The overall value of this landscape is stated as ‘Moderate’ in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006) due to non-designated landscape, proximity to the locally valued Arun Valley and the scenic value of the undeveloped coastline.

It is influenced by urban development including a coastal golf course, jetties / marinas and engineered embankment to its eastern edge. The landscape is not rare or particularly scenic, the flat arable fields being intensively farmed and interspersed by tree belts and hedgerows which are not uncommon to the wider area. However, the proximity of this landscape to the coastline affords higher levels of landscape quality in terms of the area’s local sense of place and representativeness. Opportunities to experience the landscape result include riverside recreational routes (NCR 2 and local footpaths), campsites, golfing, beach access and associated recreational facilities.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006, para. 5.2.2) ascribes an inherently ‘Substantial’ level of landscape susceptibility because it *“Includes the only substantial area of undeveloped coastline, largely rural, within the floodplain and provides separation between Middleton-on-sea and Littlehampton.”* Considering the nature of the onshore cable corridor and its ground-based, short-term and temporary duration the landscape susceptibility to this type of development is lower. This is due to the changing character of the landuse and landcover pattern, resulting from development pressures in the north at Horsemere Green and Ferry Road, the relatively flat landscape which limits views of ground-based construction activity and the arable fields which regularly encompass crop rotation, and movement of agricultural machinery. There are limited hedges / trees and woodland. Collectively these characteristics indicate a higher level of resilience and reduced susceptibility to the construction and operation and maintenance of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

The susceptibility of the landscape and landscape elements is assessed as **Low**.

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value:	Medium
	Landscape elements: Medium-low	Landscape susceptibility:	Low

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 2km in length) crosses up to five arable fields and passing through three field boundaries (trees and hedgerow) before reaching the southern bank of the River Arun. The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Construction compounds TC-01a (approximately 120m x 100m) and TC-02 (approximately 75m x 50m) will be located at approximately between KP0.3 and KP0.6 in the open arable field to the south of Ferry Road, largely screened from the road by vegetation as indicated in **Viewpoint Q (Figure 18.60, Volume 3)** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18). A further alternative trenchless crossing compound (TC-03a) may be located within this LCA to the south of the River Arun, as an alternative location to compound TC-03 in the neighbouring LCA (34 Middle Arun Valley Floor).

Two further trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-01 (north of Climping Beach) and TC-03 (north of the River Arun) will be visible in the adjacent LCAs, further reinforcing the effect on landscape character.

The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately six months (TC-01) or three to three to four months (TC-03) and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

Construction and operational access A-01 and light construction accesses A-02, A-03: will be up to 6m in width and will all access off Ferry Road via existing farm gateways.

Between Ferry Road and the A259 the onshore cable corridor will be subject to trenchless crossing and there will be **No Effect** on the landscape.

The Climping construction compound will be visible in the adjacent Climping Lower Coastal Plain LCA No. 31 as assessed previously.

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

~~Either side of the trenchless crossing, activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately 350m) or when viewing along the onshore cable corridor, reducing within the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and accommodated within the scale of the open fields.

Landscape elements:

North of the A259, the onshore cable corridor (open cut) crosses ~~three-four~~ vegetated drains / field boundaries, the southernmost ~~(H13) is a field margin notched to 6m,~~ (H16 / W388) ~~is a drain~~ comprising a hedgerow with occasional trees / shrubs ~~notched to 14m,~~ whilst the northernmost ~~ones-two~~ (HS49 / W52, and HS48) comprise linear scrub and trees. ~~The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations (tree lines notched 14m and linear scrub~~ cleared to 30m. ~~Each of these~~ will appear as a break in the already fragmented linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is not identified as a key characteristic and will not significantly affect the LCA. Changes of direction in the onshore cable corridor will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA.

For these reasons, the magnitude of change affecting the landscape character and landscape elements will be **Medium-high** and the geographical extents will be contained within the field boundaries (<350m) of the onshore cable corridor.

The level of effect will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<350m) in respect of the LCA and **Moderate** and **Not Significant** in respect of the landscape elements which are not a key characteristic.

The inclusion of alternative compound TC-03a in replacement of TC-03 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within either LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate and Significant (<350m)
	Landscape elements: Moderate and Not Significant

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

Type of effect Short-term, [\(long-term in relation to mature trees\)](#), temporary, direct and adverse.

[Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works \(3.5 years\), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.](#)

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated [there will be a residual **Negligible** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1.](#)

However, [the landscape elements associated with three landscape elements field boundaries](#) are affected comprising scrub cleared to 30m (HS48 and HS49 / [W52](#)) and hedge (W388 / H16) notched to 14m. New replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss [\(see Graphic A-3, Annex A, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan \[REP4-047\]\)](#). The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be Medium-low and the level of effect **Minor** and **Not Significant**, reflecting that they are not key characteristics.

- Year 5

[There will be **No effect** on landscape character.](#)

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be established along with retained hedges between the notches. Therefore, the magnitude of change will reduce to **Negligible-Zero**. The level of effect [on landscape elements](#) will be **Minor / Negligible** and **Not Significant**

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on the on landscape [character or](#) elements as the new planting will be well established.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in [Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

No. 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor LCA

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will be experienced cumulatively with residential development at Ferry Road (ID 61 / 62, Arun Local Plan - reference site SD9). Both the additional cumulative effect on the onshore elements of the Proposed Development and the combined cumulative effects of other development will be **Significant (Moderate)** assuming they occur either simultaneously and / or consecutively in separate phases.

Table 2-6 Effects on landscape character within No. 38 Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides LCA

No. 38 Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides LCA

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint C1 (Figure 18.23), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy

National Character Area:

NCA 126: South Coast Plain

County Character Area:

SC10: Lower Arun Valley LCA

Designation:

None

Character description

This LCA is located on the eastern, urban edge of the wider SC10: Lower Arun Valley and is largely covered by recent housing development at Court Wick Park on the north-western edge of Littlehampton. The remaining landscape components consist of arable and pasture fields fringing the housing development and associated with Brook Barn Farm. Beyond this the area is bounded by railway lines associated with Arundel Junction and there is a solar farm to the north, both within the neighbouring Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA (No. 34). [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.](#)

No. 38 Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides LCA

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):

Key Characteristics:

- *“Mainly large scale arable fields.*
- *Urban influence from Littlehampton and Wick to the east.*
- *Contained by boundary vegetation to the west.*
- *Adjacent to Middle Arun Valley Floor.”*

The most relevant characteristic relating to the onshore cable corridor is the urban influence of recent housing development on the edge of Littlehampton. This has dramatically altered the LCA taking up the majority of this area since the Arun Landscape Study (2006) and increasing the urban influence on the eastern edge of the LCA.

Landscape elements: comprise arable crops and grassland with some treebelts along field boundaries and farm tracks and some trees along the railway line.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The overall value of this landscape is stated as ‘Slight’ in the Arun Landscape Study (2006). This relates to a cumulative value ascribed to the areas limited scenic beauty, in combination with proximity to the locally valued Arun Valley. In terms of designation alone however, the LCA is not designated at a national or local level.

The landscape is not rare or particularly scenic, being intensively farmed and now comprises the urban fringe of Littlehampton. The recent housing development has views across this landscape which is likely to be highly valued by local residents, but there are no recreational facilities or footpaths.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium to low**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006, para. 5.2.2) ascribes an inherently ‘Substantial’ level of landscape susceptibility because it “...*contributes to separation between Arundel and Littlehampton.*” This characteristic no longer applies as much of the LCA has been developed. The nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development during the construction phase will be ground-based, short-term and temporary and are most likely to be screened by existing treebelts with occasional views of the onshore cable corridor possible.

Viewpoint C1 (Figure 18.23, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) is located on the edge of the

No. 38 Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides LCA

LCA, beyond perimeter vegetation, viewing towards the onshore cable corridor and out of the LCA. These factors combined with the changing character of the landuse and landcover pattern of the arable fields which regularly encompass crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery indicate a reduced susceptibility. In addition, the influence of urban elements in the LCA increase the sense of a built environment with increased traffic movement and linear infrastructure. Permanent pasture will be more sensitive than arable fields which are subject to regular cultivation. Collectively these characteristics promote a higher level of resilience and reduced susceptibility to the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **Low**.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Low	Landscape value:	Medium to low
	Landscape elements: N/A	Landscape susceptibility:	Low

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

The onshore cable corridor is routed just beyond the edge of the LCA in the adjacent Middle Arun Valley Floor LCA (No. 34). The ground-based construction activity, will be partly screened beyond the perimeter hedge / vegetation ~~and along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short-term duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route.~~

The magnitude of change likely to indirectly affect the landscape character will be **Low**.

The onshore cable corridor construction works will not affect trees or other landscape elements.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Negligible and Not Significant
	Landscape elements: No Effect

Type of effect Short-term, temporary, direct and neutral.

No. 38 Littlehampton Arun Valley Sides LCA

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the onshore cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance:
- Years 1-10

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be **No Effect** on landscape elements.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no significant cumulative landscape effects, residential / mixed development along the urban fringe at Littlehampton is already accounted for in the baseline.

Table 2-7 Effects on landscape character within No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint H2a (Figure 18.36), Viewpoint H2b (Figure 18.37), Viewpoint H2c (Figure 18.38), Viewpoint H3a (Figure 18.39), and Viewpoint WS3 (Figure 18.75), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

LCA hierarchy

National Character Area:

NCA 126: South Coast Plain

County Character Type:

LW5: Southern Low Weald

SC11: Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes

Designation:

None

Character description

This LCA overlaps with the county character area boundaries of LW5: Southern Low Weald in the north (within which the onshore cable corridor is routed) and SC11: Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes in the south. The LCA comprises a relatively low-lying, gently undulating clay landscape, drained by shallow stream valleys. It is characterised by an intricate pattern of small pastures, enclosed by hedgerows and shaws which contrasts in places with a broader, open, homogenous arable landscape with some large fields. Immediately outside the main settlements, landscape is rural and peaceful. Sensitivities at the regional level include removal of hedgerows and loss of individual specimen hedgerow and field trees. [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.](#)

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):

Key characteristics:

- *“Consists almost entirely of open arable fields.*
- *Boundary vegetation provides enclosure.*
- *Surrounds Poling.*
- *Bounded by busy A27 to the north.*
- *Middle distance views of Downs.*
- *Rural landscape.”*

[No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the proximity of the SDNP to the north of the A27 has an influence and the area in and around Polling is relatively tranquil.](#)

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

Landscape elements: The most relevant features relating to the onshore cable corridor are the areas of pasture, hedgerow and field trees.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The overall value of this landscape is stated as ‘Substantial’ in the Arun Landscape Study (2006). This relates to a cumulative value ascribed to ‘moderate’ scenic beauty, in combination with proximity to / setting of the SDNP as well as ancient woodland and other non-landscape designations. In terms of landscape designation alone however, the LCA is not designated at a national or local level.

The landscape is not rare, comprising arable fields interspersed by tree belts and hedgerows with some large-scale agricultural buildings and the busy A27 road along the northern boundary both of which detract from the scenic / amenity value. However, the proximity of this landscape to the South Downs affords slightly higher levels of landscape quality in terms of the areas local sense of place and representativeness. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its heritage and recreational attributes. The area includes a number of recreational routes (local footpaths), and the remains of a priory.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium-high**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006, para. 5.2.2) ascribes an inherently ‘Substantial’ level of landscape susceptibility, with susceptible attributes including: “*Rural upper coastal plain adjacent to AONB [now the SDNP], detached from existing settlement, relatively high ecological and heritage value.*”

Some of the mature trees within this LCA ~~are of~~ vary between High to Medium susceptibility due to their age, landscape role (screening the A27) and scenic or amenity value. Permanent pasture will be more sensitive than arable fields which are subject to regular cultivation. Considering the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, in this case their ground-based, short-term and temporary duration the landscape susceptibility to this type of development is lower. This is due to the limited duration of the construction works, the changing nature of arable fields and the screening effects of treebelts and hedgerows that contain the open fields preventing wider views of construction activity. Collectively these characteristics indicate greater resilience and reduced susceptibility to the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **Low** with some mature trees of **Medium-high** susceptibility.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium	Landscape value:	<u>High to Medium</u> Medium-high
	Landscape elements: Medium-high (trees / treelines)	Landscape susceptibility:	Low <u>(landscape elements Medium-high)</u>

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction: Within the Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 4.2km in length) crosses approximately eight arable fields and four pasture fields (subject to cropping) from the eastern edge of Lyminster to the A27 north-west of Angmering, bypassing to the north of the village of Poling. The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-06, TC-07, TC-08 and TC-09 (all approximately 70m x 50m) will be located within the LCA, with alternative temporary construction compound locations TC-06a, TC-07a, TC-08a, TC-09a and TC-10a also located within the LCA. Temporary construction compounds TC-06 (approximate KP 05km) and TC-07 (approximate KP 07km) will be sited within large arable fields to the east of Lyminster and to the north of Poling respectively. Temporary construction compounds TC-08 (approximate KP 08.2km) and TC-09 (approximate KP 08.5km) and alternative TC-10a, will be sited within smaller scale fields, close to the A27 and surrounded by mature field boundaries and woodland belts. There will be five trenchless crossing along this part of the onshore cable corridor (TC-06 related to the Lyminster Bypass, TC-07 crossing Poling Street, TC-08 and TC-09 crossing a public right of way (PRoW). Decoy Lane and mature woodland and TC-10 crossing the A27. In all cases roadside vegetation will be retained, including that along the A27.

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

The trenchless crossing construction compound TC-05 will be located in the adjacent Black Ditch Rife No. 41 LCA, and although partly screened by intervening vegetation its intervisibility will further indirectly influence the landscape character. The retention of landscape features (hedgerows, tree line features and woodland) means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at these locations.

~~Either side of the trenchless crossings, activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route.~~

Construction and operational accesses:

- Light construction and operational access A-14: Located off Lyminster Road at Lyminster will provide temporary construction and operational access.
- Construction and operational accesses A-15 and A-16: Located off the route of Lyminster Bypass will provide temporary construction and operational access directly onto the cable corridor.
- Light construction and operational accesses A-17 and A-18: Located off Poling Street to the north of Poling will provide temporary construction and operational access directly onto the cable corridor.
- Light construction access A-20: Located off the A27 and via an existing lane at Orchard Rough will provide temporary construction access. The access tracks will be 6m wide with crushed aggregate.

Collectively the magnitude of change resulting from the construction accesses will be **Low**.

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <350m) reducing to **Medium-low** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation.

The inclusion of alternative compounds TC-06a, TC-07a, TC-08a, TC-09a and TC-10a in replacement of TC-06, TC-07, TC-08, TC-09 and TC-10 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

The level of effect on landscape character will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<350m).

Landscape elements:

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

Within this 4.2km section of the onshore cable corridor There will be localised significant effects on nine~~eight~~ landscape elements, including six treelines / hedges (H601, H600, W9, H521, H527 / H52~~89~~, and H531 all notched to between 6-14m), ~~and~~ two areas of woodland (W37-41 cleared to 6m) and W49/~~46~~ notched to 6m), and an area of scrub (HS1 cleared to 20m along Polling Street) ~~within this 4.2km section of the onshore cable corridor.~~

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the extent of vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA, but the nature of this effect will be long-term or permanent in the case of woodland, although limited to 6m. The magnitude of change will be **Medium**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect Landscape character: **Moderate** and **Significant** (<350m)
Landscape elements: **Moderate** and **Significant**

Type of effect Short-term (long-term or permanent in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated with a residual **Moderate / Minor** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1.
Nine~~Eight~~ landscape elements, including six treelines / hedges (H601, H600, W9, H521, H527 / H52~~89~~, and H531) and two areas of woodland (W37-41 ~~cleared to 6m~~) and W49 ~~notched to 6m~~), and an area of scrub (HS1) will have been affected.

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

New replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss ([see Graphic A-3, Annex A, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan \[REP4-047\]](#)).

The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be **Medium** and the level of effect [on landscape elements will be Moderate](#) and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

[There will be a residual Minor effect on the landscape character.](#)

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate / Minor** and **Not Significant**.

- Year 10

[There will be No effect on landscape character.](#)

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be well established although it will not match mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in [Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no significant cumulative landscape effects, residential / mixed development along the urban fringe at Littlehampton which is already accounted for in the baseline.

No. 40 Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA

The Lyminster Bypass construction work has already commenced, and it is due for completion in 2024, prior to the construction phase for the Proposed Development. Accounting for a future baseline, that includes the completed Lyminster Bypass, there will be a combined cumulative effect on the landscape character resulting from both developments. The level of effect will be **Major** and **Significant**, with the greater affect resulting from the bypass which will be permanent. The Lyminster Bypass is accompanied by substantial landscaping and once established the cumulative effects would reduce, noting that the majority of the effects of the onshore cable corridor are limited to the construction phase.

Table 2-8 Effects on landscape character within No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint H1a (Figure 18.33) and H1c (Figure 18.34), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy

National Character Area:

NCA 126: South Coast Plain

County Character Area:

SC11: Littlehampton & Worthing Fringes

Designation:

None

Character description

This LCA is located within the wider SC11: Littlehampton and Worthing Fringes and comprises a relatively low-lying, flat open landscape of open fields and small paddocks, with frequent urban fringe influences from the adjacent northern edge of Littlehampton to the south. Elements include arable and market gardening, meandering rifes and straight drainage ditches, and clusters of windblown trees. There are long views to the South Downs. Sensitivities include urban development pressures, new field divisions and changes to field boundary types, loss

No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

of tree and hedgerow cover and planting of hedge and tree boundaries with unsympathetic exotic species such as Leyland Cypress. [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.](#)

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Arun Landscape Study (Arun District Council, 2006):

Key characteristics:

- *“Shallow, minor valley associated with Black Ditch.*
- *Tall, dense vegetation along ditches limits views towards Littlehampton”*

Landscape elements:

There are roadside hedgerows within this part of the onshore cable corridor, with some small areas of scrub along the mainly pasture field boundaries.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The overall value of this landscape is assessed as **Medium-low** as it is not designated at a national or local level. The landscape is not rare or particularly scenic, being intensively farmed and influenced by the urban fringe of Littlehampton.

Landscape susceptibility:

The nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development during the construction phase will be ground-based, short-term and temporary and are most likely to be screened by existing vegetation. These factors combined with the influence of urban elements indicate a higher level of resilience and reduced susceptibility to the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

The susceptibility of the landscape [and landscape elements](#) is assessed as **Low**.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value:	Medium-low
	Landscape elements: Medium-lowN/A	Landscape susceptibility:	Low

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

During construction:

The onshore cable corridor is routed through the westernmost corner of the LCA, to the south of Lyminster and continues eastwards, approximately 100m before transitioning into the adjacent Lyminster Angmering Coastal Plain LCA (No.41). Further change from the Lyminster Bypass will affect and subdivide this LCA and the adjacent LCA. Within the Black Ditch Rife LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 300m in length) crosses a series of paddocks or small pasture fields on the southern edge of Lyminster.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). A trenchless crossing compound TC-05 (approximately 70m x 50m) will be located within the paddock / pasture field to the east of the A284, as indicated in **Viewpoint H1a (Figure 18.33, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). A further trenchless crossing construction compound TC-06 will be visible in the adjacent LCA, further reinforcing the effect on landscape character. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

Temporary construction and operational access to the trenchless crossing construction compounds will be close by, off the A284, which will be crossed via trenchless crossing, retaining the roadside vegetation.

Beyond the trenchless crossing, activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the onshore cable route.

The magnitude of change affecting the landscape character will be **Medium-high** and the geographical area will be contained within the fields within which the onshore cable corridor and TC-06 are located, (<250m) reducing to **Low** in the surrounding LCA.

The level of effect will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<250m).

The onshore cable corridor construction works will ~~not affect trees or other landscape elements~~ result in the temporary loss of some scrub (HS7) and the magnitude of change would be Low.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate and Significant (<250m)
------------------------	---

No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

Landscape elements: No effect Minor / Negligible	
Type of effect	<p>Short-term, temporary, direct and neutral.</p> <p><u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.</u></p>
During operation and maintenance: - Years 1-10	All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be No Effect on landscape elements.
During operation and maintenance: - Year 1	<p>All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual Negligible effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1.</p> <p>Scrub (HS7) will be replanted the level of effect on landscape elements would be Minor / Negligible and Not Significant.</p>
- Year 5	<p>Operation and maintenance (Year 5):</p> <p>The new scrub planting would be established and the magnitude of change will reduce to Zero resulting in No effect.</p>
- Year 10	Replacement planting will be well established and there will be No effect .
Whole Proposed Development effects	The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

No. 41: Black Ditch Rife LCA

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no significant cumulative landscape effects, residential / mixed development along the urban fringe at Littlehampton is already accounted for in the baseline.

The Lyminster Bypass construction work has already commenced, and it is due for completion in 2024, prior to the construction phase for the Proposed Development. Accounting for a future baseline, that includes the completed Lyminster Bypass, there will be a combined cumulative effect on the adjacent landscape character resulting from both developments, noting that the bypass will effects a permanent change. The level of effect influencing this neighbouring LCA is likely to indirectly increase pressure for development, sub-dividing this landscape close to an urban fringe area. The effects of the onshore cable corridor will be limited to the construction phase only.

2.3 NCA 125: South Downs and South Downs National Park

2.3.1 The South Downs NCA is described by the Natural England (2013a, p. 3) as comprising:

“...whale-backed’ spine of chalk stretching from the Hampshire Downs in the west to the coastal cliffs of Beachy Head in East Sussex; two per cent of the coastline between Eastbourne and Seaford is recognised as Heritage Coast. The majority of the area falls within the South Downs National Park, a recognition of its natural beauty and importance for access and recreation, and allowing for local decision making processes to manage this nationally important area. Some eight per cent of the NCA is classified as urban, comprising the coastal conurbation of Brighton and Hove in the east. The South Downs NCA is an extremely diverse and complex landscape with considerable local variation representing physical, historical and economic influences; much of it has been formed and maintained by human activity, in particular in agriculture and forestry.”

2.3.2 Within the South Downs NCA the onshore elements of the Proposed Development are primarily routed across the edge of the R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain, the B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland and the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs before descending the main chalk escarpment, with a trenchless crossing of the I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp and crossing the J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes on the northern edge of the SDNP.

2.3.3 **Table 2-9** to **Table 2-13** details the landscape assessment and sets out the landscape effects of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development within this area.

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Table 2-9 Effects on landscape character within R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoint: H5a (Figure 18.40, Volume 3 of the ES Revised Deadline 4 [REP4-028] (Document Reference: 6.3.18))
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 125: South Downs
	County Character Type: LCT: R Upper Coastal Plain
Designation:	South Downs National Park
Character description	<p>This LCA is located just within the southern boundary of the SDNP forming part of the Upper Coastal Plain, it is a transitional landscape between the chalk downs and the flat lower coastal plain and the River Arun Valley. The LCA is underlain predominantly by upper chalk forming a smooth, gently undulating topography. The area is drained by a series of streams flowing southwards. Most of the LCA within the LVIA Study Area is mixed woodland, but there is also a strong network of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, mostly oaks alongside a mixture of small field sizes and shapes supporting a mixture of predominantly pasture (chalk grassland) and some arable. The unwooded landscape is well settled (Crossbush and a series of farms) and is rich in historic features. The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.</p> <p>The key characteristics are described in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) 2020: <u>Key Characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The northern edge of the low lying, undulating, fertile strip of land between the dipslope of the South Downs and the sea.</i> • <i>The underlying geology (upper chalk) is masked by drift deposits of ‘Head’ (weathered and broken up material) at the foot of the dipslope which gives rise to stony fertile soils.</i> • <i>The outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill is a distinctive feature and is separated from the chalk dipslope to the north by a narrow clay vale.</i>

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

- *Drains, ponds and streams around Ashling, including the source of the Bosham Stream, and designed ponds at Ashling Park, provide important ecological features in the local context.*
- *Mixture of field sizes and shapes supporting a mixture of pasture and arable – vast fields between East Lavant and Halnaker are reminiscent of the medieval open field landscape that formerly existed here.*
- *A strong network of hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and small woodlands create structure – woodlands form important visual and ecological links with the wooded downs to the north. Extensive woodland cover in the east creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the A27.*
- *The clay vale between the chalk dipslope in the north and the outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill was probably assarted from the late Saxon period onwards, producing the irregular patchwork of early enclosures still visible around Ecclesden Farm (east of Angmering). Blocks of recent enclosure mark areas of former common e.g. at Slindon.*
- *Nucleated historic villages e.g. Funtington, West Ashling, East Ashling, Mid Lavant, and East Lavant, are located along the foot of the dipslope. Characteristic building materials include flint and brick.*
- *Registered Park and Garden at Highdown and other historic parklands at Ashling, Goodwood, Slindon and Binsted, contribute landscape features such as avenues, parkland trees, and woodland.*
- *A wealth of archaeological features indicating the long history of the landscape, including the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill and the series of Iron Age linear boundaries defining an area of high status settlement on the outskirts of Chichester at 'Devil's Ditch'.*
- *Crossed by narrow rural roads, many of which continue up the dipslope of the chalk onto the chalk downs.*
- *Sand and gravel pits indicate the economic value of the underlying drift deposits.*
- *Views over the coastal plain and towards the sea from Highdown Hill.”*

In addition, the SDNP has seven special qualities that in particular celebrate the diversity of landscape character and tranquillity at a national level. The key characteristics also refer to dark horizons and a number of historical elements and characteristics that give this landscape a strong 'time depth'. Other aspects of the LCA contribute to high landscape quality, scenic and recreational value.

Landscape Elements:

Sensitivities at the regional level include the strong network of hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and small woodlands; early field enclosure patterns which could be vulnerable to field amalgamation; parkland trees and woodland

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

associated with historic parklands; and the rural character of unmarked roads which could be vulnerable to 'improvement'.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape Value:

The LCA is located within the SDNP which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its heritage and recreational attributes which consist of a number of recreational routes including an extensive network of local footpaths, historic buildings, settlements and rural roads.

The landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape Susceptibility:

The landuse and landcover pattern of established hedgerows and mature woodland are indicators of increased susceptibility to change and areas of permanent pasture will also be vulnerable to disturbance, although less so than hedgerows, trees and woodland. Although the onshore elements of the Proposed Development are short term and linear the predominant landscape characteristics indicate high levels of susceptibility (~~trees and~~ woodland cover) reducing to medium-high for linear vegetation and medium for in the areas of small pasture fields. The high levels of woodland and hedgerow cover also help to limit and screen the construction development, reducing the susceptibility of the landscape character.

The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **Medium - High**.

Sensitivity:

Landscape character: High
Landscape elements: Medium-high

Landscape value: High

Landscape susceptibility: Medium-High

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the South Downs Upper Coastal Plain LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 1.2km in length) crosses approximately four arable fields (subject to cropping) between the A27 at Hammerpot, northwards to the west of Norfolk House (approximate KP 10.1km). The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). Trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-10, TC-11 and alternative trenchless crossing compound location TC-11a (all approximately 70m x 50m), are located in single fields to the north of the A27. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling. The onshore cable corridor will be subject to trenchless crossings at the A27 (approximate KP 08.9km) and a bridleway (PRoW 2188) to the north of Hammerpot (approximate KP 09.4km). Treelines on either side of the bridleway will however, be notched to 6m to allow for the temporary construction haul road.

~~Beyond the trenchless crossings, temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short-term duration with progressive backfill and reinstatement as the onshore cable corridor works are completed along the route within the overall 3.5 year construction phase.~~ The trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-10 and TC-11 will add a medium-scale additional feature to this landscape, contrasting with the rural character of the open fields although partly screened by woodland belts and within the influence of the nearby A27 road corridor.

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be three temporary construction accesses (approximately 6m wide) two of which will also provide operational access along the onshore cable corridor:

- Access A-21: Construction and operational access off the A27 at Hammerpot directly into the route of the onshore cable corridor ~~(Medium-high to Low magnitude, subject to confirmation of access details and visibility splay requirements as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**).~~
- Access A-22: Construction and operational access off the A27 at Hammerpot, ~~with access across requires access through a treebelt (W12) notched to 14m cleared to 22m and managed / pruned/pruned to allow for visibility splays) and into~~ an arable field. ~~This will contribute to a Medium-high magnitude of change to the landscape character and elements, subject to confirmation of access details and visibility splay requirements as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**.~~
- Access A-24: Light construction and operational access from Swillage Lane and via a field boundary bordering Norfolk House ~~(Low magnitude).~~

~~None will require vegetation removal and collectively the magnitude of change will be Low.~~

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

Overall, the scale and geographical extent of the construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately 250m) or when viewing along the onshore cable corridor, reducing to **Low to Negligible-Zero** in the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will be largely screened by successive layers of field boundary vegetation and woodland.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compounds TC-10a (within the neighbouring LCA) and TC-11a in replacement of TC-10 and TC-11 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major and Significant**.

Landscape elements:

Within this 1.2km section of onshore cable corridor there will be localised significant effects on ~~three~~two landscape elements. These include ~~one double treeline (W15 and W16 to allow for a 6m wide haul road) either side of the PRoW 2188 north of Hammerpot notched to 6m, and one treeline (W8 notched to 14m) at PRoW 2190, notched to 14m) and one treeline (W12 cleared to 22m and managed / pruned to allow for visibility splays notched to 14m) at construction access A-22~~within this 1.2km section of onshore cable corridor.

The removal of trees and hedges at each of these locations will appear as illustrated in Graphic A-3, Annex A, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP4-047]. ~~a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the~~ The notching process will limit the extent of vegetation loss and when combined with the varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA and the pattern of vegetation which is a key characteristic. The loss of vegetation and will not affect the *dark horizon* in views from the A27. ~~The nature of this effects will be long-term in the case of mature trees, although the notch is limited to 6-14m.~~ The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Major and Significant (<250m)
	Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and Significant

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

Type of effect Short-term (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1, reflecting the localised loss to tree lines.

~~All construction areas will have been reinstated.~~

~~Three landscape elements (one double treeline (W15 and W16) either side of the PRoW 2188 north of Hammerpot notched to 6m, and one treeline (W8) at PRoW 2190, notched to 14m) will have been~~will be affected. These include one double treeline either side of the PRoW 2188 north of Hammerpot (W15 and W16), one treeline at PRoW 2190 (W8), and one treeline (W12) at construction access A-22.

New replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained trees / hedgerow between the notches or within short 6m cleared sections will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge or treeline rather than a complete loss.

The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be **Medium** and the level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be established, along with retained hedges / trees which will re-grow between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate / Minor** and **Not Significant**.

R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge~~-planting will be well established. ~~A~~although it will not match mature trees the hedgerows will appear as complete and connected with trees / treelines occurring along their length. ~~A -and a~~ **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-10 Effects on landscape character within B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint: H6a (Figure 18.41, Revised Deadline 4), Viewpoint: H7c (Figure 18.44), and Viewpoint: NP3 (Figure 18.71), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)[REP4-029 – REP4-030]

LCA hierarchy

National Character Area:

NCA 125: South Downs

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

	County Character Type:	LCT: B Wooded Estate Downland
Designation:	South Downs National Park	
Character description	<p>Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland is a distinctive ridge of chalk dominated by large woodland blocks and estates in the central part of the South Downs. The area supports extensive woodland including semi-natural ancient woodland, beech, mixed and commercial coniferous plantation. The woodland is interlocked with irregular shaped arable fields linked by hedgerows. Views are contained within woodland but there are some longer-range views from elevated open areas. Scattered villages and farmsteads are a feature of the landscape. Sensitivities at the regional level include large areas of ancient woodland, rare yew forests, chalk grassland, chalk heath and mixed scrub. The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.</p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020):</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Comprises a chalk dip slope, exhibiting a strong and distinctive topography of rolling hills. supporting a mosaic of parkland, woodland and mixed farmland.</i> • <i>Slightly acidic heavy soils support large expanses of ancient woodland, including assart woodland, much of which may have originated before the medieval period, but also including ornamental plantations associated with landscape parks at Michelgrove and Angmering together with game coverts.</i> • <i>Interwoven with the woodland is an agricultural landscape of straight-sided arable fields linked by hedgerows – fields that were largely amalgamated in the 20th century.</i> • <i>A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – most of 18th-19th century origin, with some of medieval origin representing shrunken hamlets. Chalk flint is the dominant building material, often edged with red brick.</i> • <i>Medieval villages located in the dry valleys at Patching and Clapham are surrounded by early planned enclosures.</i> • <i>A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement.</i> 	

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

- *Constantly changing views with some views across to Arundel Castle to the west and other views across the open downland to the north and the coastal plain to the south.”*

In addition, the SDNP has seven special qualities that in particular celebrate the diversity of landscape character and tranquillity at a national level. The key characteristics also refer to views and a number of historical elements and *assart woodland* characteristics that give this landscape a strong ‘time depth’ and sense of tranquillity. Other aspects of the LCA contribute to high landscape quality, scenic and recreational value.

Landscape elements:

The main landscape elements that will be affected by the onshore cable corridor are arable fields, hedgerows (TRX-04) and field boundary woodland.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland LCT is located within the SDNP which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its heritage and recreational attributes which consist of a number of recreational routes including an extensive network of local footpaths, national/long distance walking route (Monarch’s Way) and rural roads.

The landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape susceptibility:

Susceptibility to change from the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, is influenced by their ground-based, short-term and temporary duration. Wooded areas are likely to have high levels of susceptibility, reducing to medium-high for linear vegetation and medium for areas of small pasture fields.

~~The landcover pattern of established hedgerows, mature woodland and elevated and open arable fields are indicators of increased susceptibility to change.~~ However, the arable fields will also be less susceptible to change since they are regularly subject to seasonal cultivation and agricultural change. In addition, the high levels of woodland and hedgerow cover also help to limit and screen the construction development, reducing the susceptibility of the landscape character. Collectively these characteristics indicate a **Medium-high** susceptibility and reduced resilience to the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity:

Landscape character: High

Landscape value:

High

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

Landscape elements: **High** (trees / woodland)

Landscape susceptibility:

Medium-high

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 2km in length) crosses approximately five fields at Angmering Park.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

At the wooded escarpment at Michelgrove the proposed DCO Order Limits have been widened to enable flexibility with respect to trenchless crossing compound locations. Alternative trenchless crossing compounds TC-12a, TC-12b or TC-12c (all approximately 70m x 50m) will be located within the LCA, compounds TC-12a (approximate KP 11.7km) and TC-12c will be sited within large arable fields on either side of woodland at Michelgrove Park, while compound TC-12b will be sited within an existing clearing within this woodland that would require the temporary loss of scrub (HS20). The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will remain in place for approximately three to four months and will contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

The onshore cable corridor will be subject to a trenchless crossing beneath woodland bordering the steep scarp slope crossing Michelgrove Park towards the northern edge of the LCA. Bridleways 2180 / 2175 and in the alternative options 2011 / 2175 will also benefit from the trenchless crossing. The retention of woodland landscape features means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at this location.

Elsewhere temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be ground-based, transient and of short-term duration with progressive backfill and reinstatement as the onshore cable corridor works are completed along the route within the overall 3.5 year construction phase. The onshore cable corridor and trenchless construction compound TC-12a (if selected) will add a medium-scale additional feature to this landscape, contrasting with the rural character of the open fields although partly screened by woodland belts. The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works within Angmering Park (within the same field unit or approximately 250m) or

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

when viewing along the onshore cable corridor, reducing to **Low** on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will be wholly or partially screened by woodland.

At the upper edge of the scarp, alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-12b would be fully screened in contrast with alternative trenchless crossing compounds TC-12a, while trenchless crossing compound TC-12c would have similar context to that of TC-12a. The overall magnitude of change on the wider LCA for either of the compounds would not change with either location (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

Construction and operational accesses:

- Light construction and operational access A-25: Located off Blakenhurst Lane will provide temporary construction and operational access along an existing forest track. The magnitude of change will be **Negligible-Zero** affecting a small geographical area of landscape character in the local vicinity of the access route.

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <250m) reducing to **Medium-low** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compounds TC-06a, TC-07a, TC-08a, TC-09a and TC-10a in replacement of TC-06, TC-07, TC-08, TC-09 and TC-10 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

Landscape elements:

There will be localised significant effects on three landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W4 and W54) cleared to 2330m on either side of PRow 2208, and two hedges (H540 and H541) at Angmering Park notched to 14m, within this 2km section of onshore cable corridor. In addition, alternative compound TC-12b will require the temporary loss of scrub within a woodland clearing (HS20).

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the pattern of field boundary vegetation and linked woodland cover, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the limited extent of vegetation loss within well-wooded estate parkland, along with the varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as an obvious 'cut' through the LCA,

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

although the nature of this effect will be permanent. For these reasons, the magnitude of change likely to affect the landscape elements will be **Medium-high** and the level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major** and **Significant** due to the effects on woodland and mature trees.

Level of effect **Landscape character: Major and Significant (<250m)**
Landscape elements: Major and Significant

Type of effect Short-term, (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.
Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance:
- Year 1 All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1, reflecting the localised loss to woodland / tree lines.
 Three landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W4 and W54) cleared to 2330m on either side of PRoW 2208, and two hedges (H540 and H541) and scrub (HS20) will have been affected. New replacement hedge-planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches or short cleared sections will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge / break in the treeline rather than a complete loss.
 The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be **Medium** and the level of effect on landscape elements will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland and replacement planting.

- Year 5 There will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character.

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

Replacement ~~hedge~~-planting will be established, along with retained hedges between notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to Medium-low to **Low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Not Significant**.

- Year 10

There will be **No effect on landscape character**.

Replacement ~~hedge~~-planting will be well established although it will not match mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substations at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-11 Effects on landscape character within A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs
A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoints: G (Figure 18.30), H7a (Figure 18.42, [Revised Deadline 4](#)), H7b (Figure 18.43), H7d (Figure 18.45, [Revised Deadline 4](#)), H7f (Figure 18.46), H7g (Figure 18.47), H7h (Figure 18.48), NP1 (Figure 18.70), NP5 (Figure 18.73), LD1 (Figure 18.66), LD2 (Figure 18.67), LD4 (Figure 18.68), LD5 (Figure 18.69, [Revised Deadline 4](#)). Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy National Character Area: NCA 125: South Downs

County Character Type: LCT A: Open Downland

Designation: South Downs National Park

Character description

This LCA is located at a county level within the wider Open Downland. It comprises the distinctive upland landscape on the south facing dip slope of the South Downs. It is a large scale, elevated landscape of rolling chalk downland. It features mainly large-scale arable fields of cereals with some pasture, divided by post and wire fencing. There are some small woodland blocks and limited hedgerow. The area is sparsely settled and its elevated features afford long range views. Sensitivities at the regional level include areas of unimproved chalk grassland, chalk heath and pasture, which are vulnerable to changes in management and require consistent grazing regimes; subtle historic landscape features such as hedgerows and tracks, ancient field systems and tumuli, which are not protected and are vulnerable to change and loss. [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 23: Coastal hinterland of Bognor.](#)

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020):

Key characteristics:

- “Vast open rolling upland chalk landscape of blunt, whale-backed downs reaching 238m at Chanctonbury Hill.

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

- *Furrowed by extensive branching dry valley systems which produce deep, narrow, rounded coombes - the main dry valley (the Findon Valley) contains the A24.*
- *Dominated by large scale irregular fields of arable and pasture (of 19th and 20th century date) bounded by visually permeable post and wire fencing or sparse thorn hedgerows creating a very open landscape supporting a range of farmland birds. Hedgerows and tracks survive from the earlier manorial downland landscape.*
- *Significant areas of unimproved chalk grassland, for example at Cissbury Ring and Lancing Ring, which support nationally scarce plant species.*
- *Occasional scrub and woodland on steeper slopes and beech clumps on hill tops contribute to biodiversity and provides visual texture in the landscape.*
- *A landscape managed for country sports (game shooting) which preserves the shape and form of the landscape and creates a distinctive landcover including small woodlands and game cover plots.*
- *Large open skies ensure that weather conditions are a dominant influence creating a dynamic landscape, with considerable seasonal variation.*
- *A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with pockets of deep remoteness associated with hidden dry valleys and higher reaches of the dip slope.*
- *Large number of prehistoric and later earthworks, including causewayed enclosures, long barrows and round barrows, providing a strong sense of historical continuity. Iron Age hillforts at Cissbury Ring and Chanctonbury Ring form prominent features on the skyline.*
- *Four flint mines of Neolithic date (Cissbury, Harrow Hill, Blackpatch and Church Hill, Findon) are associated with minor scarps.*
- *Good public access with a network of public rights of way and open access land.*
- *The typical settlement form is relatively late in origin and comprises isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin. The individual farmsteads are often prominent features in the landscape. The village of Findon is the exception.*
- *Building materials are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles, with more modern materials used in farm buildings.*

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

- *Extensive views from the north out across the scarp footslopes and Low Weald beyond the National Park, and over the coastal plain to the south.”*

In addition, the SDNP has seven special qualities that in particular celebrate breath taking views, diversity of landscape character and tranquillity at a national level. The key characteristics also refer to a number of historical elements and characteristics that give this landscape a strong ‘time depth’. Other aspects of the LCA contribute to high landscape quality, scenic and recreational value and conservation interest.

Landscape elements:

Arable and pastoral fields, occasional hedgerows, shelterbelts and scrub and recreational/farm access tracks.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The Arun to Adur Open Downs LCT is located within the SDNP and is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its open, elevated character and long views which combine with its heritage features and a number of recreational routes including an extensive network of local footpaths and national / long distance walking routes (South Downs Way and Monarch’s Way).

The landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The susceptibility of this landscape is influenced by its open, elevated character and long views, which in contrast to lower lying areas, allows the visual influence of development to potentially affect a wider area of the landscape character. This is reinforced by the lack of settlement and movement that has resulted in high levels of tranquillity (a key characteristic) and remoteness. These attributes indicate a high level of susceptibility and although the onshore elements of the Proposed Development will be ground-based, short term and temporary, the linear nature of the onshore cable corridor will be visibly extended over a wider area of the landscape. The landuse and landcover pattern of open arable fields are indicators of reduced susceptibility to change since they are subject to seasonal cultivation and harvesting that will introduce movement of machinery and change in colours and texture. Areas of hedgerow and chalk grassland, however, are more susceptible to change as they are permanent elements and although areas of grassland can be reinstated quickly, hedgerows will take longer to re-establish. Collectively these characteristics indicate a **Medium-high** susceptibility.

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

Sensitivity	Landscape character: High	Landscape value:	High
	Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape susceptibility:	Medium-high

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 5km in length) is routed east from the chalk escarpment at Michelgrove Park, then north between Harrow Hill and Blackpatch Hill, as indicated by **Viewpoint LD4 (Figure 18.68, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and **Viewpoint H7d (Figure 18.45, Volume 3** of the ES (~~Document Reference: 6.3.18, [REP4-029]~~)). The cable corridor continues north across the South Downs dip-slope, climbing from 70m AOD to 190m AOD at Sullington Hill.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

There are two potential trenchless crossing routes for the onshore cable corridor beneath the chalk escarpment north of Sullington Hill. Trenchless crossing construction compound TC-12 and alternative compounds TC-12d, TC-15b and TC-15c (all approximately 70m x 50m) will be located within the LCAs. Compounds TC-12 (approximate KP 12.2km) and TC-12d will be sited within large arable fields at the foot of the chalk scarp at Michelgrove Park as indicated in **Viewpoint H7d (Figure 18.45, Volume 3** of the ES (~~Document Reference: 6.3.18, [REP4-029]~~)); compounds TC-15b and TC-15c will be situated within large arable fields on the upper edge of the chalk scarp at Sullington Hill, as indicated in **Viewpoint LD2 (Figure 18.67, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

~~Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short-term duration with progressive backfill and reinstatement as the onshore cable corridor works are completed along the route within the overall 3.5 year construction phase.~~ The onshore cable corridor and temporary construction compounds (if either are elected) will add a medium-scale additional feature to this landscape, contrasting with the rural character and

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

relative tranquillity of the elevated open fields across the South Downs dip-slope. The landscape characteristics mean that the linear nature of the onshore cable corridor will be more clearly visible across a wider area and the colour, movement and sound of the construction activity will affect the landscape character and its key characteristics (open arable / pasture fields which are remote and tranquil) will be affected over a wider area in comparison to the landscapes of the NCA 126: South Coastal Plain or the NCA 121: Low Weald to the south and north of the SDNP. Drawing from the viewpoint assessment and from site survey, the magnitude of change will range from **High** <250m of the onshore cable corridor, reducing to **Medium to Low** <500m and reducing further to **Negligible-Zero** <1km.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-12d in replacement of TC-12 would not influence the magnitude of change (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced). The deletion of either alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-15b or TC-15c, in favour of TC-15a (in the neighbouring LCA, J3 Arun to Adur Open Footslopes) would lead to a reduced localised effect at Sullington Hill which is more exposed across the Downs landscape to the south. The assessment has assumed a worst case – that either alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-15b or TC-15c will be selected.

Construction and operational accesses:

- Access A-26: Construction and operational access will be provided via Michelgrove Lane, from the A280 north of Clapham / Patching and diverting either side of Michelgrove along existing farm access tracks, with passing places introduced. Effects on landscape elements (H590 and W6) will overlap with the cable corridor.
- Access A-27: Follows Long Furlong Lane / PRow and will be used for operational access only.
- Access A-28: Construction and operational access will be provided off the A280 west of Findon, alongside an existing bridleway (PROW 2092) to Sullington Hill. Some scrub clearance at HS10 will be required closer to the A280.

Collectively the magnitude of change resulting from the construction access will be **Negligible-Zero**.

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **High** when experienced approximately <650m reducing to **Low to Negligible-Zero** on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear distant and or screened by intervening landform / vegetation.

The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major and Significant** (<650m).

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

Landscape elements:

Although hedges and shelterbelts are limited in this landscape, within the Michelgrove area there will be localised significant effects on up to seven-eight landscape elements, including treeline (W4), treeline and scrub (W10 / HS2), two treelines / hedges (W5 / H550-553) and (W6 / H589-590), and three hedges (H545-546, H548 and H549 / HS9) all notched to 14m and scrub (HS20) cleared (lost temporarily) -and contained within the in the Michelgrove area, within this 5km section of onshore cable corridor within a wooded area. In addition, as noted above, some scrub clearance at HS10 (notched to 14m) will be required closer to the A280 in connection with construction and operational access A-28.

The magnitude of change on these landscape elements will range from **High** (hedges with trees) to **Medium** (hedges). The removal of trees and hedges at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, although it is not a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the extent of vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA. The nature of this effect will be permanent in the case of trees, although limited to a total of 14m. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Major and Significant (<650m) Landscape elements: Major / Moderate
Type of effect	Short-term, <u>(long-term in relation to mature trees)</u> , temporary, direct and adverse. <u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.</u>

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1.

Eight landscape elements will have been affected, including treeline (W4), treeline and scrub (W10 / HS2), two treelines / hedges (W5 / H553) and (W6 / H589-590), and three hedges (H545-546, H548 and H549 / HS9) all notched to 14m and scrub (HS20) cleared and temporarily lost within the in the Michelgrove area~~will have been affected~~. In addition, as noted above, some scrub clearance at HS10 (notched to 14m) will be required closer to the A280 in connection with construction and operational access A-28. New replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss.

The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be **Medium** and the level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Low to Negligible-Zero**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

There will be **No Effect** on the on the landscape elements as the new planting will be well established.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs

Cumulative effects assessment There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-12 Effects on landscape character within I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18) **Viewpoint NP4 (Figure 18.72), Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy National Character Area: NCA 125: South Downs
County Character Type: LCT I: Major Scarps

Designation: South Downs National Park

Character description The scarp is a visually distinct landscape type forming the northern edge of the chalk rising steeply from the lower lying land of the Greensand and the Weald. It forms a prominent backdrop, skyline and landmark feature for a wide area to the north of the South Downs. The scarp is either open or wooded along its length and contains some of the most extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat within the South Downs. From open summits there are panoramic views across the lowlands to the north. Sensitivities at the regional level include the distinctive smooth concave-convex slope profiles of the scarps which are vulnerable to further mineral extraction or soil erosion particularly in areas with no woodland cover and large swathes of chalk grassland which are of national ecological value and are important in revealing the profile of the chalk landform. [The Historic Landscape Character is Area 27: Downs scarp at Storrington.](#)

I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020):

Key characteristics:

- *“A dramatic steep north-facing chalk scarp exhibiting a distinctive concave-convex slope profile, indented by ‘coombes’.*
- *Remarkably consistent in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.*
- *Relatively well wooded, some of which comprises ornamental planting.*
- *The scarp contains some extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat, for example the nationally important Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI.*
- *Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the scarp and link the lower land to the chalk uplands e.g. Wiston bostal.*
- *‘Gaps’ cut by valleys form important communication routes, for example the gap between Chantry Hill and Sullington Hill, and the gap south of Washington where the A24 ascends the scarp in cutting.*
- *At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here colours contrast with the muted grey-green colours of the scarp face.*
- *A number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry are visible on the scarp, although many are now vegetated.*
- *Elevated landform provides panoramic views over the scarp footslopes to the north and, in the distance, the Low Weald.”*

In addition, the SDNP has seven special qualities that in particular celebrate breath taking views, the diversity of landscape character and tranquillity at a national level. The key characteristics also refer to views and a number of historical elements and characteristics that give this landscape a strong ‘time depth’ and sense of tranquillity. Other aspects of the LCA contribute to high landscape quality, scenic and recreational value.

Landscape elements:

Grassland, scrub, woodland and farm access tracks.

I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The LCA is located within the SDNP which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from a number of recreational routes that cross the scarp. The landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The landuse and landcover pattern of chalk grassland, scrub and woodland (some of it ancient woodland) on the scarp has an increased susceptibility to change with areas of ancient and mature woodland being most vulnerable to disturbance. Although the onshore elements of the Proposed Development are ground-based, short term and linear the predominant some of the landscape characteristics indicate high levels of susceptibility (mature trees and woodland cover and chalk grassland) reducing to medium to high in the areas of small pasture fields. The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **High - Medium**.

Sensitivity

Landscape character: High
Landscape elements: Medium-high

Landscape value: High
 Landscape susceptibility: High - Medium

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

The onshore cable corridor is routed through this LCA as a trenchless crossing and the woodland at the foot of the scarp is included in the extent of this crossing. A trenchless crossing construction compound (TC-15a) will be partly visible at the foot of the scarp in the neighbouring LCA (J3 Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes) with the cable corridor, visible extending east across the neighbouring LCA. As there will be no direct effects on the landscape character or its key characteristics the effects will be limited to indirect effects, viewing out of the LCA. The construction works will not affect the ability to view panoramic and 'breath taking views' from the top of the scarp, although there may be some limited effects on tranquillity connected to noise from locations along the edges of the LCA closest to the cable corridor. Overall, the ~~The~~ magnitude of change will be **Negligible – Zero**.

I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

	<p>Level of effect</p> <p>Landscape character: Minor and Not Significant Landscape elements: N/A</p>
	<p>Type of effect</p> <p>Short-term, temporary, direct and adverse.</p> <p><u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.</u></p>
<p>During operation and maintenance: - Years 1-10</p>	<p>All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be No Effect on landscape elements.</p>
<p>Whole Proposed Development effects</p>	<p>The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).</p> <p>The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.</p>
<p>Cumulative effects assessment</p>	<p>There will be no cumulative landscape effects.</p>

Table 2-13 Effects on landscape character within J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes
J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18) **Viewpoint: H (Figure 18.31a-b Revised Deadline 4), Viewpoint: H1 (Figure 18.32), Viewpoint: J4 (Figure 18.52a-b) and Viewpoint: I (Figure 18.49), Volume 3 of the ES ([REP4-028]; Document Reference: 6.3.18)**

LCA hierarchy	National Character Area:	NCA 125: South Downs
	County Character Type:	LCT I: Major Scarps

Designation: South Downs National Park

Character description This LCA comprises the lowland shelf that lies at the foot of the steep northern scarp of the South Downs east of the Arun Valley. This landscape type is dominated by the chalk scarp which forms a dramatic backdrop, skyline and landmark feature for a wide area beyond the South Downs. The foot slopes themselves form a transition between the steep chalk scarp to the south and the Low Weald to the north. The landscape contains a mosaic of farmland and woodland comprising irregular arable and pasture fields bounded by an intact network of thick hedgerows, with hedgerow oaks, and woodland typical. There are impressive panoramic views onto the foot slopes from the adjacent scarp and downs as illustrated in Viewpoint I (**Figure 18.49, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). Sensitivities include the pattern of small irregular fields of pasture and meadow, with fields originating as historic woodland assarts, which will be vulnerable to field expansion or boundary loss and the intact network of hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and woodland. Another sensitive feature is the underhill lanes and bostal tracks which survive as rough tracks and public rights of way, indicating the course of ancient coaching lanes and droveways. These may be vulnerable to erosion as a result of recreational pressure, particularly from off-road vehicles. The scarp foot slopes are highly visible from the adjacent scarp and downs to the south and this intervisibility increases visual sensitivity although the rolling topography and the intact hedgerow network and presence of woodland also creates enclosure within the landscape as illustrated in **Viewpoint J4 (Figure 18.52a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). The Historic Landscape Character is Area 27: Downs scarp at Storrington. The key characteristics at a local

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

scale are described in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020):

Key characteristics:

- *“Complex geology comprising bands of chalk, mudstones and sandstones giving rise to a locally undulating lowland landscape at the foot of the northern scarp of the Arun to Adur Downs.*
- *Large, fertile straight-sided arable fields on the Lower Chalk geology at the foot of the scarp, enclosed in the 20th century from open fields systems and earlier piecemeal enclosures.*
- *Small irregular fields of pasture on the less productive clay soils, which originated as woodland assarts, represent a largely intact late medieval landscape.*
- *Hedgerows with mature hedgerow oaks linked closely with the woodland, forming an interlocking network that is of high biodiversity value as well as creating a sense of seclusion and enclosure.*
- *Sandstone outcrops give rise to locally sandy soils which support areas of acid grassland, bracken, gorse, woody scrub, and oak-birch woodland.*
- *Streams, arising from springs at the foot of the Chalk/Upper Greensand flow northwards in narrow, hidden stream valleys, some enshrouded in woodland.*
- *Field ponds, mill ponds and designed ponds are common features of the clay.*
- *Villages located on the springline, e.g. Washington, are linked by the A283, which coincides largely with the character area boundary. The steep chalk scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to villages at the scarp foot.*
- *Landscape parks such as Parham are located on the less fertile Gault Clay and Lower Greensand. These add diversity and ‘time depth’ to the landscape. Parham Park, which is a designated SSSI also provides great ecological interest, comprising a mixture of ancient woodland and parkland, as well as areas of lowland raised bog and alder carr.*
- *A network of public rights of way provides opportunities for countryside access, however, it is less well-developed than other areas of the Scarp Footslopes.*
- *The Scarp Footslopes are visually dominated by the steep chalk scarp to the south, which forms a backdrop to views. Impressive panoramic views from the adjacent scarp and downs reveal a pleasingly balanced woodland and farmland mosaic.”*

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

In addition, the SDNP has seven special qualities that in particular celebrate breath taking views, diversity of landscape character and tranquillity at a national level. The key characteristics also refer to a number of historical elements and characteristics that give this landscape a strong 'time depth'. Other aspects of the LCA contribute to high landscape quality, scenic and recreational value and conservation interest.

Landscape elements:

These include the arable / pasture fields, hedgerow network, oak trees and woodland, and a series of bostal tracks.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The LCA is located within the SDNP which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from an extensive network of local footpaths with facilities such as parking and viewpoints. The South Downs Way, a national / long distance walking route passes through Washington, West Sussex at the foot of the scarp. The landscape value is assessed as **High**.

Landscape susceptibility:

Indicators of lower susceptibility include the sense of enclosure and limited visibility due to the undulating landform, the chalk scarp to the south and a network of trees, hedges and woodland which prevent longer range views. The changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the arable fields arable is a further indicator due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. However, the area is clearly visible from the chalk escarpment. Although the onshore elements of the Proposed Development are ground-based, short-term in duration and linear the predominant landscape characteristics indicate high levels of susceptibility (trees, hedgerows, and woodland cover) reducing to medium-~~to~~-high in the areas of small pasture fields. The susceptibility of the landscape is assessed as **High-~~m-to~~-Medium**.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: High	Landscape value:	High
	Landscape elements: High (trees / woodland)	Landscape susceptibility:	High- m-to -Medium

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

During construction: Within the Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 5.5km in length) crosses this landscape in two sections: west of Washington at the foot of the escarpment and east of Washington close to the boundary of the SDNP. The central section at Washington will be trenchless.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

South Downs Scarp to A24 (west of Washington)

The western most section is routed between the foot of the South Downs scarp, northeast across a mixture of arable and pasture fields to the A24, northwest of Washington, West Sussex. There will be limited visibility of the route due to the screening effects of successive layers of hedgerows, trees and woodland within this landscape as well as tree screening along the A24 embankments. Elevated views from the top of the South Downs scarp are also limited by topography as illustrated by **Viewpoint I (Figure 18.49, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)), although there would be clearer views from Sullington Hill open access land **Viewpoint NP5 (Figure 18.73, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). Trenchless crossing construction compound TC-15a will be located within a pasture field to the foot of the scarp. The temporary trenchless crossing compound (approximately 70m x 50m) will contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling. Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route. The scale and geographical extent of these temporary construction activities will be largely contained by one or two field boundaries.

Close to the temporary construction activity (within the same or adjacent field unit, <250m) the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** reducing to **Medium-low** overall as successive layers of vegetation act to screen views from the wider landscape effects.

The inclusion of either alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-15b or TC-15c (both in the neighbouring LCA, A3 Arun to Adur Open Downs) in place of TC-15a would not lead to a different magnitude of change within either LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

A24 and A283 Trenchless crossings

Two sections of onshore cable corridor along this section will be trenchless, running between the A24 and A283 to the north of Washington and then crossing the A283 for a second time to the south of Rock Common Quarry. Roadside

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

trees and vegetation along the A24 and the A283 road corridors will be retained in these trenchless crossings and there will be **No Effect** on the landscape character or elements within these sections, see **Viewpoint H (Figure 18.31a-b, Volume 3 (Document Reference: 6.3.18, [REP4-0281]))**. The Washington construction compound will be sited within the neighbouring D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands LCA.

A283 to Buncton (east of Washington)

Beyond the A283 trenchless crossing, the onshore cable corridor continues east and south of the A283 (as illustrated by **Viewpoint J4, Figure 18.52a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)), crossing mainly pasture fields and associated hedges and treelines. There will be a **Medium-h** ~~High~~ magnitude of change affecting the A283 corridor and adjacent fields indirectly, while beyond approximately <250m or 1-2 field boundaries the successive screening will reduce the magnitude of change on the surrounding landscape character to **Low to Negligible-Zero**.

The trenchless crossing construction compound TC-17a, if elected, will be visible from part of the A283 and from adjacent fields. The magnitude of change affecting the pasture field will be **High** affecting a wider area (<250m) than compound TC-17 (viewing above hedgerows from elevated ground).

Just west of Buncton the onshore cable corridor crosses the A283 for a third time via trenchless crossing. Trenchless crossing construction compound TC-18 will be located in a narrow field to the south of the A-283, bordered by dense woodland margins and hedgerow. Close to the onshore cable corridor and the associated TC compounds (within the same or adjacent field unit, <250m) the magnitude of change will be **High to Medium** and direct effects such as the trench excavation and vegetation removal will be visible. This will reduce to **Low to Negligible** overall) as successive layers of vegetation act to screen wider landscape effects.

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be five temporary construction accesses in this section of the onshore cable corridor:

Accesses A-30 to A-32 and A-36 are all operational accesses and there will be no effects on landscape character or elements.

- Construction and operational access A-33: Access will be taken off the A283, via open fields to the east of Barns Farm. The ~~haul road route~~ will be constructed to 6m width with road stone and will cross ~~fields and treewe~~ existing hedgerows, ~~affecting 6m of hedges H161, and H165; and 25m of H206a which will be~~ cleared to 25m to allow for the bell mouth and sight lines ~~visibility splays~~ at the junction with the A283. Visibility splay requirements will be reduced by a temporary speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan**

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

- [REP4-045] and achieved by hedgerow trimming and crown lifting. H161, H165) which will be notched to 14m to accommodate the access.
- Construction and operational access A-34: Access will be taken off the A283, via an open field to the southeast of Clayton Farm. The route will be constructed to 6m width with road stone and will cross one existing hedgerow (H172 cleared to 12m) to accommodate the access.
 - Construction and operational access A-35: Temporary construction access will be taken off the A283 to the south of East Clayton Farm through a large pasture field and crossing one hedgerow (H172) which will be notched 6m to allow for the 6m wide haul road.
 - Construction and operational accesses A-37, A-38, A-39 and A-40: Temporary light construction access via School Lane, Washington (A-37) and London Road, north of Washington (A-38) will not affect landscape character or elements.
 - Construction and operational access A-40 off the A283 to the east of Washington will affect a hedge (H167) which will be cleared to 12m at the junction of a farm access to the A283, to allow for the bell mouth. and sight lines visibility splays will be achieved by hedgerow trimming and HS1258 will be coppiced.
 - , along with temporary construction and operational accesses off the A-283 south of Rock Common Quarry (A-39 and A-40) are all sited within the cable corridor and form a part of the magnitude of change previously described in relation to the cable corridor.
 - Construction and operational accesses A-41, A-42: Temporary construction and operational accesses will be taken off the A283 east of Rock Common Quarry at the junction of a farm access to Lower Chancton Farm and the A283. This will require the clearance of 10m of hedge H185 and vegetation management (hedge trimming) to allow for access and visibility splays which will also be . Visibility splay requirements will be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045](Document Reference: 7.6) 40mph and achieved by hedgerow trimming and crown lifting visibility splays with no effects on vegetation.

Collectively the magnitude of change resulting from the construction accesses will be **Low**.

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <250m) reducing to **Low to Negligible to Zero** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation.

The inclusion of alternative compounds would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major** and **Significant** (<250m).

Landscape elements:

There will be localised significant effects on up to 192 landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W1364) cleared to 30m on either side of PRow 2697 north of Rowdell, three treelines (W498 / HS559, W505, and W507 / H181 / HS561), one treeline / hedge (W494 and H158), and ~~eight~~ 14 hedges / scrub (H129, H135, H146-146a, H157 / HS5784, H161 H162/163, H165, H166, H168, and H179) all notched to 14m as illustrated in Graphic A-3, Annex A, Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [REP4-047] within this 5km section of onshore cable corridor. As noted previously construction access will require clearance of hedges H167, H172, H185 and H206a and coppicing of scrub at HS1258.

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. Viewing sequentially from the A283 it will be possible to see a successive 'cut' through the vegetation within the LCA, linked by the onshore cable corridor during the construction phase. The nature of this effect will be permanent in the case of woodland cleared to 30m at Rowdell. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** and the level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major** and **Significant**.

Level of effect

Landscape character: Major (<250m)

Landscape elements: Major (successive hedges and trees / woodland)

Type of effect

Short-term, (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1, reflecting the localised loss to woodland and tree lines.

In total 192 landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W1364) cleared to 30m on either side of PRow 2697 north of Rowdell, three treelines (W498 / HS559, W505, and W507 / H181 / HS561), one treeline / hedge (W494 and H158), and eight-14 hedges / scrub (H129, H135, H146a, H157 / HS5784, H161 H162/163, H165, H166, H168, H179, H167, H172, H185 and 206a).

New replacement hedge-planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss. With the reinstatement of the cable corridor the effects on successive hedges will be less clearly connected and the magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium**, but remaining **Medium-high** in relation to cleared woodland.

The level of effect **Major** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character.

Replacement hedge / shrub-planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches and managed vegetation will re-grow. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium-low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss of woodland.

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement hedge-planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain. The level of effect will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes

Whole Proposed Development effects	<p>The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).</p> <p>The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.</p>
Cumulative effects assessment	<p>There will be no cumulative landscape effects.</p>

NCA 121: Low Weald (Winston to Bolney)

2.3.4 The Low Weald NCA is described by the Natural England (2013b, p.3).

“The Low Weald NCA is a broad, low-lying clay vale which largely wraps around the northern, western and southern edges of the High Weald. It is predominantly agricultural, supporting mainly pastoral farming owing to heavy clay soils, with horticulture and some arable on lighter soils in the east, and has many densely wooded areas with a high proportion of ancient woodland. Around 9 per cent of it falls within the adjacent designated landscapes of the Surrey Hills, Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the South Downs National Park. Around 23 per cent of the area is identified as greenbelt land.”

2.3.5 The onshore elements of the Proposed Development are primarily routed across the extensive Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands (G1), Steyning & Henfield Brooks (O3) and the Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands (J3) which are documented in the *Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment, Final Report* (Chris Blandford Associates on behalf of Horsham District Council, 2003). The north easternmost part of the study area is covered by the Mid Sussex Landscape Character Assessment (Mid Sussex District Council, 2005) which includes part of Hickstead Low Weald LW1 at the end of the onshore cable corridor near Bolney.

2.3.6 There are two other NCAs within this part of the Study Area. The Wealden Greensand NCA 120 is located to the northwest of Washington, West Sussex and surrounding Storrington. This NCA is described by the Natural England (2013c, p.3):

“The long, curved belt of the Wealden Greensand runs across Kent, parallel to the North Downs, and on through Surrey. It moves south, alongside the Hampshire Downs, before curving back eastwards to run parallel with the South Downs in West Sussex. Around a quarter of the NCA is made up of extensive belts of woodland – both ancient mixed woods and more recent conifer plantations. In contrast, the area also features more open areas of heath on acidic soils, river valleys and mixed farming, including areas of fruit growing.

The area has outstanding landscape, geological, historical and biodiversity interest. Some 51 per cent of the NCA is covered by the South Downs National Park, Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Surrey Hills AONB – a testament to the area’s natural beauty. The underlying geology has shaped the scarp-and-dip slope topography, with its far-reaching views, but it has also had a significant bearing on the area’s sense of place: there are clear links between vernacular architecture, industry and local geology. The heritage assets provide vital connections to the NCA’s industrial, military and cultural history, and include distinctive deer parks and more recent 18th-century parklands. Biodiversity interests are represented by internationally and nationally designated sites alongside numerous local sites and other non-designated semi-natural habitats. The internationally designated sites include three Special Protection Areas (SPAs), two Ramsar sites and eight Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), representing the outstanding value and quality of the heathland, woodland,

wetland and coastal habitats found within the NCA. In addition, fragments of acid grassland and parkland landscapes add to the overall diversity of habitats.”

2.3.7 The High Weald is located to the north of Cowfold and the A272. This NCA is described by the Natural England (2013d, p.3).

“The High Weald National Character Area (NCA) encompasses the ridged and faulted sandstone core of the Kent and Sussex Weald. It is an area of ancient countryside and one of the best surviving medieval landscapes in northern Europe. The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covers 78 per cent of the NCA. The High Weald consists of a mixture of fields, small woodlands and farmsteads connected by historic routeways, tracks and paths. Wild flower meadows are now rare but prominent medieval patterns of small pasture fields enclosed by thick hedgerows and shaws (narrow woodlands) remain fundamental to the character of the landscape.”

2.3.8 Two LCAs, within the NCA 121: Low Weald are scoped out of the assessment as follows:

- Henfield & Small Dole Farmlands D2:

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be located within this LCA which has only limited areas within the 1km buffer and fragmented ZTV coverage. Site survey and ZTV analysis confirms that there will be **Negligible to Zero** visibility of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development from limited locations and consequently there will be no effect on the landscape character.

- Upper Adur Valley LW2:

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be located within this LCA which is located approximately 700m from onshore cable corridor. Site Survey and ZTV analysis confirms that there will be **Negligible to Zero** visibility of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development from limited locations and consequently there will be no effect on the landscape character.

2.3.9 Three LCAs, within the NCA 122: High Weald are scoped out of the assessment as follows:

- Crabtree & Nuthurst Ridges & Ghylls M1:

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be located within this LCA. Site survey, ZTV and viewpoint analysis from Viewpoint SA2: A272 (**Figure 18.11, Volume 3** of the ES ([Document Reference: 6.3.18, \[REP4-027\]](#))) and omitted Viewpoint SA6: PRoW 1750 north of Aglands Farm confirm that there will be **Negligible to Zero** visibility of the onshore cable corridor from limited locations and consequently there will be no effect on the landscape character.

- High Weald Fringes HW10:

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be located within this LCA which is located approximately 700m from onshore cable corridor. Site Survey and ZTV analysis confirms that there will be **Negligible to Zero**

visibility of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development from limited locations and consequently there will be no effect on the landscape character.

- Upper Adur Valley LW2:

The onshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be located within this LCA which is located approximately 700m from onshore cable corridor. Site Survey and ZTV analysis confirms that there will be **Negligible to Zero** visibility of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development from limited locations and consequently there will be no effect on the landscape character.

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Table 2-14 Effects on landscape character within the D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands

D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoint: H1 (Figure 18.32), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald and NCA 120: Wealden Greensand
	County Character Type: LCT: WG8: Central Scarp Footslopes
Designation:	None
Character description	<p>This LCA is located within the wider WG8: Central Scarp Footslopes LCA which extends between Amberley and Steyning at the foot of the adjacent chalk escarpment. Its landscape often appears diminished and intricate in scale when set against the bold chalk ridge above. The field and vegetation patterns, lying over sandstone and clay, are complex. Large, straight-edged arable fields contrast with a pattern of smaller, irregular pastures and arable fields, and narrow linear woodlands near the streams, creating sudden transitions. There are dramatic views of the chalk escarpment to the south and glimpsed views of settlements through woodland and trees. Sensitivities in the wider Central Scarp Footslopes LCA include: Loss of rural quality of the PRoW network of tracks and byways, through inappropriate development. Only the areas outwith the South Downs J3 LCT are assessed to avoid repetition.</p> <p><u>The Historic Landscape Character is Area 27: Downs scarp at Storrington.</u></p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.55):</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Rolling landscape of the low ridges of the upper greensand, and the narrow vale of gault clay.</i> • <i>Overlooked by the chalk escarpment to the south.</i> • <i>Varied patchwork of arable and pasture farmland, with fields of irregular shapes and sizes.</i> • <i>Small north flowing streams in steep narrow valleys.</i>

D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands

- *Sunken lanes with high hedgebanks.*
- *Small springline settlements and farmsteads dispersed along the edge of the greensand ridge.*
- *Extensive historic parkland at Wiston.*
- *Mix of local building materials, including, brick and flint, sandstone and thatch.”*

No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the proximity of the SDNP to the south of the A283 has an influence. However, this portion of the LCA is well developed and mainly comprises the Rock Common quarry, associated woodland and the Washington Caravan Park. There is little public access to this area.

The most relevant features relating to the onshore cable corridor are the fact that it is overlooked by the chalk escarpment to the south, and the varied patchwork of arable and pasture farmland, with fields of irregular shapes and sizes in the adjoining areas.

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the hedgerows, mature trees and woodland.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

Although undesignated the landscape is located on the edge of the SDNP, within its setting, and has some common characteristics indicating High value in line with the SDNP which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Much of this particular area Part of the area is however, urban / suburban and borders a large sand quarry indicating lower value. Opportunities to experience the surrounding landscape result from its network of recreational routes/PRoW and from a caravan and campsite but are limited within the LCA by the quarry. The landscape value is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates on behalf of Horsham District Council, 2003, p.57) states that the “*overall sensitivity to change is high due to the openness and prominence of the greensand ridge at the foot of the scarp, and due to the vulnerability of small-scale historic field patterns in the gault clay vale.*” This statement relates to the wider LCA and is not particularly relevant to the remaining area of landscape character once the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020) has been taken into account. The remaining area includes a large sand quarry and associated woodland, some urban/suburban areas and pasture fields, all of which are well enclosed by vegetation and indicative of

D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands

Medium to Low susceptibility. Woodland and trees within this are form an important function screening the quarry and other land uses by dividing the land and consequently increasing its capacity for development. These landscape elements have a higher overall sensitivity than the LCA due to their maturity and landscape role.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value: Medium
	Landscape elements: N/A <u>Medium-high</u>	Landscape susceptibility: <u>Medium to Low (Landscape elements Medium-high)</u>

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

The Washington construction compound is located within part of an isolated, small group of pasture fields, forming a fragment of the D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands LCA. This piece of LCA is surrounded by development, with the A283 to the south, Rock Common Quarry to the north and the Washington Caravan Site to the west.

The Washington construction compound will be sited within this area which is fringed by a hedge and trees. It will occupy approximately 4.0 hectares for the duration of the construction phase (up to 3.5 years) and will contain welfare facilities / offices, parking, construction plant and storage of materials and equipment (up to 7m high) and a cement bound sand concrete batching plant up to 20m high. Two trenchless construction compounds (TC-16, TC-17) will also be located within the limits of the compound site. The construction compound will be accessed off the A283 (construction access A-39) and contained by security-perimeter screen fencing, set back from the canopy and root zone of the existing perimeter trees.

Construction and operational accesses A-39 will affect a treeline (W489) which will be cleared to 20m to allow for the access. The access (A-39) has been relocated further east to reduce effects on vegetation, along with a temporary 40mph speed limit to reduce visibility splays as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. It is likely that up to approximately 70m of treeline (W489) will need to cut hard back, west of the access, with some coppicing of existing multi-stemmed trees required to achieve the visibility splays of 120m. Scrub (HS1259) will also be coppiced.

D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands

The magnitude of change within the site and at the access will be **High**, but tightly contained by the perimeter screen fencing and vegetation and surrounding land use and use, such that the magnitude on the surrounding landscape character (<250m) will be ~~Medium-low~~ **Negligible-Zero** mainly due to the visibility of the top of the cement bound sand batching plant above the perimeter trees.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-17a (within the neighbouring LCA) in replacement of TC-17 would not influence the magnitude of change this LCA overall.

The level of effect, accounting for the Medium-low sensitivity will ~~also~~ be ~~Moderate~~ **Major** and **Significant**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be Major accounting for their sensitivity and role in the landscape.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate Major (<u><250</u>) Landscape elements: N/A Major
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Type of effect	Short-term, (<u>long-term in relation to mature trees</u>), temporary, direct and adverse.
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Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated with **No effect** on landscape character.

New replacement planting of the treeline / scrub (W489 / HS1259) will have been undertaken, but not yet established.

The magnitude of change accounting for the new planting will be **Medium** and the level of effect **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines.

- Year 5

Replacement planting will be established and although not mature the perimeter vegetation along the A283 / former construction compound will re-grow and appear connected. There will be a greater age and species

D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands

diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate / Minor** and **Not Significant**.

- Year 10

Replacement planting will be well established. Although it will not match mature trees the hedgerow will appear as complete and connected with trees / treelines occurring along their length. A ~~and a~~ **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

~~During operation and maintenance: -Years 1-10~~

~~All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be **No Effect** on landscape elements.~~

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-15 Effects on landscape character within the E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands & Heaths

E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands & Heaths	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoints: I (Figure 18.49) and J5 (Figure 18.53), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald and NCA 120: Wealden Greensand
	County Character Type: LCT: WG7: Storrington Woods and Heaths
Designation	None
Character description	<p>This LCA is located within the wider WG7: Storrington Woods and Heaths LCA. The landform is a series of low ridges alternating with shallow valleys, reflecting a complex geology of sandstone and clay. Heavily wooded ridges to the south are interspersed with small patches of heathland. Sensitivities include loss of open heathland and woodland cover or decreases in overall diversity of woodland due to poor management or plantation planting.</p> <p>The Historic Landscape Character is Area 29: Rother Valley & West Chiltington.</p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.63).</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Rolling <i>landform of sandy ridges cut by small narrow stream valleys.</i> • <i>Extensive pine and oak-birch woodland. Linear streamside woods. Small areas of heathland, such as at Sullington Warren Golf course.</i> • <i>Small mostly well hedged pasture fields with mature hedgerow oaks.</i> • <i>Historic parkland of Parham Park with distinctive tree clumps, groves and extensive tree belts.</i> • <i>Major areas of sand and gravel extraction at Sandgate Park and Rock Common.</i> • <i>Scattered farmsteads and cottages along roads. Traditional local materials of sandstone, half timber and plaster and brick.”</i>

E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands & Heaths

No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the proximity of the SDNP to the south of the A283 has an influence. The closest part of the LCA to the onshore cable corridor is the hill at Rock Common which is an area of pasture, bounded by post and wire fencing and enclosed by perimeter woodland with no public access.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

Although undesignated the landscape is located on the edge of the SDNP indicating higher value in line with the SDNP and its setting. A large part of the area closest to the construction works is suburban and includes a large sand quarry at Rock Common indicating lower value. Opportunities to experience the landscape are limited and the landscape value is assessed as **Medium-Low**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, states that the “overall sensitivity to change is high due to the area's many intrinsic landscape qualities and its general visibility from the chalk escarpment to the south.” **Viewpoint I: Chanctonbury Ring (Figure 18.41, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18, [REP4-029]))** provides a view of this area from the escarpment which appears well wooded and this part of the onshore cable corridor will be screened by landform, otherwise the area includes a large sand quarry and associated woodland, some urban / suburban areas and pasture fields, all of which are well enclosed by vegetation and indicative of **Medium to Low** susceptibility.

Sensitivity

Landscape character: Medium-low
Landscape elements: N/A

Landscape value:

Medium to Low

Landscape susceptibility:

Medium to Low

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

The magnitude of change on the LCA will be limited to construction activity along the cable corridor and construction access A-41, both of which are within the neighbouring LCA (J3 Aran to Adur Scarp Footslopes) ~~and construction access A-44~~. There is limited opportunity for this activity to influence or affect the neighbouring landscape character

E1: Parham & Storrington Wooded Farmlands & Heaths

due to intervening vegetation screening along the A283 and the magnitude of change on the LCA will be **Negligible-Zero**.

Level of effect **Landscape character: Negligible**
Landscape elements: N/A

Type of effect Short-term, temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Years 1-10

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be **No effect** on landscape elements.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.
 The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-16 Effects on landscape character within the F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoints: I (Figure 18.49), J2 (Figure 18.51) and J5 (Figure 18.53), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald and NCA 120: Wealden Greensand
	County Character Type: LCT: WG7: Storrington Woods and Heaths
Designation	None
Character description	<p>This LCA is located within the wider WG7: Storrington Woods and Heaths LCA. The landform is a series of low ridges alternating with shallow valleys, reflecting a complex geology of sandstone and clay. Heavily wooded ridges to the south are interspersed with small patches of heathland. Sensitivities include loss of open heathland and woodland cover or decreases in overall diversity of woodland due to poor management or plantation planting.</p> <p>The Historic Landscape Character is Area 29: Rother Valley & West Chiltington.</p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.71).</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Undulating sandstone ridge.</i> • <i>Partly wooded low scarp.</i> • <i>Extensive arable and some horticultural land use with glasshouses and mushroom farms.</i> • <i>Small orchards and vineyards</i> • <i>Leafy sunken lanes with sandstone exposures.</i> • <i>Small historic villages built of sandstone and half timber such as West Chiltington and Thakeham.</i> • <i>Scattered small cottages and farmsteads mainly along lanes.”</i>

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the proximity of the SDNP to the south of the A283 has an influence and the area around Wiston is relatively tranquil.

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the hedgerows and mature trees within the onshore cable corridor.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

Although undesignated the landscape is located on the edge of the SDNP indicating higher value in line with the SDNP and its setting which is noted for its high scenic value, perceptual and special qualities. Most of the area ~~east of~~ along the A24 is made up of arable fields bounded by hedgerows with occasional woodland clumps and it is not particularly representative of the LCA description. Part of the area to the west of the A24 is suburban and includes abuts the northern edge of the ~~large~~ sand quarry at Rock Common indicating lower value. There are limited PRoW within this area of the LCA, the main one passing Upper Chancton Farm. The area around Wiston and Buncton is indicative of a higher valuer landscape character and is close to the SDNP boundary. ~~Therefore, the~~ landscape value is assessed as **Medium-high**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.73) states that the *“overall sensitivity to change is high due to the area’s many intrinsic landscape qualities and its general visibility from the chalk escarpment to the south.”* **Viewpoint I: Chanctonbury Ring** (Figure 18.49, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) provides a view of this area from the escarpment which indicates that the onshore cable corridor will be screened from this view by foreground landform and the construction compound will be mostly screened by the hill at Rock Common and intervening woodland. Nonetheless there is likely to be some visibility from paths on the side of the escarpment (partly wooded) and/or further along albeit at greater distance.

Indicators of lower susceptibility include the sense of enclosure and limited visibility due to the undulating landform, and the network of trees, hedges and woodland which prevent longer range views from within the LCA, close to the onshore cable corridor. The changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the arable fields arable is a further indicator of lower susceptibility due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. The susceptibility of the landscape overall is assessed as **Medium**.

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

Landscape elements (mature trees, hedgerows, and woodland) are indicative of higher levels of susceptibility as they are not easily replaced if removed from within the onshore cable corridor.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-high Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape value:	Medium-high
		Landscape susceptibility:	Medium (Landscape elements Medium-high)

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 500m in length) crosses two pasture fields and two field boundaries between the A283 and Water Lane on the south eastern tip of the LCA, close to the SDNP boundary.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

An alternative trenchless crossing construction compound (TC-19a) if elected will be sited within a pasture field to the west of Water Lane, bounded by mature hedgerow vegetation. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

Construction and operational access A-42 will affect a tree line hedge (H197) which will be cleared to 15m to allow for the bell mouth. Visibility splay requirements will be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]** to 120m, and achieved by hedgerow trimming and crown lifting and managed (pruned) for visibility splays and will allow the retention of non-native tree line (W1074) which has been managed (pruned / trimmed) to maintain existing visibility splays at the adjacent Timber Yard.

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

~~although it is likely possible that approximately 70m of non-native treeline (W1074H197) will be cleared to allow visibility, revealing views into the timber yard (Medium-high magnitude).~~

Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be ground based, ~~transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the route.~~ The ~~and the~~ scale and geographical extent of these temporary construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately 250m), reducing to **Negligible-Zero** for the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compound TC-19a in favour of TC-19 (within the neighbouring LCA, G1 Ashton and Wiston Wooded Farmlands) would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within either LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

The level of effect on landscape ~~character will~~ be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant** ($\leq 250\text{m}$).

Landscape elements:

~~Construction and operational access A-42 will affect a treeline / scrub hedge (H197) which will be cleared to 15m to allow for access and managed (trimmed) for visibility splays. The micro-siting will allow a category BA ash tree to be retained, reducing the magnitude of change to **Medium-low** at this location. In addition,~~ there will be localised significant effects on two ~~further~~ landscape elements (one treeline (W514) and one hedge (H202) both notched to 14m, within this 500m section of onshore cable corridor.

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, although the limited vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA. Nonetheless the magnitude of change will be long-term in respect of the mature treelines and will be **Medium-high**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Major / Moderate and Significant ($\leq 250\text{m}$)
	Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and Significant

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

Type of effect	Short-term, <u>(long-term in relation to mature trees)</u> , temporary, direct and adverse. <u>Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.</u>
During operation and maintenance: - Year 1	<p>All construction areas will have been reinstated <u>with No effect on landscape character</u>.</p> <p>In total two landscape elements (one treeline (W514) and one hedge (H202) both notched to 14m will have been affected <u>and 15m of treeline / scrubhedge (H197) will have been cleared to allow for construction access A-42</u>. New replacement <u>hedge</u>-planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a ‘gappy’ hedge rather than a complete loss and the magnitude of change will reduce to Medium.</p> <p>The level of effect will be Moderate and Significant, reflecting the loss to tree lines.</p>
- Year 5	<p>Replacement <u>hedge / shrub</u>-planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity. The magnitude of change will reduce to Low.</p> <p>The level of effect on landscape elements will be Moderate / Minor and Not Significant.</p>
- Year 10	<p>Replacement <u>hedge</u>-planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees and a Negligible-Zero magnitude of change will remain. The level of effect will be Minor and Not Significant.</p>
Whole Proposed Development effects	<p>The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.</p> <p>The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.</p>

F1: Pulborough, Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands

Cumulative effects assessment There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-17 Effects on landscape character within the G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoints: J1 (**Figure 18.50**) and K1 (**Figure 18.55a-b**), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

LCA hierarchy National Character Area:

NCA 121: Low Weald

County Character Type:

LCT: LW7: Wiston Low Weald

Designation None

Character description

This LCA is located within the wider LW7: Wiston Low Weald. The area is characterised by gently undulating landform with mainly pastoral field with woodland and has a well-wooded character. There are strong patterns of small to medium size fields enclosed by woodlands, shaws and hedgerows with trees with some larger arable fields. Some areas include isolated trees in pasture and ancient woodland and conifer plantations. Sensitivities in the wider Wiston Low Weald LCT include loss of woodland cover or biodiversity of woodland due to plantation planting or lack of management, changes in field sizes and loss of tranquillity as a result of land management and loss of hedgerows and isolated pasture trees.

[The Historic Landscape Character is Area 29: Rother Valley & West Chiltington.](#)

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.75):

Key characteristics:

- *“Gently undulating wooded farmland, drained by small streams.*
- *Small to medium size pasture fields usually enclosed by hedgerows and shaws.*
- *Occasional glimpsed views of the Downs.*
- *Isolated farms and cottages on lanes and small tracks.*
- *Varied local building materials of half timber, tile hanging, weatherboarding and some flint.*
- *Winding lanes.*
- *Rural, mostly remote and tranquil character”*

The LCA bounds the SDNP and its perceptual quality of tranquillity is listed as a key characteristic.

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the woodland, hedgerows and mature trees within the onshore cable corridor.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The landscape is not rare, consisting of farmed pastoral and arable fields interspersed by tree belts, woodland and hedgerows which are not uncommon to the wider area. However, the rolling landscape does have some scenic value and the proximity of this landscape to the SDNP to the south affords higher levels of landscape quality in terms of the areas local sense of place and representativeness, within the setting of the SDNP. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its network of recreational routes / PRoW. The landscape value is assessed as **Medium-high**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.76) states that the *“overall sensitivity to change is high. Although an enclosed landscape, without prominent topography and little existing development, many types of change could damage or erode its unspoilt remote rural character.”*

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

Indicators of lower susceptibility include the sense of enclosure and limited visibility due to the undulating landform, and the network of trees, hedges and woodland which prevent longer range views from within the LCA, close to the onshore cable corridor. The changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the arable fields arable is a further indicator of lower susceptibility due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. There is however a dense network of trees, hedgerows, and woodland as illustrated in **Viewpoints J1 (Figure 18.50, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and **K1 (Figure 18.55a-b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) which will be of higher susceptibility and are a key characteristic.

The susceptibility of the landscape overall is assessed as ~~Medium-high~~ **High to Medium**.

Landscape elements (mature trees, hedgerows, and woodland) are indicative of higher levels of susceptibility as they are not easily replaced if removed from within the onshore cable corridor.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-high	Landscape value: <u>Medium-high</u> Medium
	Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape susceptibility: <u>Medium-high</u> High to Medium (<u>Landscape elements Medium-high</u>)

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction: Within the G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 4km in length) crosses the landscape to the northeast of Wiston to Spithandle Lane near Beggar’s Bush Kennels and Calcot Wood. The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

The route of the onshore cable corridor runs almost parallel with Spithandle Lane (approximately 750-250m further northwest). Although woodland is avoided, the onshore cable corridor will cross up to 18 fields and approximately 2348 hedgerows / tree line / linear woodland features, including four tracks with roadside hedgerows and trees. Two trenchless crossing construction compounds (TC-19, TC-20) will be located within the LCA. Trenchless crossing

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

compound TC-19 will be located within mixed fields to the east of Water Lane, trenchless crossing compound TC-20 will be located within an arable field west of Calcot Wood near Horsebridge Common. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately >250m), reducing to **Negligible-Zero** for the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation.

There are two trenchless crossings within the LCA, at Water Lane and Spithandle Lane. The retention of woodland and hedgerow landscape features means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at these locations.

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be two construction accesses in this section of the onshore cable corridor:

- Construction and operational access A-43/a/b: via the A283 / Steyning Road along an existing access track and diverting north (~~A-43a~~) across two arable fields towards the cable corridor. Hedgerows (H201a and H210) will be cleared to 6m to allow for access and vegetation managed (pruned / trimmed) to allow for visibility splays which will also be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. Allowing for some tree loss tThe magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**~~Low~~.
- Construction and operational access A-47: via Spithandle Lane off the B2135 Horsham Road, diverting north across a single field towards the cable corridor. Hedgerow (H613) will be cleared to 5m with two trees lost on either side of the gateway, vegetation will be managed (pruned back) to allow for visibility splays which will also be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit and only required to the east as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. Allowing for some tree loss the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**~~Low~~.
- Accesses A-43b, A-44, A-45, and A-46 are all for operational use and will result in **No Effect** on the landscape.

Collectively the magnitude of change resulting from the construction accesses will be **Low**.

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <150m) reducing to **Low to Negligible to Zero** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compounds would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced). The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant** (<150m).

Landscape elements:

There will be localised significant effects on 2315 landscape elements in total within this 4.5km section of onshore cable corridor. This includes including hedge H214 cleared to 30m; a further 142 hedges (H201a, H201, H210, H211, H214, H219, H220, H226, H228, H230, H235, H237, H246 in two parts, H245, H247, H263, H266) and scrub (HS1394) all notched to 14m, and three one treeline / hedges (comprising H229 / W479, W477, and H613) which will be cleared to 5m and 6m respectfully (to allow for access as noted above). In addition, two Two treelines (HW17 and W18) will be cleared to 20m at Spithandle Lane, within this 4.5km section of onshore cable corridor. and woodland (W5792) will be cleared to 30m along track / bridleway between Spithandle Lane and the A283.

~~The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA.~~

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. The, although the limited vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA. Nonetheless the magnitude of change will be long-term in respect of the mature treelines (worst case) and will be **Medium-high**. The level of effect on landscape elements will also therefore be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect	Landscape character: Major / Moderate and Significant. (<150m) Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and Significant.
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G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

Type of effect Short-term, (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.
Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate / Minor** effect on the landscape character due to small areas of reinstated treelines and woodland.

There will be localised significant effects on 23 landscape elements in total within this 4.5km section of onshore cable corridor. This includes 15 hedges (H201a, H201, H210, H211, H214, H219, H220, H228, H230, H235, H237, H246 in two parts, H245, H247, H263, H266) and (scrub HS1394) all notched to 14m, and three treeline / hedges (comprising H229 / W479, W477, and H613) which will be cleared to 5m and 6m respectfully (to allow for access as noted above). Two treelines (W17 and W18) will be cleared to 20m at Spithandle Lane and woodland (W5792) will be cleared to 30m along track / bridleway between Spithandle Lane and the A283.

In total 15 landscape elements including 12 hedges (H211, H214, H220, H226, H228, H230, H235, H237, H246 in two parts, H245, H247), one treeline / hedge (comprising H229 and W479) all notched to 14m. In addition, two treelines (H17 and W18) will be cleared to 20m will have been affected. New replacement hedge planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss. New replacement planting at treelines W17 and W18 and linear woodland (W5792) along the track / bridleway between Spithandle Lane and the A283 will appear as a gap in the vegetation although an effect on the wider landscape pattern of hedgerows would be difficult to discern. Allowing for the reinstatement works and planting, the ~~With the reinstatement of the cable corridor the effects on successive hedges will be less clearly connected and the~~ magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium**.

The level of effect **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to treelines and mature trees.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character due to small areas of reinstated treelines and woodland.

G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands

Replacement ~~hedge / shrub~~ planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Managed vegetation will re-grow. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. New replacement planting at treelines W17 and W18 and linear woodland (W5792) along the track / bridleway between Spithandle Lane and the A283 will appear as a new section of hedge connecting the treelines / linear woodland. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium-low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Not Significant**, reflecting the loss of mature vegetation.

- Year 10

There will be no residual effect on landscape character (No effect).

Replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will be well established. Although the trees / woodland canopy cannot be replaced above the cable the reinstated planting at treelines W17 and W18 and linear woodland (W5792) along the track / bridleway between Spithandle Lane and the A283 will appear as a dip in the profile of the tree canopy that will be difficult to discern as a residual effect of the construction works. The magnitude of change will reduce to -although not matching the size of mature trees and a Negligible-Zero magnitude of change will remain. The and the level of effect will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development including the wind turbines and offshore substations will be limited to visual effects as reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-18 Effects on landscape character within the O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks	
Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)	Viewpoints: K (Figure 18.54a-c) L (Figure 18.56), T (Figure 18.61a-b), T1 (Figure 18.62), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)
LCA hierarchy	National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald
	County Character Type: LCT: LW9: Upper Adur Valley
Designation	None
Character description	<p>This LCA is located within the wider LW9: Upper Adur Valle and comprises the headwaters of the River Adur which are characterised by a network of narrow valleys and streams, rimmed by low ridges the expansive, open brooks pastures of the Henfield and Beeding Brooks. The LCA has a downland backdrop and is mainly a pastoral landscape with a well-wooded character. There are relatively few panoramic or long views within the valley although views to the south are dominated by the steep downland scarp. Sensitivities in the Upper Adur Valley LCA include brooks, pasture and the impact of new urban development, modern farm buildings, masts, pylons and new roads.</p> <p><u>The Historic Landscape Character is Area 29: Rother Valley & West Chiltington / Area 36: Adur Valley & catchment.</u></p> <p>The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.143):</p> <p><u>Key characteristics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Middle reaches of the River Adur and its alluvial floodplain.</i> • <i>Seasonal flooding.</i> • <i>Small fields of unimproved and semi-improved wet grassland divided mostly by drainage ditches.</i> • <i>Course of the river marked by raised embankments.</i> • <i>Occasional patches of scrub and isolated trees & tree groupings with scrub following drainage ditches.</i> • <i>Arable valleysides with fragmented hedgerow pattern and small isolated woodlands.</i>

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

- *Largely tranquil undeveloped rural character”.*

Perceptual qualities of tranquillity are noted as a key characteristic.

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the isolated trees and hedgerows within the onshore cable corridor.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The landscape is not designated but does have some perceptual qualities of tranquillity and some scenic value. It is traversed by the Downs Link long distance walking route. Other opportunities to experience the landscape result from its network of recreational routes/PRoW, particularly along the River Adur, rural roads and angling opportunities near Shermanbury.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p.145) states that the *“overall sensitivity to change is high. Although an enclosed landscape, without prominent topography and little existing development, many types of change could damage or erode its unspoilt remote rural character.”*

Considering the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, the changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the arable fields arable is an indicator of lower susceptibility due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. There is also a sparse network of trees and hedgerows, indicating High - medium susceptibility.

The susceptibility of the landscape overall is assessed as **Medium-high**.

Landscape elements (watercourses, mature trees and hedgerows) are indicative of higher levels of susceptibility as they are not easily replaced if removed from within the onshore cable corridor.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium	Landscape value: Medium
	Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape susceptibility: <u>Medium-high (Landscape elements Medium-high)</u>

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Steyning & Henfield Brooks LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 5km in length) crosses this landscape to the northeast of the River Adur, from north of Beggar's Bush Kennels near Ashurst to the B2116 near Shermanbury and Partridge Green. The onshore cable corridor will cross approximately 29 fields.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-21, TC-22, TC-23 and alternative compound TC-22a (all approximately 75m x 50m) will be located within pasture fields largely contained by mature field boundary hedgerows and trees. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling. ~~Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the onshore cable route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <350m), reducing to **Negligible-Zero** for the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear more distant and partly screened by successive layers of vegetation.

The onshore cable corridor will be subject to three trenchless crossings, at the B2135 Horsham Road south of Ashurst, across the River Adur and across mature field boundary hedgerows to the south west of the river (approximate KP 28.6). The retention of landscape features (hedgerows and woodland) means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at these locations.

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be three construction and operational accesses in this section of the onshore cable corridor:

~~There will be five construction accesses (approximately 6m wide) which will also provide operational access along the onshore cable corridor:~~

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

- Access A-48 – B2135, north of Ashurst, across a single pastoral field – will require clearance to 20m of a roadside (hedge H269) to allow access and visibility splays along the roadside. This will create a **Medium** magnitude of change along the road corridor at a local level (<250m).
- Access A-49 will be used for operational access only with **No effect** on the landscape.
- Access A-50 (A-50a construction only, A-50b operational) – B2135, near Brightman’s Farm – will require the notching of a single hedge (H295) to 14m.
- Access A-52 – A281, near Shermanbury – creation of an access alongside an existing PRoW.
- Access A-53 – B2116, near Shermanbury – creation of an access across an existing pastoral field.

Collectively the magnitude of change from the construction and operational access will range between **Medium** to **Low** and the ~~The~~ level of effect of the construction accesses on landscape character will be **Moderate** and **Significant**.

Overall, the level of effect on landscape character will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<350m).

The inclusion of alternative compound TC-22a in replacement of TC-22 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

Landscape elements:

There will be localised significant effects on up to 20 landscape elements within this 5km section of onshore cable corridor. These include, including one area of woodland (W4795) cleared to 30m near Shermanbury Grange; one area of woodland and 2No hedges will be notched to 6m (W1002, H312 and H317) at Downs Link; one hedge (H269) cleared to 20m along the B2135 at access A-48; and 157 further hedges along the cable corridor all notched to 14m (H257 in two parts, H263, H271, H277, H295 in four parts, H297, H302, H308, H349, H358, H/ 359, H363, H372, and H377 and H378 on either side the B2116). ~~within this 5km section of onshore cable corridor.~~ The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the extent of vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

more obvious 'cut' through the LCA, but the nature of this effect will be long-term or permanent in the case of woodland. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Level of effect **Landscape character: Moderate** ($\leq 350\text{m}$)
Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and **Significant**

Type of effect Short-term, (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance:
- Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate / Minor** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1 that would not be significant.

~~All construction areas will have been reinstated.~~

In total 20 landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W479) cleared to 30m near Shermanbury Grange; one area of woodland and 2 hedges will be notched to 6m (W1002, H312 and H317) at Downs Link; one hedge (H269) cleared to 20m along the B2135 at access A-48; and 15 further hedges along the cable corridor all notched to 14m (H257 in two parts, H263, H271, H277, H295 in four parts, H297, H302, H308, H349, H358, H359, H363, H372, and H377 and H378 on either side the B2116). ~~one area of woodland (W475) cleared to 30m, one area of woodland notched to 6m (W1002) at Downs Link, one hedge (H269) cleared to 20m along the B2135, and 17 hedges notched to 14m (H257 in two parts, H263, H271, H295 in four parts, H297, H302, H308, H349, H358 / 359, H363, H372, and H378) will have been affected.~~ New replacement ~~hedge~~ planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss. With the reinstatement of the cable corridor the effects on successive

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

hedges will be less clearly connected and the magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium**, but remaining **Medium-high** in relation to cleared woodland.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor / Negligible** effect on the landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge / shrub~~ planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. New replacement planting at treelines / woodland (W479) near Shermanbury Grange and (W1002) at Downs Link will appear as a new section of hedge connecting the treelines / linear woodland. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium-low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss of woodland.

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement planting will be well established. Although the trees / woodland canopy cannot be replaced above the cable the reinstated planting at W479 and W1002 will appear as a dip in the profile of the tree canopy that will be difficult to discern as a residual effect of the construction works. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Negligible-Zero** and the level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**. ~~Replacement hedge-planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain. The level of effect will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.~~

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.

The onshore substation at Oakendene and existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks

Cumulative effects assessment There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-19 Effects on landscape character within the J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoints: T (Figure 18.61a-b), W (Figure 18.64), SA1 (Figure 18.10), SA2 (Figure 18.11), SA3 (Figure 18.12), SA7 (Figure 18.13) and SA8 (Figure 18.14), Volume 3 of the ES [REP4-026 – REP4-030] (Document Reference: 6.3.18).

LCA hierarchy National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald and NCA 122: High Weald

County Character Type: LCT: LW10: Eastern Low Weald

Designation None

Character description This LCA is located within the wider LW10: Eastern Low Weald LCT and comprises a lowland mixed pastoral and arable landscape with a strong hedgerow pattern. It lies over low ridges and clay vales drained by the upper Adur river system. Where possible there are some long views to the South Downs in the south and north to the High Weald. Sensitivities in the wider Eastern Low Weald LCT include a high level of perceived naturalness and a rural tranquillity in the landscape to the west of the A23 Trunk Road; woodland cover and the mosaic of shaws and hedgerows.

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

The Historic Landscape Character is Area 36: Adur Valley & catchment.

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p. 111):

Key characteristics:

- *“Gently undulating low ridges and valleys.*
- *Scattered small woodlands.*
- *Small and medium size pasture fields and some larger arable fields.*
- *Mostly small scale intricate landscape. Localised areas with more open character.*
- *Field ponds.*
- *Small farmsteads and cottages dispersed along lanes and tracks.*
- *The historic village of Cowfold and more suburban development at Partridge Green and Shermanbury.*
- *Local building materials of half timber, brick, tile, Horsham stone and weatherboarding.*
- *Landmark of St Hugh’s Charterhouse Monastery at Shermanbury.”*

No specific perceptual qualities are listed, although the area is relatively tranquil.

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the woodland, hedgerows and mature trees within the onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The landscape is not rare, consisting of farmed pastoral and arable fields interspersed by tree belts, woodland and hedgerows which are not uncommon to the wider area. However, the undulating low ridges and valleys have some scenic value and the proximity to the High Weald AONB in the north indicates a higher degree of landscape quality. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its network of recreational routes / PRoW, historic villages, and rural roads. The landscape value is assessed as **Medium-high** to **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

The Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003, p. 113) states that the “*Sensitivity to change overall is moderate reflecting the moderate to high intervisibility of the area and moderate intrinsic landscape qualities.*” Considering the nature of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, indicators of lower susceptibility include the sense of enclosure and limited visibility due to the undulating landform, and the network of trees, hedges and woodland which prevent longer range views from within the LCA, close to the onshore cable corridor. The changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the arable fields ~~arable~~ is a further indicator of lower susceptibility due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. There is however a dense network of trees, hedgerows, and woodland which will be of higher susceptibility and are a key characteristic.

The susceptibility of the landscape overall is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape elements (mature trees, hedgerows, and woodland) are indicative of higher levels of susceptibility as they are not easily replaced if removed from within the onshore cable corridor.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium	Landscape value: Medium-high to Medium	
	Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape susceptibility:	Medium (<u>Landscape elements Medium-high</u> High for landscape elements)

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 4.5km in length) crosses this landscape between Shermanbury Road and the proposed location for Oakendene Substation near the A272, to the east of Cowfold. The onshore cable corridor will cross up to 24 fields and approximately 30 field boundaries comprising hedgerows, trees and/or woodland features.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Trenchless crossing construction compounds TC-24, TC-25, TC-26, TC-27 and alternative compound locations TC-25a and TC-27a will be located within the LCA extents. Trenchless crossing compound TC-24 will occupy a small pastoral field adjacent to the A281 and close to roadside residential development and largely surrounded by mature vegetation; the other trenchless crossing compounds will be located within single fields. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

The onshore cable corridor will be subject to four trenchless crossings, at the A281 north of Shermanbury, at two locations across Cowfold Stream (approximate KP34.2km and KP34.9km) and bordering the proposed Oakendene substation site (approximate KP 36.4km). The retention of mature hedgerows, trees and woodland landscape features here means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at these locations.

~~Temporary construction activity elsewhere along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the onshore cable route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium – high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately >250m), reducing to **Negligible – Zero** for the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation. The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major / Moderate and Significant (<250m)**.

The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compounds TC-25a and TC-27a in replacement of trenchless crossing compounds TC-25 and TC-27 would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

Onshore cable corridor between Oakendene Substation and Wineham Lane:

This section of the onshore cable corridor is approximately 1.5km in length, crossing the landscape between the Oakendene substation near the A272, to Wineham Lane north of the existing National Grid Bolney substation. The onshore cable corridor will cross up to 11 fields and approximately 11 field boundaries comprising hedgerows, trees and/or woodland features.

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

Trenchless crossing construction compound TC-28 will be situated within a linear field bordering Kent St south of the A272. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling. ~~Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the onshore cable route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these construction activities will be **Medium – high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately \leq 250m), reducing to **Negligible – Zero** for the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation. The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major / Moderate and Significant** (<250m).

The onshore cable corridor will be subject to trenchless crossings, at Kent Street south of the A272 and at Wineham Lane to the north of the existing National Grid Bolney substation. The retention of mature hedgerows, trees and woodland landscape features here means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at these locations.

~~The onshore cable corridor construction works will affect 8 hedgerows and/or tree line features (notched 14m) and a linear section of woodland (W736, cleared to 20m). The loss of trees will be permanent, and magnitude of change affecting these elements will be **High**.~~

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be ~~five-seven temporary~~ construction and operational accesses ~~(approximately 10m wide) which will also provide permanent operational access along the~~ in this 6km section of the onshore cable corridor:

- Accesses A-49, A-50b, A-51, A-54, A-55, A-58 A-59, A-60 and A-66 will be used for operational access only with **No effect** on the landscape.
- Access A-50 (A-50a construction only, A-50b operational only) – B2135, near Brightman’s Farm – will require a single hedge (H309) to be cleared for 10m and hedge management (trimming) for visibility splays. The magnitude of change will be **Low**.
- Access A-53 – B2116, near Shermanbury will require construction of a 6m wide haul road with bell mouth affecting hedge (H380). The trees (W19) however, will be retained and visibility splays reduced by a

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

temporary 30mph speed limit reducing the visibility splay to 4370m as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. This will be achieved through vegetation management (hedge trimming and pruning / crown lifting). The magnitude of change will be **Low**.

- Access A-56 - off the A281, north of Shermanbury, will require ~~the notching to 14m of a trackside hedge (H422) and the notching to 6m of a tree line feature (W367).~~ The clearance of 10m of woodland (W503) near Greentree Lane for access / bell mouth and vegetation management (tree and shrub pruning) will be required for visibility splays that will be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. The magnitude of change affecting the woodland will be **Medium-high**.
- Access A-57 – off the A281 north of Shermanbury near Woodbarn / Maryland, will require the clearance of 20m of hedge (H406) and treeline (W367) for access / bell mouth and vegetation management (tree and shrub pruning) will be required for visibility splays that will be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.
- Access A-61 – Kent Street, will require hedge H505 to be cleared to 20m and H509 cleared to 10m for access / bell mouth and ~~with~~ vegetation pruned back to allow for visibility splays ~~will be reduced by a temporary speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**.~~ The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.
- Access A-62 – Construction compound Oakendene West - will require hedge (H612) to be cleared to 15m and 2No. oaks will be retained and crown lifted to allow for access / bell mouth, and vegetation managed for visibility splays which will be reduced by a temporary 40mph speed limit as noted in the **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [REP4-045]**. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high**.

Collectively the magnitude of change resulting from the construction accesses will be **Medium-high** ~~Low~~.

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <250m) reducing to **Low to Negligible to Zero** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation. The

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

inclusion of alternative compounds would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced). The level of effect on landscape character will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant** (<2450m).

Landscape elements:

Within this 6km section of onshore cable corridor there will be localised significant effects on a total of up to 40 landscape elements (including effects from construction access) as follows:

- To allow for construction access, as noted previously seven hedges / treelines (H309, H380, H406 / W367, H505, H509, and H612 will be cleared to between 6-20m and a hedge along the A272 (H520b) to be permanently cleared to 100m to allow for the permanent access to the Oakendene substation.
- At Crateman's Farm four landscape elements will be affected including an area of scrub (HS1388) which will be cleared to 30m along with the notching to 14m of two areas of treeline / scrub (W557a / HS558 / HS1389) and (HS1388c) and an area of scrub (HS1388a/b) notched to 6m.
- At King's Lane a hedge to the south of the lane (H474) will be cleared to 30m and a hedge / scrub (W544 / HS1414) to the north will be cleared to 20m. In addition, hedges (H481 and H482) on either side of Kings Lane will need to accommodate the 6m wide haul road.
- At Greentree Lane, near the A281, an area of woodland and scrub (W505 / HS456 / HS1381) will be cleared to 30m. This will have a localised High magnitude of change due to the loss of woodland.
- Three areas of scrub (HS5804, HS1383, HS1389) will be cleared to 30m to the north of the B2116 and Shermanbury.
- Near Eastridge Farm woodland (W736) will be cleared to 20m and scrub (HS1392) will be cleared to 30m.
- Along the cable corridor seven further treelines / hedges / scrub will be notched to 14m including (H514, H515, H516, H507 / W207, W678, W473 / HS835, and W472.
- Along the cable corridor 12 further treelines / hedges / scrub will be notched to 14m including (H378 on the north side of the B2116, H383, H384, H424, H433, H464b, H475, H476, H497, HS655 and W110. In addition, a treeline / hedge (W367 / H422) near A281 at Woodbarn / Maryland will be notched to 6m.

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA as well as reducing the quality of the landscape character in terms of its vegetation cover. However, the screening and extent of remaining vegetation and the varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA, but the nature of this effect will be long-term or permanent in the case of woodland. The magnitude of change will be High (in relation to areas of cleared woodland at near Greentree Lane (W503 and W505) reducing to Medium-high.

The level of effect on landscape elements between the B2116 and Oakendene will also be **Major (near Greentree Lane) to Major / Moderate and Significant**.

Between Kent Street Lane and Wineham Lane – 10 landscape elements will be affected:

To allow for construction access (A-64), as noted previously a hedge (H509) will be cleared to 10m.

Near Eastridge Farm woodland (736) will be cleared to 20m and scrub (HS1392) will be cleared to 30m.

Along the cable corridor seven further treelines / hedges / scrub will be notched to 14m including (H514, H515, H516, H507 / W207, W678, W473 / HS835, and W472.

The level of effect on landscape elements between Kent Street Lane and Wineham Lane will ~~also~~ be **Major / Moderate and Significant**.

Note: The Oakendene substation and associated construction compounds (Oakendene north and Oakendene west) are assessed as part of the LVIA for the substation in the main chapter (Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]. This includes effects on vegetation affected by the Oakendene substation (H511, H512 and HS546).

Level of effect	Landscape character: Moderate Major / Moderate (<2450m) Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and Significant
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Type of effect	Short-term, (<u>long-term in relation to mature trees</u>), temporary, direct and adverse.
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Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Moderate / Minor** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1 that would not be significant.

All construction areas will have been reinstated.

In total 4023 landscape elements, including one area of woodland (W505) cleared to 30m and one area of woodland (W736) cleared to 20m, 16 hedges (H383, H384, H424 / 425, H433, H464, H475, H476, H481 and H482 on either side of Kings Lane, H497, H507, H510, H514, H515, and H516) and four treelines (W110, W472, W473, and W678) notched to 14m, and one treeline (W367) notched to 6m, will have been affected including the clearance of woodland near Greentree Lane and the clearance of hedges / scrub and treelines near Crateman's Farm, King's Lane and B2116 and the removal of vegetation to allow for construction access, permanent access to the substation and elsewhere along the 6km cable corridor.

New replacement hedge-planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss. With the reinstatement of the cable corridor the effects on successive hedges will be less clearly connected and the magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium**, but remaining **Medium-high** in relation to cleared woodland.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor / Negligible** effect on the landscape character.

Replacement hedge / shrub-planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Managed vegetation will re-grow. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium-low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss of woodland.

J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement planting will be well established. Although the trees / woodland canopy cannot be replaced above the cable the reinstated planting will appear as a dip in the profile of the tree canopy that will be difficult to discern as a residual effect of the construction works. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Negligible-Zero** and the level of effect will be **Minor and Not Significant**. Replacement hedge planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain. The level of effect will be **Minor and Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.

The existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will not be visible.

The onshore substation at Oakendene will be visible, although contained by surrounding vegetation and topography. The level of effect on this landscape will be **Major** (<300m) and the combined cumulative landscape effect will also be **Significant**.

Cumulative effects assessment

There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

Table 2-20 Effects on landscape character within the LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

Figures: 18.4a-e, 18.5b, and 18.8, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)

Viewpoint: SB1 (Figure 18.15), SB3 (Figure 18.16), SB6 (Figure 18.17), SB7 (Figure 18.18), Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18).

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

LCA hierarchy National Character Area: NCA 121: Low Weald

County Character Type: LCT: LW10: Eastern Low Weald

Designation None

Character description

This LCA is located within the wider LW10: Eastern Low Weald LCT which comprises a lowland mixed pastoral and arable landscape with a strong hedgerow pattern. The landform is gently undulating within low ridges and clay vales drained by the upper River Adur system. Where possible there are some long views to the South Downs in the south and north to the High Weald. Sensitivities in the wider Eastern Low Weald LCT include a high level of perceived naturalness and a rural tranquillity in the landscape to the west of the A23 Trunk Road; woodland cover and the mosaic of shaws and hedgerows.

[The Historic Landscape Character is Area 36: Adur Valley & catchment.](#)

The key characteristics at a local scale are described in the Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Chris Blandford Associates, 2003):

Key characteristics:

- *“Alternating west-east trending low ridges with sandstone beds and clay vales carrying long, sinuous upper Adur streams.*
- *Views dominated by the steep downland scarp to the south and the High Weald fringes to the north.*
- *Arable and pastoral rural landscape, a mosaic of small and larger fields, scattered woodlands, shaws and hedgerows with hedgerow trees.*
- *Quieter and more secluded, confined rural landscape to the west, much more development to the east, centred on Burgess Hill.*
- *Biodiversity in woodland, meadowland, ponds and wetland.*
- *Mix of farmsteads and hamlets favouring ridgeline locations, strung out along lanes.*
- *A modest spread of designed landscapes and major landmark of Hurstpierpoint College.*

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

- *Crossed by north-south roads including the A23 Trunk Road, with a rectilinear network of narrow rural lanes.*
- *London to Brighton Railway Line crosses the area through Burgess Hill.*
- *Varied traditional rural buildings built with diverse materials including timber framing, weatherboarding, Horsham Stone roofing and varieties of local brick and tile-hanging.*
- *Principal visitor attraction is the Hickstead All England Equestrian Showground.”*

Landscape elements:

The most relevant landscape elements are the woodland, hedgerows and mature trees within the onshore cable corridor and onshore substation search area.

Assessment of sensitivity

Landscape value:

The landscape is not rare, consisting of farmed pastoral and arable fields interspersed by tree belts, woodland and hedgerows which are not uncommon to the wider area. However, the rolling landscape does have some scenic value and the proximity of this landscape to the High Weald AONB to the north indicates a degree of landscape quality. Opportunities to experience the landscape result from its network of recreational routes/PRoW, historic villages, rural roads and the equestrian showground at Hickstead.

The landscape value is assessed as **Medium**.

Landscape susceptibility:

The Landscape Character Assessment for Mid Sussex (LCA) 2005 states that the “*Parts of the area are visually exposed to views from the downs with a consequently high sensitivity to the impact of new development and the cumulative visual impact of buildings and other structures.*” Indicators of lower susceptibility include the sense of enclosure and limited visibility due to the undulating landform, and the network of trees, hedges and woodland which prevent longer range views from within the LCA, close to the onshore cable corridor. The changing character of the landuse and the landcover pattern of the mixed pasture and arable fields arable is a further indicator of lower susceptibility due to regular crop rotation and the movement of agricultural machinery. The existing National Grid Bolney substation is well screened but a local influence on the landscape sensitivity of the onshore cable corridor.

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

The susceptibility of the landscape overall is assessed as **Medium-low**.

Landscape elements (mature trees, hedgerows, and woodland) are indicative of higher levels of susceptibility as they are not easily replaced if removed from within the onshore cable corridor.

Sensitivity	Landscape character: Medium-low	Landscape value:	Medium
	Landscape elements: Medium-high	Landscape susceptibility:	Medium-low (Landscape elements Medium-high)

Magnitude of change and level of residual effect

During construction:

Within the Hickstead Low Weald LCA the onshore cable corridor (approximately 1km in length) and skirts the northern and eastern boundaries of the existing National Grid Bolney substation to the north of Bob Lane. The onshore cable corridor will cross hedgerows and mature roadside trees at Wineham Lane, crossing four fields and a further three hedgerows and tree line features.

The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Trenchless crossing construction compound TC-28 will be situated within a pasture field bordering Wineham Lane to the north of the existing National Grid Bolney substation. The temporary trenchless crossing compounds will ~~remain in place for approximately three to four months and will~~ contain trenchless crossing plant and activities (including use of a crane) and cable pulling.

~~Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will be transient and of short duration (up to 3.5 years) with progressive backfill and reinstatement as works on the onshore cable corridor are completed along the onshore cable route.~~ The scale and geographical extent of these temporary construction activities will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately >150m, viewing along the onshore cable corridor), reducing to **Negligible-Zero** for the wider LCA where the

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

onshore substation and onshore cable corridor will appear partly or wholly screened by successive layers of vegetation.

The onshore cable corridor will be subject to trenchless crossing at Wineham Lane, north of the existing National Grid Bolney substation. The retention of mature hedgerows, trees and woodland landscape features here means that there will be **No Effect** on the landscape at this location.

Construction and operational accesses:

There will be two construction and operational accesses in this section of the onshore cable corridor:

- Access A-67 will be used for construction and operational access via a gap in the vegetations (post and rail fence off Wineham Lane. Wineham Lane and associated roadside vegetation will be crossed via a trenchless crossing with **No effect** on the landscape.
- Access A-68 will be used for construction and operational access and is the existing access to the existing National Grid Bolney substation and there will be **No effect** on the landscape.
- Access A-69 will be used for operational access only with **No effect** on the landscape.

Overall, the magnitude of change will be **Medium-high** when experienced locally to the construction works (within the same field unit or approximately <150m) reducing to **Low to Negligible to Zero** or less on the wider LCA where the onshore cable corridor will appear contained and often screened by intervening vegetation. The inclusion of alternative trenchless crossing compounds would not give rise to any different magnitude of change within the LCA overall (other than a change of field unit location for where the magnitude of change is locally experienced).

The level of effect on landscape character will be **Moderate** and **Significant** (<150m).

Landscape elements:

There will be localised effects on up to three landscape elements within this 1km section of the onshore cable corridor. These include ~~two-one~~ hedges notched to 14m (H469), ~~and a hedge and overlapping linear woodland (20m (W677); and one area of woodland (/ W387)~~ cleared to 20m and a further hedge (H456) notched to 6m to the north and northeast of the existing National Grid Bolney substation ~~and overlapping with other proposed~~

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

~~energy related development. In addition, a further area of woodland (W3712a) will be lost permanently within the footprint of the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension.~~

The removal of trees and shrubs at each of these locations will appear as a break in the linear pattern of field boundary vegetation, which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. However, the limited extent of vegetation loss and varying direction of the onshore cable corridor across the landscape will prevent this appearing as a more obvious 'cut' through the LCA. ~~The, but the~~ nature of this effect will be long-term or permanent in the case of woodland. The magnitude of change will be **Medium-high, accounting for the effect on the linear woodland.**

The level of effect on landscape elements will also be **Major / Moderate** and **Significant**.

Note: Vegetation affected by the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension (W3712a/c, W384, and HS560) is assessed as part of the LVIA for the substation, along with mitigation planting, in the main chapter (Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059]).

Level of effect **Landscape character: Moderate** ($\leq 150\text{m}$)
Landscape elements: Major / Moderate and **Significant**

Type of effect Short-term, (long-term in relation to mature trees), temporary, direct and adverse.

Note: Duration is not included in the assessment of magnitude. The resulting level of effect has assumed a maximum duration for the construction works (3.5 years), although in reality the construction works along the cable corridor would vary in intensity and be subject to phasing and progressive restoration.

During operation and maintenance: - Year 1

All construction areas will have been reinstated and there will be a residual **Minor** effect on the landscape character during operational in Year 1 that would not be significant.

~~All construction areas will have been reinstated.~~

In total two hedges notched to 14m (H469) and 20m (W677); and one area of woodland (W387) cleared to 20m to the north of the existing National Grid Bolney substation and overlapping with other proposed energy related

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

development. In addition, a further area of woodland (W3712a) will be lost permanently within the footprint of the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension. New replacement ~~hedge~~-planting will have been undertaken, but not yet established. Retained hedgerow between the notches will give the appearance of a 'gappy' hedge rather than a complete loss. With the reinstatement of the cable corridor the effects on successive hedges will be less clearly connected and the magnitude of change will remain **Medium**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss to tree lines and some woodland.

- Year 5

There will be a residual **Minor / Negligible** effect on the landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge / shrub~~-planting will be established, along with retained hedges between the notches. Although not mature there will be a re-connectivity of the vegetation network introducing greater age and species diversity and the opportunity for some new views out across the landscape. The magnitude of change will reduce to **Medium-low**.

The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Moderate** and **Significant**, reflecting the loss of woodland.

- Year 10

There will be **No effect** on landscape character.

Replacement ~~hedge~~-planting will be well established although not matching the size of mature trees / woodland and a **Negligible-Zero** magnitude of change will remain. The level of effect on landscape elements will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

Whole Proposed Development effects

The offshore elements of the Proposed Development will not be visible.

The existing National Grid Bolney substation extension will be visible, although contained by surrounding vegetation. The level of effect on this landscape will be **Minor** and there will be no significant combined cumulative landscape effects.

LW1: Hickstead Low Weald

The onshore substation at Oakdene will be barely visible, ~~although contained by surrounding vegetation and topography. The~~ and the level of effect on this landscape will range from None to be **Minor / Negligible** and the combined cumulative landscape effect will be **Not Significant**.

Cumulative effects assessment There will be no cumulative landscape effects.

3. Landscape Designations

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The onshore elements of the Proposed Development are partly located within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) with the route of the onshore cable corridor crossing the SDNP between the A27 near Hammerpot and the A283 near Wiston. This element of the Proposed Development will have both a direct effect and an indirect effect on the SDNP and may affect its natural beauty, special qualities and in particular its Special Landscape Qualities (SLQ) including views and perceptual qualities as well as its setting and overall integrity.
- 3.1.2 The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will not be directly affected by the onshore elements of the Proposed Development, but nonetheless it may also be indirectly affected in terms of its SLQ including views and perceptual qualities.
- 3.1.3 The SDNP and the High Weald AONB are assessed here and summarised in [Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18).

3.2 Assessment Methodology

- 3.2.1 This section reports on the effects on the onshore elements of the Proposed Development on the SDNP and its setting, with regard to the statutory requirement to conserve the natural beauty, special qualities and overall integrity of the national park as set out in *The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949* and *The Environment Act 1995*.
- “Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage [and] promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Parks by the Public.”*
- 3.2.2 In addition, these statutory duties also apply to development which is outwith the SDNP as set out in *Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), Natural Environment, Landscape, and PPG for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2015; Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2019):
- “The duty is relevant in considering development proposals that are situated outside National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries, but which might have an impact on the setting of, and implementation of, the statutory purposes of these protected areas.”*
- 3.2.3 Further guidance is provided through national and local planning policy as set out in [Section 18.2 of Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2](#) of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18). The assessment has also had regard to the *South Downs Landscape Character Assessment* (South Downs National Park, 2020) and key documents including *South Downs Viewshed Study Report* (2015) and the *South Downs National Park Special Qualities* report (2011).

- 3.2.4 This assessment draws from the LVIA undertaken to accord with the methodology set out in **Appendix 18.1: Landscape and visual impact assessment methodology, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.1) with additional guidance provided by the NatureScot working draft *Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities*, (NatureScot, 2018). This is because the assessment of landscape planning designations differs from that of landscape character or visual assessment. The assessment draws from the LVIA and goes further to consider the effects of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development on the natural beauty of the national park which are encapsulated by the SLQs as well as the setting and integrity of the designation.
- 3.2.5 This assessment comprises the four stages as follows.
- Stage 1: Brief description of the landscape planning designation and summary of SDNP special qualities and setting.
 - Stage 2: Defining the Study Area and selection of relevant SLQs for assessment. The assessment is supported by ZTV, viewpoint analysis including site survey and the details of the landscape and visual assessment.
 - Stage 3: Assessment of each of the relevant SLQs, setting and integrity of the designation by addressing the following questions:
 - ▶ i) is there an effect on the landscape character within the designated area and to what extent will this affect the natural / scenic beauty, special qualities, and the integrity?
 - ▶ ii) is there an effect on the landscape character outwith the boundary of the designation and to what extent does this represent valued setting of the designation such that it contributes to the natural / scenic beauty, special qualities and integrity of the designation?
 - ▶ iii) is there an effect on the views from within the designation to the onshore elements of the Proposed Development either within or beyond the boundary of the designation and to what extent will the effects on these views affect the natural / scenic beauty, special qualities, and integrity?
 - ▶ iv) is there an effect on the views back into the designation from beyond the boundary and to what extent will the effects on these views affect the natural/scenic beauty, special qualities, and the integrity of the designation?
 - ▶ v) the assessment will also address whole Proposed Development effects and cumulative effects.
 - Stage 4: Statement of Significance – providing a summary of the assessment, noting the effects on the SDNP in terms of the SLQs, its setting and the implications for the integrity of the designation as well as highlighting any opportunities for further mitigation.

3.3 South Downs National Park

Overview and Scope

3.3.1 The onshore elements of the Proposed Development are partly located within the South Downs National Park (SDNP) with the route of the onshore cable corridor crossing the SDNP between the A27 and the A283. The LVIA confirms no effects pathway between the landfall and the substation at Oakendene and the existing National Grid Bolney substation extension.

3.3.2 The assessment of the SDNP will therefore be limited to the onshore cable corridor during the construction and the operation and maintenance phases.

3.3.3 The onshore cable will be left *in-situ* during the decommissioning phase.

3.3.3.3.4 [Further assessment of the SDNP special qualities and an overview of the statutory duties in relation to the South Downs National Park is provided in the **Deadline 4 Submission – 8.25.5 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 2 Further information on South Downs National Park \(REP4-063\)**.](#)

Stage 1: South Downs National Park

Overview

3.3.4.3.5 The SDNP covers 1,600km² of rural South Downs landscape in part of the counties of Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex. It is a rich and diverse landscape of national importance that includes rolling hills, heathland, river valleys, ancient woodland, villages and market towns, and the iconic white cliffs of the Heritage Coast. Some key facts relating to the SDNP are:

- *“The South Downs National Park is the newest of the UK’s 15 National Parks.*
- *The South Downs National Park officially came into being on 31 March 2010. However, the idea of a National Park in the South Downs can be traced all the way back to 1929.*
- *In 2016 the National Park was granted South Downs International Dark Sky Reserve status, making it one of the best places in the country to view the night sky. Today, we are one of only 16 such Reserves in the world.*
- *The National Park is home to a number of globally important habitats, including lowland heath, described as rarer than rainforest.*
- *Woolmer Forest, a lowland heath site, is the only place in the country to have all 12 of the UK’s native amphibian and reptile species.*
- *Around 4% of the land in the National Park is chalk grassland. Since the Second World War, the UK has lost over 80% of its chalk grassland.*
- *The South Downs is home to a number of rare species, including the Adonis blue butterfly that thrives in chalk grassland.*
- *The South Downs Way is one of 15 National Trails. However, it is the only National Trail to lie entirely within a National Park.*

- *It is thought that the chalk ridgeline of the South Downs Way has been used by people for more than 6000 years.*
- *Cissbury Ring, just north of Worthing, is the second largest hillfort in England. It is a Scheduled monument due to its Neolithic flint mines and the remnants of the Iron Age fort.*
- *The South Downs is the most populous of the UK's National Park. 117,000 live and work within the Park's boundaries with an additional 2 million people living within 5km of the Park." (<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk>)*

Special Qualities of the South Downs National Park

3.3.53.3.6 There are seven special qualities of the SDNP, which were agreed through public consultation by the South Downs National Park Authority in 2015 (South Downs National Park 2015a). A summary of these is provided as follows:

- “1) diverse, inspirational landscapes and breath-taking views;*
- 2) a rich variety of wildlife and habitats including rare and internationally important species;*
- 3) tranquil and unspoilt places;*
- 4) an environment shaped by centuries of farming and embracing new enterprise;*
- 5) great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences;*
- 6) well-conserved historical features and a rich cultural heritage; and*
- 7) distinctive towns and villages, and communities with real pride in their area.”*

The setting of the South Downs National Park

3.3.63.3.7 The setting of the SDNP is not defined on any plan but is likely to include:

- areas close to the boundary with common or complementary landscape character and qualities;
- panoramic views from within the SDNP to areas beyond the SDNP boundary:
 - ▶ from the northern escarpment to the lower lying landscapes of the Weald in the north; and
 - ▶ from the southern dip-slope south across the coastal plain to the sea and along the River Arun valley.
- views from beyond the SDNP boundary towards the South Downs hills (escarpment and dip-slope) as well as other landmark features within the SDNP such as Arundel Castle.

Stage 2: Study area and SLQ selection

Overview

[3.3.73.3.8](#) The SDNP and the LVIA Study Area is illustrated in **Figure 18.6a, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18) of the ES, with **Figure 18.6b, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18) illustrating the ZTV of the wider area. A more detailed picture of the ZTV and viewpoint locations for the onshore cable corridor is illustrated in **Figures 18.4a-e, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18).

[3.3.83.3.9](#) It should be noted that the SDNP boundary does not extend to include the visual watershed or area visible from within the SDNP, rather it focuses on the hill range of the South Downs and the heritage coast. Therefore, in terms of the setting of the SDNP, this is likely to include areas of landscape and views to and from the SDNP which are beyond the boundary of the SDNP.

Summary of Landscape Effects

[3.3.93.3.10](#) The part of the SDNP within the Study Area comprises a broad elevated east–west ridge with a steeply sloping, north facing chalk escarpment (I3 Arun to Adur Downs Scarp) fringed by a landscape of patchwork of pasture fields (J3 Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes) that runs along the foot of the escarpment. The undulating dip-slope is south of the escarpment, a large-scale area of gently undulating and elevated open downs (mainly cereals crops and pasture) with few trees / hedges / woodland (A3 Arun to Adur Open Downs) further south and along the southern fringes of the SDNP are large areas of ancient woodland and estates (B4 Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland and R1 South Downs Upper Coastal Plain). The River Arun valley is located to the west (G4 Arun Valley Sides and F4 Arun Floodplain) and the A24 is routed through a dry valley to the east.

[3.3.103.3.11](#) Roads and villages are mainly concentrated in the river valleys and the northern and southern edges of the SDNP, whilst the open downs are sparsely settled with scattered farmsteads. The South Downs Way National Trail crosses this area of the SDNP just back from the main northern chalk escarpment, from which there are panoramic views to the north. Perceptual qualities include tranquillity and a lack of built development particularly in the Open Downs and along the edge of the escarpment where there are panoramic views across the lower lying landscapes to the north including the High Weald AONB in the distance.

[3.3.113.3.12](#) The landscape character within the SDNP is documented in the *South Downs Landscape Character Assessment* (South Downs National Park, 2020) and the following LCAs are located within the SDNP and the LVIA Study Area. These are assessed in **Section 2** and illustrated in **Figures 18.5bi-iii, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18):

- G4 Arun Valley Sides;
- F4 Arun Floodplain;
- R1 South Downs Upper Coastal Plain;

- B4 Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland;
- A3 Arun to Adur Open Downs;
- I3 Arun to Adur Downs Scarp; and
- J3 Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes.

3.3-123.3.13 Significant landscape character and visual effects have been identified within the LVIA that will affect receptors within or close to the SDNP during the construction phase with more limited effects identified during the operation and maintenance phase. The onshore cable corridor therefore has the potential to effect aspects of the SLQs and natural beauty of the SDNP as well as its setting and integrity.

3.3-133.3.14 During the construction phase, the onshore cable corridor will significantly affect the landscape character and associated elements (treelines, woodland, hedges and scrub) within part of 14 LCAs crossed by the onshore cable corridor as follows:

- Part 1: Climping to SDNP
 - ▶ 31. Climping Lower Coastal Plain;
 - ▶ 34: Middle Arun Valley Floor;
 - ▶ 35: Lower Arun Valley Floor;
 - ▶ 40: Lyminster-Angmering Coastal Plain; and
 - ▶ 41: Black Ditch Rife.
- Part 2: SDNP
 - ▶ R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain;
 - ▶ B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland;
 - ▶ A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs; and
 - ▶ J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes.
- Part 3: SDNP to Oakendene / Bolney
 - ▶ D1: Amberley to Steyning Farmlands;
 - ▶ F1: Pulborough Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands;
 - ▶ G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands;
 - ▶ O3: Steyning & Henfield Brooks; and
 - ▶ J3: Cowfold & Shermanbury Farmlands.

3.3-143.3.15 The geographical extent of these effects will be contained within one or two field boundaries (approximately 250m of the onshore cable corridor) due to the screening effects of existing trees, woodland and hedgerows. However, the effects will extend to within approximately 650m of the onshore cable corridor when viewed from hill tops and open areas within the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA.

Summary of effects on Views and Visual Amenity within the South Downs National Park

~~3.3-163.3.16~~ 3.3-163.3.16 The visual assessment is documented in **Appendix 18.4: Visual assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.4) and covers the visual effects on views likely to be experienced by people in settlements, on transport and recreational routes (including long distance routes such as the South Downs Way) and other recreational, visitor and tourist attractions. This work is supported by the analysis of a series of viewpoints agreed through consultation with the SDNP Authority and a number of other stakeholders and has been assisted by the *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis, Final Report*, (South Downs National Park, 2015b).

~~3.3-163.3.17~~ 3.3-163.3.17 A total of ~~6457~~ visualisations of the onshore cable corridor are illustrated in **Figures 18.19 to 18.75, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18), as well as a sequential assessment for the South Downs Way **Figure 18.76, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18). Each of the viewpoints are assessed in **Appendix 18.2: Viewpoint analysis, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.2).

~~3.3-173.3.18~~ 3.3-173.3.18 Within the SDNP, there are a total of **31** viewpoints ranging between 22m to 11.9km distance. ~~Of these Of the 3129 viewpoints, 153~~ have been assessed as significant and viewpoint analysis indicates that significant visual effects (during the construction phase) are likely to extend approximately 650m distance from the onshore cable corridor, although the majority are within approximately 300m of the onshore cable corridor and limited to within 1-2 field boundaries. The significantly affected viewpoints are listed as follows:

- F3: PRoW 2173 North of Blackpatch Hill;
- H: Washington;
- H1: Junction of The Pike and A283, Washington;
- H5a: Footpath off Swillage Lane;
- H6a: Footpath south of Angmering Park Stud Farm;
- H7a: Michelgrove on Monarch's Way;
- H7b: Harrow Hill bridleway;
- H7d: Blackpatch Hill;
- H7h: Barnsfarm Hill, South Downs Way;
- J4: A283 at Lower Chancton Farm;
- LD1: PRoW 2173, south of Chanty Post;
- LD2: PRoW 2092, east of Chanty Post;
- LD4: PRoW 2208/2, south east of Harrow Hill;
- NP3: PRoW 2208, Selden Fields (Viewpoint: NP3, **Figure 18.71, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)); and
- NP5: PRoW 2282, East of Sullington Hill.

3.3.183.3.19 During the construction phase, there will be significant visual effects on the views experienced by people from receptor locations as follows:

- Settlements – there will be no effects on the views from settlements, with the exception of the recreation ground to the north of Washington.
- Transport Routes:
 - ▶ A295, Ferry Road, Church Lane, Railway: Littlehampton/Arundel/Ford, A284 Lyminster Road, Poling Street, A283 The Pike, B2116, Kings Lane, Kent Street and Wineham Lane; and
 - ▶ One of these (A283 The Pike) follows the northern boundary of the SDNP.
- Recreational routes:
 - ▶ South Downs Way National Trail;
 - ▶ England Coast Path / Arun Way;
 - ▶ Sustrans NCR 2 / South Coast Cycle Route;
 - ▶ Sustrans NCR 223 / Downs Link cycle route;
 - ▶ Monarch's Way;
 - ▶ 47 PRoWs (24 of which are within the SDNP); and
 - ▶ Barpham Hill and Sullington Hill open access land.
- Recreational / Tourist destinations:
 - ▶ Littlehampton West Beach (Climping Beach); and
 - ▶ three tourist facilities at Climping Camp Site, Climping Caravan Park and Washington Caravan Park and the recreational space at Washington recreation ground.

3.3.193.3.20 During the operation and maintenance phase, residual effects arising from the loss of landscape elements (treelines, woodland, hedges and scrub) during the construction phase will affect the views from Church Lane in Climping, A283 The Pike, King's Lane, Kent Street, Sustrans NCR 223 / Downs Link and up to 210 PRoW (seven of which are in the SDNP). New replacement planting will be undertaken and maintained for 10 Years in accordance with the **Outline LEMP** (Document Reference 7.10) to mitigate these effects.

3.3.21 There would be no effect on the core areas South Downs International Dark Sky Reserve or 'dark skies' within the SDNP due to the implementation of embedded environmental measures within the **Commitments Register** (Document Reference: 7.22) (C-22, C-66, and C-200). This conclusion was based on the fact that none of the Dark Skies Discovery Sites or core areas of the Dark Sky Reserve are located within the LVIA Study Area (see Figure 15.12, Volume 3 of the ES [APP-088]). The nearest of these being located beyond 10km distance from the proposed DCO Order Limits. The cable corridor is however routed through the "E1a - 2km Buffer Zone & Intrinsic Rural Darkness" area and as such the recommendations of the SDNP Local Plan Policy SD8: Dark Night Skies have been followed through the commitment measures.

3.3.22 The SDNP Local Plan Policy SD8: Dark Night Skies includes specific lighting requirements for developers (SDNPA, 2019). – *“Wherever possible new development will be required to avoid installing lighting. If new lighting is unavoidable steps must be taken to avoid its impacts on our dark night skies by making sure that it’s properly designed, taking into consideration direction of lighting and number of lumens emitted. If that is not possible, adverse impacts of lighting will be required to be mitigated – for example, by installing timing restrictions and making sure that the light emitted is of a colour that won’t disturb wildlife.”*

3.3.203.3.23 Therefore, the focus has been on the embedded environmental measures including C-200 in the **Commitment Register [REP4-057]** (updated at Deadline 4) and secured in Section 4.5 of the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-043]** with further details to be provided in the stage specific CoCP to be provided as per Requirement 22 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]** (updated at Deadline 4). These updates have included adoption of the advice in the Dark Skies Technical Advice Note (SDNP, 2021) where this relates to construction works. Further construction lighting (where required) will be limited to directional task lighting positioned to minimise glare and nuisance to residents and walkers within the SDNP and informed by British Standard (BS) EN 12464-2:2014 Lighting of outdoor workplaces (British Standards Institution (BSI), 2014) and guidance provided by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), Society of Light and Lighting, The Bat Conservation Trust and the Institution of Lighting Professionals.

3.3.243.3.24 In some cases, affecting long range 360° views from hill tops, the effects will be cumulative with other whole Proposed Development effects, namely the offshore wind turbines as assessed in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

3.3.223.3.25 No significant cumulative effects resulting from the onshore cable corridor and other development were identified. This is because of the limited occurrence of other development within the SDNP, the large intervening distances between other development and the onshore cable corridor, limited theoretical visibility, and the existence of other development within the existing LVIA baseline (e.g., Rock Common Quarry and Sandgate Park Quarry).

Selection of relevant Special Landscape Qualities

3.3.233.3.26 Of the seven special qualities of the SDNP, it is considered that three special qualities 1, 3, and 5 encapsulate the SLQ which are the focus of this assessment covering landscapes and views, tranquillity, and recreation (such as the South Downs Way).

3.3.243.3.27 Special qualities 2, 4, 6 and 7 relate to nature conservation and ecology, landuse, heritage and socioeconomics which are covered in **Chapter 17: Socio-economics, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.17), **Chapter 22: Terrestrial ecology and nature conservation, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.22), and **Chapter 25: Historic environment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.25).

3.3.253.3.28 Each of the three SLQs are described further drawing on the detailed descriptions provided by the South Downs National Park (SDNPA) (South Downs National Park, 2015a). The most relevant parts to this assessment are underlined.

- “1. *Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views:*

The geology of the South Downs underpins so much of what makes up the special qualities of the area: its diverse landscapes, land use, buildings and culture. The rock types of the National Park are predominately chalk and the alternating series of greensands and clays that form the Western Weald. Over time a diversity of landscapes has been created in a relatively small area which is a key feature of the National Park. These vary from the wooded and heathland ridges on the greensand in the Western Weald to wide open downland on the chalk that spans the length of the National Park, both intersected by river valleys. Within these diverse landscapes are hidden villages, thriving market towns, farms both large and small and historic estates, connected by a network of paths and lanes, many of which are ancient.

There are stunning, panoramic views to the sea and across the Weald as you travel the hundred mile length of the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne, culminating in the impressive chalk cliffs at Seven Sisters. From near and far, the South Downs is an area of inspirational beauty that can lift the soul.”

- “3. *Tranquil and unspoilt places:*

The South Downs National Park is in South East England, one of the most crowded parts of the United Kingdom. Although its most popular locations are heavily visited, many people greatly value the sense of tranquillity and unspoilt places which give them a feeling of peace and space. In some areas the landscape seems to possess a timeless quality, largely lacking intrusive development and retaining areas of dark night skies. This is a place where people seek to escape from the hustle and bustle in this busy part of England, to relax, unwind and re-charge their batteries.”

- “5. *Great opportunities for recreational activities and learning experiences:*

The South Downs offers a wide range of recreational and learning opportunities to the large and diverse populations living both within and on the doorstep of the National Park, and to visitors from further afield.

With 3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles) of public rights of way and the entire South Downs Way National Trail within the National Park there is exceptional scope for walking, cycling and horse riding. Many other outdoor activities take place such as paragliding, orienteering and canoeing. There is a chance for everyone to walk, play, picnic and enjoy the countryside, including at Queen Elizabeth Country Park in Hampshire and Seven Sisters Country Park in East Sussex.

The variety of landscapes, wildlife and culture provides rich opportunities for learning about the South Downs as a special place, for the many school and college students and lifelong learners. Museums, churches, historic houses, outdoor education centres and wildlife reserves are places that provide both enjoyment and learning. There is a strong volunteering tradition providing chances for outdoor conservation work, acquiring rural skills, leading guided

walks and carrying out survey work relating to wildlife species and rights of way.

Stage 3: Assessment of the SDNP

Overview

3.3.263.3.29 This part of the assessment draws collectively on the LVIA to form a judgement on the likely effects of the onshore cable corridor on the SLQs, setting and integrity of the SDNP.

SLQ 1. Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breath-taking views.

Overview

3.3.273.3.30 Notably its “diverse landscapes” that “vary from the wooded and heathland ridges on the greensand in the Western Weald to wide open downland on the chalk that spans the length of the National Park, both intersected by river valleys.” And the “stunning, panoramic views to the sea and across the Weald as you travel the hundred mile length of the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne...” (South Downs National Park, 2015a).

3.3.283.3.31 The sensitivity of this SLQ to the onshore cable corridor is assessed as High.

Effect during the construction phase

3.3.32 With regards the effects of the onshore cable route which passes through the SDNP, the Applicant notes that the entire onshore cable will be placed underground which is fundamental to avoidance of any permanent significant effects on the SDNP and SQ1. This is secured in the **Onshore Works Plans [PEPD-005]** and the description of Work No.9 (a) in the **Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]**. This aligns with paragraphs 2.8.8 - 2.8.10 of National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-5 (Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), 2011c) which specify undergrounding as mitigation for potential adverse landscape and visual impacts, particularly in the context of nationally designated landscapes such as “National Parks, AONBs and the Broads” (DECC, 2011c, paragraph 2.8.9). It also aligns with the strong starting presumption for placing electricity lines underground in nationally designated landscapes, which is set out in paragraph 2.9.20 of revised NPS EN-5 (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023c), which came into force in 2024.

3.3.33 The Applicant has sought to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and compensate onshore landscape and visual impacts from the onshore cable construction (and associated works such as trenchless crossing construction compounds and construction accesses) which could impact the SDNP or its setting. A summary of the main mitigation measures set out in the **Commitments Register [REP4-057]** (updated at Deadline 1) with the appropriate securing mechanism is provided as follows:

- The onshore cable route is underground in commitment C-1, as secured within the description of Work No. 9 in the **Draft Development Consent Order**

[REP4-004]) avoiding above ground infrastructure during the operation of the Proposed Development.

- Route selection has evolved to avoid sensitive sites with the result that there will be no significant effects on settlements or tourist / visitor attractions within the SDNP (e.g. the views from Arundel Castle Viewpoint E in Figure 18.25 a - b [APP-099]). This has been achieved through the changes to the Order Limits described in paragraph 3.4.60 to 3.4.72 of **Chapter 3: Alternatives, Volume 2** of the ES [APP-044]. The onshore cable route presented in the Order Limits also benefits from higher levels of tree / vegetation screening in comparison the route consulted on at the first statutory consultation. These measures mitigate potential effects on landscape and visual receptors within the SDNP.
- As a design principal having been implemented in the DCO Application, no main construction compounds will be located within the SDNP, avoiding consequential landscape and visual effects.
- Temporary construction works along the onshore cable corridor will be completed in discrete sections, typically 600-1000m between joint bays, with progressive backfill and reinstatement commenced in the shortest timeframe as practical to shorten duration. The Applicant will provide a written programme identifying the stages of works as per Requirement 10 in the **Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]** in this regard.
- The embedded environmental measures have been developed to avoid, and where this is not possible, mitigate adverse effects on a range of landscape and visual receptors including the chalk escarpments at Sullington Hill and Michelgrove; the A27 and A283 and sensitive vegetation including ancient woodland through the use of trenchless crossing techniques (commitments C-5, and C-216) as secured in Appendix A – Crossing Schedule of the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-043]**.
- A number of measures developed with the Applicant's ecology team will mitigate effects on landscape elements including sensitive vegetation through the avoidance of veteran trees and combinations of reduced construction working width, coppicing / notching / translocating and replanting areas within the cable corridor that cannot be avoided (Commitments C-21, C-115, C-174, and C-220) as secured in the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-043]** which is secured through Requirement 22 of the **Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]**. The Applicant has updated the **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP4-047]** at Deadline 4 to reflect the high environmental standards applied to minimising the effects on the SQs of the SDNP in the DCO Application and committed (see commitment C-292) to continue to apply the mitigation hierarchy to seek to avoid, reduce and minimise impacts even further during detailed design.
- The **Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-043]** includes measures to minimise loss of vegetation during construction including notching of hedgerows and treelines rather than removing them across the whole width of the cable corridor. This measure is described further in commitment C-115 in Table 5-5 of the **Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP4-043]**.

- The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP4-047] will ensure reinstatement planting is undertaken in a timely manner and maintained and monitored for 10 years as secured by Requirements 12 and 13 of the Draft Development Consent Order [REP4-004]. See commitments C-196 and C-199. The detail of this in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [REP4-047] was expanded at Deadline 3 in order to provide further reassurance to stakeholders including the SNDPA.
- There is also a commitment to BNG which will also provide landscape mitigation and compensation.

3.3.34 There are also a large number of other mitigation measures related to the construction operations including traffic management, soil handling, the management and aftercare of PRow, restrictions on working hours, noise and construction lighting. All of these measures will contribute towards the mitigation of effects on landscape and visual receptors as explained in Table 18-25, Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 of the ES [APP-059].

3.3.35 Residual and significant landscape and visual effects resulting from the direct and indirect effects of the onshore cable corridor are however unavoidable, although temporary.

3.3.293.3.36 The onshore cable corridor will not alter the geology or extent of landscape diversity, but it will temporarily, introduce a new and detracting feature to the to the landscape during the construction phase. The linear nature of the cable corridor has the ability to affect landscape character simultaneously and sequentially and from some elevated areas it will be visible extending into the distance and / or connection with offshore elements of the Proposed Development during construction.

3.3.303.3.37 The onshore cable corridor will be approximately 40m wide, comprising perimeter stock fencing, open cut cable installation with internal temporary construction haul road, associated construction machinery and soil storage as indicated in **Graphic 4.19, Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4). The trenchless crossing compounds will be used for material / equipment storage, some welfare facilities, and trenchless crossing activities.

~~3.3.31 The duration of these effects will be short-term, with temporary construction work along the onshore cable corridor completed in discrete sections (typically 600m–1,000m of onshore cable corridor) with progressive backfill and reinstatement commenced in as shortest timeframe as practical (embedded environmental measures C-19 and C-20, Section 18.7, Table 18-25 in Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2 (Document Reference: 6.2.18) of the ES).~~

~~3.3.32 The nature of these construction effects will be both direct and indirect, adverse and in some cases cumulative with other whole Proposed Development and other development included in the cumulative assessment.~~

3.3.333.3.38 The following significantly affected viewpoints are relevant to this assessment:

- **Viewpoint NP5: PRow 2282, East of Sullington Hill (Figure 18.73, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18))** is located on the chalk escarpment

at Sullington Hill and provides an example of a ‘breath-taking view’ with some diverse and inspirational landscape (I3 Arun to Adur Downs Scarp and J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes). Whilst the temporary construction activity would add further interest in terms of engineering there would be significant and adverse effects on this viewpoint.

- **Viewpoint H7d: Blackpatch Hill** (**Figure 18.45, Volume 3** of the ES ([Document Reference: 6.3.18, \[REP4-029\]](#))) provides a further example of a ‘breath-taking view’ with some diverse and inspirational landscape (B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland and A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs). The 180° illustrated view extends from the wooded chalk escarpment in the south across the undulating open south downs. The onshore cable corridor would be intermittently visible across the view. **Viewpoint H7b: Harrow Hill bridleway** (**Figure 18.43, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) provides a closer view of the wooded chalk escarpment and intermittently visibility of the onshore cable corridor, the topography and in this case, trees provide some screening. Viewpoints LD1, LD2 and LD4 are all similar and illustrate the onshore cable corridor routed through the undulating A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs landscape as follows:
 - ▶ **Viewpoint LD1: PRow 2173, south of Chantry Post** (**Figure 18.66, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18));
 - ▶ **Viewpoint LD2: PRow 2092, east of Chantry Post** (**Figure 18.67, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)); and
 - ▶ **Viewpoint LD4: PRow 2208/2, south east of Harrow Hill** (**Figure 18.68, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)).
- **Viewpoint H5a: Footpath of Swillage Lane** (**Figure 18.40, Volume 3** of the ES ([Document Reference: 6.3.18, \[REP4-028\]](#))) is located within R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain and **Viewpoint H6a: Footpath south of Angmering Park Stud Farm**: (**Figure 18.41, Volume 3** of the ES ([Document Reference: 6.3.18, \[REP4-028\]](#))) is located within B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland. Whilst not ‘breath taking’ they have extensive woodland (including ancient woodland) and provide a diversity of landscape that complements the open downs further north.
- **Viewpoint J1: PRow 2709 at All Saints Church, Wiston** (**Figure 18.50, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) is outwith the SDNP boundary but illustrates a viewpoint to the north within the SDNP setting where Chanctonbury Ring is visible in addition to the onshore cable corridor. The temporary construction activity would not block the view of the Chanctonbury Ring skyline, although it would appear in the setting of the SDNP. **Viewpoints J2 and J5** (**Figures 18.43 and 18.45, Volume 3** of the ES ([Document Reference: 6.3.18, \[REP4-028\]](#))) are similar but would not be significantly affected and do not constitute a significant effect on the setting of the SDNP due to the greater intervening distance.

[3.3-343.3.39](#) The magnitude of change affecting these views ranges from High to Medium.

[3.3-353.3.40](#) Conversely, viewpoints to the south of the SDNP do not illustrate views of the onshore cable corridor in addition to views of the SDNP, the boundary of the

SDNP being tightly contained by the A27 and a network of woodland and field boundaries to the south which restrict visibility.

3.3.41 Particular examples of ‘breath-taking views’ include **Viewpoint I: Chanctonbury Ring (Figure 18.49, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and **Viewpoint E: Arundel Castle (Figure 18.25, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). The onshore cable corridor will not significantly affect either of these views, although there will be a whole project effect on Viewpoint E due to the offshore elements of the Proposed Development which are assessed in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15).

Effect during the operation and maintenance phase

3.3.363.3.42 There will be no significant effects on landscape character during the operation and maintenance phase.

3.3.373.3.43 By the end of the construction phase, all areas of the onshore cable corridor, including temporary construction compounds at Climping and Washington, trenchless crossing construction compounds and construction accesses will have been reinstated. As a minimum, the onshore cable corridor fencing and temporary construction haul road would be removed, topsoil reinstated and where required grass / pasture reinstated.

3.3.383.3.44 Taking account of the reinstatement there will be no residual effects on SLQ 1 and “*Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views*”.

3.3.393.3.45 It is however likely that localised and significant effects on particular landscape elements (trees, woodland and hedges) will be sustained through Years 1 to 10 reflecting the loss of mature trees, woodland and hedges that cannot be replaced in Year 1. These effects will be partly mitigated through the provision of new, replacement native planting as part of the **Outline LEMP** (Document Reference: 7.10). These landscape elements will be maintained for 10 Years. These localised effects on individual landscape elements will appear in isolation and will not be sufficient in number, density, pattern or distribution to sustain significant effects on landscape character. There will be no obvious ‘linkage’ between them due to the reinstatement of the onshore cable corridor.

3.3.46 These effects are not considered as significant in terms of preserving natural beauty or SLQ 1: *Diverse inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views* because of their smaller scale and role in terms of mitigation.

Cumulative and Whole Proposed Development effects

3.3.40 The effects of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development are restricted to visual effects only and assessed in the SLVIA reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15). That assessment concludes that south facing views from the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA will be significantly affected (**Moderate**).

3.3.47

~~3.3.48 The whole project or inter-related effects from the combined SLVIA and LVIA would have a significant effect of limited duration (approximately 12 months when considering the overlap of the onshore construction works in the indicative construction programme). During operation, there will be significant SLVIA effects which will overlap with significant effects identified for LVIA during the early operational years as described in the paragraph above. In summary, the assessment finds that the onshore elements of the Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the perceptions of tranquillity within the SDNP during the construction period. The effects of construction lighting will be mitigated to accord with SDNP Local Plan Policy SD8. The short duration, temporary and reversible nature of these effects will ensure that the integrity of the SDNP will not be adversely or significantly affected. It is concluded that in relation to SQ3 the SDNP designation and statutory purpose would not be compromised as a result of the onshore cable route.~~

Conclusion

~~3.3.41~~3.3.49 The onshore cable corridor and associated trenchless crossing construction compounds will have a **Major to Moderate** and **Significant** effect on the landscape character within the SDNP and the adjacent landscapes along the boundary of the SDNP which define its landscape setting. The geographical extent of these effects will extend to areas within approximately 250m to 650m of the onshore cable corridor and in particular within the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA.

~~3.3.42~~3.3.50 This will constitute a significant effect on the part of the SLQ 1 – the “*Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views*” limited to the construction phase.

~~3.3.51~~ In terms of the statutory purposes integrity of the SDNP, the temporary and generally short duration of the onshore effects and their largely reversible nature (in that the onshore cable corridor will be reinstated and vegetation replanted and maintained) demonstrates that the purposes will not be harmed. It is concluded that in relation to SQ1 the SDNP designation and statutory purpose would not be compromised as a result of the onshore cable route.

~~3.3.52~~ However, thisThe significant effect on part of SLQ1 during construction will be short term in duration and temporary in nature.

~~3.3.43~~ The duration of these effects will be short term, with temporary construction work along the onshore cable corridor completed in discrete sections (typically 600m–1,000m of onshore cable corridor) with progressive backfill and reinstatement commenced in as shortest timeframe as practical (embedded environmental measures C-19 to C-20, **Section 18.7, Table 18-25 in Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** (Document Reference: 6.2.18) of the ES).

SLQ 3. Tranquil and unspoilt places

Overview

~~3.3.44~~3.3.53 The supporting text to this special quality is relatively short as follows:

“The South Downs National Park is in South East England, one of the most crowded parts of the United Kingdom. Although its most popular locations are heavily visited, many people greatly value the sense of tranquillity and unspoilt places which give them a feeling of peace and space. In some areas the landscape seems to possess a timeless quality, largely lacking intrusive development and retaining areas of dark night skies. This is a place where people seek to escape from the hustle and bustle in this busy part of England, to relax, unwind and re-charge their batteries.” (South Downs National Park, 2015a)

[3.3.453.3.54](#) This is supported by GLVIA 3 which defines tranquillity as:

“A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of the landscape.”

[3.3.463.3.55](#) It is a perceptual quality of the landscape and is ‘*influenced by things that people can both see and hear in the landscape around them*’ (SDNPA, 2017).

[3.3.473.3.56](#) However, across the SDNP tranquillity is a variable quality which is illustrated in Appendix 1, of the SDNPA Tranquillity Study (2017) which shows a map of relative tranquillity, based on Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) (2008) data. Areas of lowest tranquillity coincide with the outer edges of the SDNP and the main transport routes and built-up areas along the A27 in the south and the A283 in the north. The greatest intensity is experienced in the central areas of the SDNP which are remote from people with a heightened sense of perceived naturalness (ancient woodland and chalk grassland) wide open spaces and views and the ability to see the stars at night. These qualities are strongest and typical of the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA, but also within the quite areas of woodland and fields within the B4 Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland and the I3 Arun to Adur Downs Scarp LCAs.

[3.3.483.3.57](#) These characteristics are referred to in the Arun to Adur Open Downs A3 where one of the key characteristics is noted in the South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (South Downs National Park, 2020) as a:

“A strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with pockets of deep remoteness associated with hidden dry valleys and higher reaches of the dip slope.”

[3.3.493.3.58](#) Tranquillity is also referred to as a key characteristic of the Arun Valley Sides G4:

“The limited road network ensures the valley sides provide a tranquil, rural setting to the River Arun and its floodplain.”

[3.3.503.3.59](#) The sensitivity of this SLQ to the onshore cable corridor is assessed as High.

Effect during the construction phase

[3.3.60](#) Mitigation measures referred to in relation to SQ1 also apply to the assessment of SQ3.

[3.3.513.3.61](#) Factors that adversely affect perceptions of tranquillity include the presence of other people, visibility and / or the sound of man-made development such as urban areas, roads, airports, power lines, mineral extraction, wind farms and industrial development. Temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor is therefore likely to adversely affect the perception of tranquillity within

part of the SDNP and in particular those LCAs where it is noted as a key characteristic.

3.3.523.3.62 The noise assessment is reported in **Chapter 21: Noise and vibration, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.21). It is anticipated that temporary construction activities along the onshore cable corridor will result in noise levels of up to 75dB, occurring between 07:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 13:00 hours on Saturday with only exceptional activities occurring on Sundays and public / bank holidays. However, the worst-case noise levels when the works are sufficiently close to result in these levels (within 50m) will be for a maximum of two days. Other sources of noise within the SDNP will be from the Washington construction compound adjacent to the northern boundary of the SDNP which is predicted to result in 65 – 70 dB within the SDNP at the highest noise level, trenchless crossings, 55 – 75 dB within the SDNP at the highest noise level dependant on drill rig location, and construction and use of access routes, 41 – 59 dB within the SDNP. Notably construction noise will affect tranquillity in areas where it can be heard but may not be visible due to landform or vegetation screening. The duration of these effects is likely to be limited to a few days as the works pass through the landscape.

3.3.533.3.63 Effects on SLQ 3 Tranquil and unspoilt places will be both visual and audible, significantly affecting the four LCAs within the SDNP including the R1: South Downs Upper Coastal Plain; the B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs and the J3: Arun to Adur Scarp Footslopes. Within the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA in particular the temporary construction activity along the onshore cable corridor will have an acute contrast with the perceptual qualities of this LCA which contribute to the strong sense of tranquillity and include a simple landscape, stillness, quiet, and perceived naturalness. Many of the viewpoints illustrate intermittent visibility of the onshore cable corridor through this landscape and the effects of construction noise will ensure that effects on perceived tranquillity will extend to areas where the onshore cable corridor may be screened by landform or vegetation.

3.3.543.3.64 Effects on tranquillity are also likely to affect some areas of the SDNP setting as indicated by Viewpoint J1: PRoW 2709 at All Saints Church, Wiston (**Figure 18.50, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) within parts of the F1: Pulborough Chiltington & Thakeham Farmlands and G1: Ashurst & Wiston Wooded Farmlands which border the SDNP to the north.

3.3.553.3.65 The geographical extent of these effects will be contained within one or two field boundaries (approximately 250m of the onshore cable corridor) due to the screening effects of existing trees, woodland and hedgerows. However, the effects will extend to within approximately 650m of the onshore cable corridor when viewed from hill tops and open areas within the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA. The magnitude of change affecting these views ranges from High to Medium.

Effect during the operation and maintenance phase

3.3.563.3.66 By the end of the construction phase, all areas of the onshore cable corridor, including trenchless crossing construction compounds will have been reinstated. As a minimum, the onshore cable corridor fencing and haul road would be removed, topsoil reinstated and where required grass / pasture reinstated.

3.3.573.3.67 Localised and significant effects on landscape elements (trees, woodland and hedges) will be partly mitigated through the provision of new, replacement native planting as part of the **Outline LEMP**, (Document Reference: 7.10).

3.3.583.3.68 Taking account of the reinstatement and replacement planting there will be no residual significant effects on SLQ 3 and perceived tranquillity.

Cumulative and Whole Proposed Development effects

3.3.69 The whole project or inter-related effects from the combined SLVIA, LVIA and noise assessments would have a limited duration (approximately 12 months due to the overlap of the indicative construction programme). The SLVIA reports that the effects on tranquillity and dark skies resulting from the offshore elements will not be significant, although they will be long-term and reversible.

3.3.593.3.70 The landscape and visual effects of the onshore elements of the Proposed Development in combination with the A27 Arundel Bypass (ID 1) are unlikely to lead to significant cumulative effects on perceptions of tranquillity due to the presence of the existing A27 corridor and associated traffic already in the baseline.

Conclusion

3.3.603.3.71 The onshore cable corridor and associated trenchless crossing construction compounds will have a **Major to Moderate** and **Significant** effect on part of the landscape character within the SDNP and the adjacent landscapes along part of the northern boundary of the SDNP which define its landscape setting. The geographical extent of these effects will extend to areas within approximately 250m to 650m of the onshore cable corridor when viewed or heard from areas of the landscape along the onshore cable corridor and in particular from within the A3: Arun to Adur Open Downs LCA.

3.3.72 In summary, the assessment finds that the onshore elements of the Proposed Development will have a significant effect on the perceptions of tranquillity within the SDNP during the construction period. The effects of construction lighting will be mitigated to accord with SDNP Local Plan Policy SD8. It is concluded that in relation to SQ3 the effects are short duration, temporary and reversible nature which will ensure that the SDNP designation and statutory purpose would not be compromised as a result of the onshore cable route.

SLQ 5. Great Opportunities for Recreational Activities and Learning Experiences

Overview

3.3.613.3.73 The supporting text notably refers to “3,200 kilometres (2,000 miles) of public rights of way and the entire South Downs Way National Trail” which provide “exceptional scope for walking, cycling and horse riding.” Other noted activities such as paragliding, orienteering and canoeing are less sensitive to the onshore elements of the Proposed Development and will not be significantly affected. Walking in particular involves a strong appreciation or connection with the landscape whereas the other activities are more sports orientated.

3.3.623.3.74 The sensitivity of this SLQ, as it relates to walking and related recreational activity is assessed as High.

Construction phase effects

3.3.633.3.75 An assessment of the effects on the views and visual amenity experienced by people on PRoWs, including the South Downs Way, open access land and at other recreational / visitor attraction locations are set out in **Appendix 18.4: Visual assessment, Volume 4** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.4.18.4).

3.3.643.3.76 During the construction phase, the views and visual amenity of relatively short sections of approximately 25 PRoWs and part of the South Downs Way will be **Significantly** affected by the onshore cable corridor during the construction phase. The Monarch's Way will be crossed via a trenchless crossing and not significantly affected. None of the PRoW will be closed during the construction phase, but they will be subject to temporary diversions, allowing works to progress. There are a number of hilltops and areas of open access land within the SDNP that will also be **Significantly** affected in terms of their views and visual amenity. These include, Barpham Hill (**Viewpoint F1 and F1a: PRoW 2191_2 Barpham Hill, Figure 18.28, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)) and Sullington Hill **Viewpoint NP5: PRoW 2282, East of Sullington Hill (Figure 18.73, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)).

3.3.653.3.77 There are approximately 62.35km of PRoW within the SDNP, that are within the ZTV and 1km distance from the onshore cable corridor, the views from which could be significantly affected. This represents just under 2% of the PRoW resource within the SDNP and a similarly low percentage of the South Downs Way which is 160km length in total. Although these PRoW routes are significantly affected on an individual and local basis, collectively the SLQ "*Great opportunities for recreational activities*" will not be significantly diminished. Walkers in particular will still be able to access the open access land and PRoW including the South Downs Way and undertake recreational activities, walking through these areas and passing through and beyond the linear onshore cable corridor to continue with their activity. The magnitude of change is assessed as **Negligible-Zero** and the level of effect will be **Minor** and **Not Significant**.

3.3.663.3.78 Although PRoW along the boundary and within the setting of the SDNP will be crossed by the onshore cable corridor and significantly affected, these PRoW routes tend to be separated from the SDNP by major roads (A27, A24 and A283) such that the effects pathway linking effects on these PRoW to the SDNP and its setting are interrupted.

3.3.673.3.79 The construction works will be a major piece of environmental planning and engineering to support offshore renewable energy generation in response to climate change. It represents an important learning and experiential opportunity.

Operation and maintenance phase effects – Year 1

3.3.683.3.80 Post-reinstatement of the onshore cable corridor there will be **No Significant** effects on recreational activities.

Cumulative and Whole Proposed Development effects

3.3.693.3.81 The effects of the offshore elements of the Proposed Development are restricted to visual effects only and assessed in the SLVIA reported in **Chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual assessment, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.15). That assessment concludes **No Significant** effects on SLQ 5

3.3.703.3.82 The onshore cable corridor will not contribute significantly to cumulative development because of the limited occurrence of other development within the SDNP. The Lyminster Bypass (ID 59) will be completed by 2024 and within the future baseline and the Arundel Bypass (ID 1) is remote from the cable corridor.

Conclusion: Effects on SLQ 5 and the setting of the SDNP

3.3.713.3.83 Notwithstanding the significant effects on individual PRoW including the South Downs Way SLQ 3 “Great opportunities for recreational activities” will not be significantly diminished or affected either within the SDNP or its setting.

Stage 4: Statement of Significance

Overview

3.3.723.3.84 The onshore cable corridor crosses the SDNP between the A27 and the A283 and the assessment is limited to the effects of the onshore cable corridor on the SDNP special qualities, setting and integrity during the construction and the operation and maintenance phases.

3.3.733.3.85 There will be no effect on the SDNP during the decommissioning phase and no effect on the SDNP as a result of the onshore substation at Oakdene and the National Grid Bolney substation extension.

3.3.743.3.86 Two of the seven special qualities of the SDNP will be significantly affected within the Study Area:

- 1) diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views; and
- 3) tranquil and unspoilt places.

3.3.87 ~~The nature of these effects during construction will be short term in duration and temporary in nature. will extend across part of the SDNP and its setting and expound from significant effects on landscape character and visual receptors that will occur during the construction phase. Taking account of the reinstatement and replacement planting there will be no significant effects on either of these special qualities during the operational and maintenance phase.~~

3.3.88 ~~-The Applicant has engaged with the SDNPA and other affected stakeholders with regards the mitigation to conserve and enhance the SDNP as well as measures that the Applicant has committed to in order to seek to further the purposes, The Applicant has detailed these measures under each special quality and has provided the **Draft S106 Agreement [REP4-077]** at Deadline 4 that provides for projects that will include:~~

- ~~• Landscape and nature recovery projects;~~

- improved accessibility and experience to compensate for temporary residual effects on the South Downs Way National Trail and associated rights of way network;
- contribute towards opportunities for improved understanding and enjoyment of cultural heritage within the South Downs National Park arising from the effects of the Development on areas of archaeological significance; and
- contribute towards the offsetting for the permanent adverse effects arising from the impacts of the offshore array on the setting of the SDNP.

3.3.89 While there is harm to SQ1 “Diverse, inspirational landscapes and breathtaking views” (during construction and operation) and SQ3 “Tranquil and unspoilt places” (during construction), it is not the duty to avoid all harm and such harm does not translate to compromising the statutory purpose of the SDNP. The natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage that make up the affected areas and the wider SDNP will remain and opportunities will still be present for understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the SDNP and the Applicant has sought to further these purposes as described.

3.3.753.3.90 Rampion 2 will not therefore undermine the statutory purpose of the SDNP or compromise the purposes of its designation and through the application of the mitigation hierarchy and compensation measures described above the Applicant has brought forward the Proposed Development in a way which seeks to further the purposes of the SDNPA. Therefore, the Proposed Development accords with the requirements of the legal tests and the policy tests set out in the NPS in relation to the SDNP (as outlined in Section 1.3 within **Deadline 4 Submission – 8.25.5 Applicant's Post Hearing Submission – Issue Specific Hearing 2 Further information on South Downs National Park [REP4-063]**).

3.4 High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

3.4.1 The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will not be directly affected by the onshore elements of the Proposed Development however it may be indirectly affected in terms of its special qualities, setting and integrity.

3.4.2 The High Weald AONB is described on their website (High Weald AONB, 2021) as:

“A medieval landscape of wooded, rolling hills, studded with sandstone outcrops; small, irregular-shaped fields; scattered farmsteads; and ancient routeways. The 1,461km² area covers parts of Kent, Sussex and Surrey at the heart of South East England.”

3.4.3 Key attractions within the High Weald AONB include over 30 small manor houses, castles and parks and gardens (nine managed by the National Trust); and other visitor attractions such as Bewl Water; Harrison's Rocks; Bedgebury Forest and three steam railways.

3.4.4 The Statement of Significance 2019-24 defines what makes the High Weald special and identifies the qualities that justify its designation as a nationally important landscape (High Weald AONB, 2019, p23). Five special qualities are identified as follows:

- *“1. Geology, landform and water systems – a deeply incised, ridged and faulted landform of clays and sandstone with numerous gill streams.*
- *2. Settlement – dispersed historic settlement including high densities of isolated farmsteads and late Medieval villages founded on trade and non-agricultural rural industries.*
- *3. Routeways – a dense network of historic routeways (now roads, tracks and paths).*
- *4. Woodland – abundance of ancient woodland, highly interconnected and in smallholdings.*
- *5. Field and Heath – small, irregular and productive fields, bounded by hedgerows and woods, and typically used for livestock grazing; with distinctive zones of lowland heaths, and incised river valleys.*
- *Land-based economy and related rural life bound up with, and underpinning, the observable character of the landscape with roots extending deep into history. An increasingly broad-based economy but with a significant land-based sector and related community life focused on mixed farming (particularly family farms and smallholdings), woodland management and rural crafts.*
- *Other qualities and features that are connected to the interaction between the landscape and people and which enrich character components. Such qualities and features enhance health and wellbeing, and foster enjoyment and appreciation of the beauty of nature. These include locally distinctive features which enrich the character components such as historic parks and gardens, orchards, hop gardens, veteran trees, along with their rich and varied biodiversity, and a wide range of appealing and locally distinctive historic buildings including oast houses, farm buildings, Wealden Hall houses and their associated features such as clay-tile catslide roofs. People value the wonderful views and scenic beauty of the High Weald with its relative tranquillity. They appreciate the area’s ancientness and sense of history, its intrinsically dark landscape with the opportunity to see our own galaxy – the Milky Way – and the ability to get close to nature through the myriad public rights of way.”*

3.4.5 Perceptions of scenic beauty and tranquillity are noted as relevant SLQ. Additionally, the wooded character and incised nature of some of the valleys indicates higher levels of enclosure and limited views out from the High Weald AONB towards the onshore substation at Oakendene and the National Grid Bolney substation extension as well as the interconnecting onshore cable corridors.

3.4.6 The setting of the High Weald AONB is not defined but is likely to include areas close to the boundary with common landscape character, qualities and views out from the AONB beyond the boundary to landmarks such as the chalk escarpment in the SDNP (**Viewpoint M: High Weald Landscape Trail (near Bolney)** (**Figure 18.57, Volume 3** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)). The setting also includes views back towards the High Weald AONB from the surrounding landscape.

3.4.7 Drawing from the LVIA in **Section 9, Chapter 18: Landscape and visual impact, Volume 2** of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.18), no significant effects on

landscape character have been identified within the High Weald AONB or along its boundary and no significant visual effects have been identified in respect of views from visual receptors within the High Weald AONB, viewing south or on views north towards landmarks within the High Weald AONB that could affect its setting. The following viewpoints are located within the High Weald AONB:

- **Viewpoint SA6: PRow 1750 north of Aglands** (omitted due to limited visibility); and
- **Viewpoint M: High Weald Landscape Trail (near Bolney)** (Figure 18.57, Volume 3 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.3.18)).

3.4.8 Neither of these will view the onshore elements of the Proposed Development due to the intervening distance and vegetation screening.

3.4.9 Consequently, there will be **No Effect** on the special qualities, setting and integrity of the High Weald AONB.

4. Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Table 4-1 Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term (acronym)	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Baseline conditions	The environment as it appears (or would appear) immediately prior to the implementation of the Proposed Development together with any known or foreseeable future changes that will take place before completion of the Proposed Development.
Beneficial or Adverse Types of Landscape Effect	The landscape effects may be beneficial, neutral, or adverse. In landscape terms – a beneficial effect would require development to add to the landscape quality and character of an area. Neutral landscape effects would include low or negligible changes that may be considered as part of the ‘normal’ landscape processes such as maintenance or harvesting activities. An adverse effect may include the loss of landscape elements such as mature trees and hedgerows as part of construction leading to a reduction in the landscape quality and character of an area.
Beneficial or Adverse Types of Visual Effect	The visual effects may be beneficial, neutral, or adverse. In visual terms – beneficial or adverse effects are less easy to define or quantify and require a subjective consideration of a number of factors affecting the view, which may be beneficial, neutral, or adverse. However, it is not the assumption of this assessment that all change, including significant change is a negative experience. Rather this assessment has considered factors such as the visual composition of the landscape in the view together with the design and composition, which may or may not be reasonably, accommodated within the scale and character of the landscape as perceived from the receptor location.
Cumulative effects	Additional changes caused by a Proposed Development in conjunction with other similar developments or as a combined effect of a set of developments, taken together.
Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA)	Assessment of impacts as a result of the incremental changes caused by other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and natural processes together with the Proposed Development.

Term (acronym)	Definition
Cumulative landscape effects	Effects that ‘can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it’ (SNH, 2012)
Cumulative visual effects: In combination In succession Sequentially	<p>Effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which ‘occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint’ and/or sequential effects which ‘occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments’ (SNH 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In combination: Where two or more developments are or would be within the observer’s arc of vision at the same time without moving his/her head (GLVIA3, 2013 Table 7.1). • In succession: Where the observer has to turn his/her head to see the various developments – actual and visualised (GLVIA3, 2013 Table 7.1). • Sequential cumulative effect. Occurs where the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments. Sequential effects may be assessed for travel along regularly used routes such as major roads or popular paths (GLVIA3, 2013 Table 7.1).
Decommissioning	The phase during which a development and its associated processes are removed from active operation.
Degree of change	A combination of the scale extent and duration of an effect also defined as ‘magnitude’.
Designated Landscape	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Direct effects	An effect that is directly attributable to the Proposed Development.
Elements	Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as, for example, trees, hedges and buildings.
Embedded environmental measures	Equate to ‘primary environmental measures’ as defined by Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2016). They are measures to avoid or reduce environmental effects that are directly incorporated into the preferred masterplan for the Proposed Development.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development over and above the existing circumstances (or ‘baseline’).

Term (acronym)	Definition
Environmental Measures	Measures which are proposed to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects (or to avoid, reduce and if possible remedy identified effects). (GLVIA3, 2013 Para 3.37).
Environmental Statement (ES)	The written output presenting the full findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
Feature	Particularly prominent or eye-catching elements in the landscape such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines OR a particular aspect of the project proposal.
GLVIA 3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, published jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013.
Heritage	The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities such as historic buildings and cultural traditions.
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
Impact	The changes resulting from an action.
Indirect effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed project as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects. Often used to describe effects on landscape character that are not directly impacted by the Proposed Development such as effects on perceptual characteristics and qualities of the landscape.
Key characteristics	Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.
Land cover	The surface cover of the land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. Related to but not the same as land use.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	A tool used to identify and assess the likely significance of the effects of change resulting from development both on the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

Term (acronym)	Definition
Landscape Character Area (LCA)	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape Character Types (LCTs)	Distinct types of landscape which are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement patterns, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes (GLVIA3 2013).
Landscape effects	<p>Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.</p> <p>An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern here is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. (GLVIA3 2013, Para 5.1).</p>
Landscape patterns	Spatial distributions of landscape elements combining to form patterns, which may be distinctive, recognisable and describable e.g. hedgerows and stream patterns.
Landscape qualities	A term used to describe the aesthetic or perceptual and intangible characteristics of the landscape such as scenic quality, tranquillity, sense of wildness or remoteness. Cultural and artistic references may also be described here.
Landscape quality (condition)	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal
Landscape resource	The combination of elements that contribute to landscape context, character, and value.

Term (acronym)	Definition
Landscape sensitivity	The sensitivity of the landscape to a particular development considers the susceptibility of the landscape and its value.
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.
Level of effect	Determined through the combination of sensitivity of the receptor and the proposed magnitude of change brought about by the development.
Likely Significant Effects	It is a requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations to determine the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect.
Magnitude (of change)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short term or long term in duration'. Also known as the 'degree' or 'nature' of change.
Onshore part of the Proposed DCO Order Limits	An area that encompasses all planned onshore infrastructure.
Perception	Combines the sensory (that we receive through our senses) with the cognitive (our knowledge and understanding gained from many sources and experiences).
Perceptual Aspects	A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity. (GLVIA3, 2013 Box 5.1)
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The written output of the Environmental Impact Assessment undertaken to date for the Proposed Development. It is developed to support formal consultation and presents the preliminary findings of the assessment to allow an informed view to be developed of the Proposed Development, the assessment approach that has been undertaken, and the preliminary conclusions on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development and environmental measures proposed.
Proposed Development	The development that is subject to the application for development consent, as described in Chapter 4: The Proposed Development, Volume 2 of the ES (Document Reference: 6.2.4).

Term (acronym)	Definition
Receptor	Physical landscape resource, special interest, or viewer group that will experience an effect.
Scenic quality	Depends upon perception and reflects the particular combination and pattern of elements in the landscape, its aesthetic qualities, its more intangible sense of place or 'genius loci' and other more intangible qualities. (GLVIA3 2013, Box 5.1)
SDNP / SDNPA	South Downs National Park / South Downs National Park Authority
Seascape	Landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and adjacent marine environments with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.
Sense of Place (genius loci)	The essential character and spirit of an area: 'genius loci' literally means 'spirit of the place'.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value associated to that receptor.
Significance	A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by criteria specific to the environmental aspect.
Significant effects	<p>It is a requirement of the EIA Regulations to determine the likely significant effects of the development on the environment which should relate to the level of an effect and the type of effect. Where possible significant effects should be mitigated.</p> <p>The significance of an effect gives an indication as to the degree of importance (based on the magnitude of the effect and the sensitivity of the receptor) that should be attached to the impact described.</p> <p>Whether or not an effect should be considered significant is not absolute and requires the application of professional judgement.</p> <p>Significant – 'noteworthy, of considerable amount or effect or importance, not insignificant or negligible'. The Concise Oxford Dictionary.</p> <p>Those levels and types of landscape and visual effect likely to have a major or important / noteworthy or special effect of which a decision maker should take particular note.</p>
SLVIA	Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Term (acronym)	Definition
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific Proposed Development without undue negative consequences.
Temporary or permanent effects	Effects may be considered as temporary or permanent. In the case of wind energy development the Application is for a 30 year period after which the assessment assumes that decommissioning will occur and that the site will be restored. For these reasons the development is referred to as long term and reversible.
Type or Nature of effect	Whether an effect is direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, positive (beneficial), neutral or negative (adverse) or cumulative.
Viewpoints	<p>Selected for illustration of the visual effects fall broadly into three groups:</p> <p>Representative Viewpoints: selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where the significant effects are unlikely to differ – for example certain points may be chosen to represent the view of users of particular public footpaths and bridleways;</p> <p>Specific Viewpoints: chosen because they are key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape, including for example specific local visitor attractions, such as landscapes with statutory landscape designations or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations.</p> <p>Illustrative Viewpoints: chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations. (GLVIA3 2013, Para 6.19)</p>
Visual amenity	The overall views and surroundings, which provide a visual setting or backdrop to the activities of people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effect	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual Receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Visual sensitivity	The sensitivity of visual receptors such as residents, relative to their location and context, to visual change proposed by development.

Term (acronym)	Definition
Visualisation	Computer visualisation, photomontage, or other technique to illustrate the appearance of the development from a known location.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)*	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretical visible.

5. References

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