OAKLANDS FARM SOLAR PARK

Applicant: Oaklands Farm Solar Ltd

Environmental Statement
Appendix 5.4 – Visual Assessment Tables
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Appendix 5.4: Visual Assessment Tables

Final report
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Appendix 5.4
Visual Assessment Tables

Introduction

A5.4.1 The tables in this appendix identify the significance of the effect for each visual receptor following the methodology (as described in detail in **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**). The tables establish the visual sensitivity of the receptor (by considering the visual susceptibility and value of the view); the magnitude of visual change (including the scale, geographical extent, duration and reversibility of the visual effect) and concludes with the overall level and significance of the visual effect. Consideration has been given to the visual effects during construction and during operation (at Year 1 and Year 10).

A5.4.2 The location of the visual receptors that have been assessed are shown on **Figure 5.7.** Representative viewpoints have been selected to inform the visual assessment and their locations are shown on **Figures 5.5a-d and 5.6a and b**. All viewpoints are considered where relevant to each of the specific visual receptors but each viewpoint itself has not been assessed in turn. This means that viewpoints are not considered in numerical order but nevertheless all are considered. There are a few receptors which do not consider a representative viewpoint; however, views/visibility has been analysed using online mapping tools and confirmed through ground truthing during field work.

Visual Assessment

Local Communities (within 2.5km of the Site)

Table A5.4.1: Local Community of Rosliston

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 5a: The Chase, Rosliston (0.3km from the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 5b: Footpath west of The Chase, Rosliston** (0.2km from the Site boundary) N.B: Assessment from a viewpoint from Coppice View (the most elevated part of the settlement) was not possible during field work as new houses were being constructed at the time.
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
The village of Rosliston is a small, nucleated settlement located along Main Street and Burton Road/Catton Lane, situated to the east of (and slightly above) the Pessell Brook. The Cross Britain Way long distance footpath crosses the settlement along Main Street before heading west towards the Site. It also provides access to Redferns Wood which is a community asset on the western edge of the settlement, visited by people for recreation and enjoyment. Other PRoWs extend in all directions from the settlement including the National Forest Way long distance footpath and local footpaths, providing access to the Rosliston Forestry Centre to the north and the surrounding local road network. Much of the settlement is enclosed by vegetation associated with roads and gardens. Where outward views are afforded to the west in the direction of the Site, vegetation associated with Redferns Wood (which runs along the Pessell Brook and provides some containment to the western edge of the settlement) is seen in the foreground, just beyond paddocks and the rear gardens of properties. However, the slightly elevated nature of the north-western edge of the settlement (i.e. Coppice View and The Chase) allows for views of the upper parts of fields O8, O9 and O10 (which are relatively steep sloping pastoral fields), seen above the canopy line of Redferns Wood, as illustrated by **Viewpoint 5a**. The line of pylons that cross the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding) are prominent on the skyline. The Site is largely obscured or

filtered by Redferns Wood when viewed from the footpath that runs along the western edge of Rosliston (**Viewpoint 5b**), as it is at a slightly lower elevation than the settlement edge.

Views from the street within the village are mainly obscured by vegetation and buildings, with occasional glimpses through gaps towards the Site.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as local communities within settlements have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are experienced by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the village.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as woodland and pastoral fields (which feature in the views) are in a reasonable condition and contribute to a sense of rural character. The scenic quality is however partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline and the foreground elements associated with paddocks/rear gardens including several rows of fencing.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, there will be views (some filtered by vegetation) beyond intervening vegetation of construction vehicles moving along the skyline and above the tree line from some parts of the village (particularly from its north-western edge), as well as construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels and tracks within fields O8 and O10 affecting the sense of rural character. These construction works will be seen at a distance of approximately 0.6km. Visibility of construction activities closer to the receptor (i.e. towards the

bottom of the sloping fields) will be more limited by the dense vegetation of Redferns Wood which will provide filtering of views in winter and increased filtering in summer. The scale of visual effect at construction within views from the most elevated edge of the settlement at Coppice View and The Chase (in the north-west) is judged to be **medium.**

During operation (at Year 1), the PV panels and short lengths of track within fields O8 and O10, will be seen beyond intervening vegetation and above the tree line from the north-western edge of the settlement introducing further manmade structures into a view where existing electricity pylons already form prominent features on the skyline. The pastoral field (O9) between fields O8 and O10, which is partly visible above the tree line in the foreground, will remain free from PV panels and be retained as a rural feature within views, helping to visually break up the Proposed Development on the skyline as shown on the visualisation for **Viewpoint 7.** The nature of the views will vary depending on the receptors position and elevation within the settlement but will generally be open from Coppice View and The Chase (in the north-west). Views of PV panels located on lower lying ground will be filtered in summer and in winter by the dense vegetation of Redferns Wood. Views will be glimpsed/oblique when travelling along the roads that pass through the settlement (including the cul-de-sacs off Burton Road/Catton Lane). The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **medium** from the most elevated edge of the settlement (at Coppice View and The Chase), as the Proposed Development will create a distinct new element and a clearly perceptible change in views experienced by residents that contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement.

Geographical Extent

As indicated by the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** and confirmed through ground-truthing, views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from the north-western edge of this settlement. It will not be visible from much of the remaining settlement due to intervening vegetation and buildings. The geographical extent of the small scale of visual effect is therefore **small**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be short-term (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

The medium scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **medium** magnitude of visual change from the most elevated edge of the settlement (at Coppice View and The Chase). Although the construction period is shorter in duration, the nature of construction can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be medium from the most elevated edge of the settlement (at Coppice View and The Chase)**.**

The **medium** magnitude of visual change from the most elevated edge of the settlement (at Coppice View and The Chase) will remain at Year 10, as although proposed planting across the Site and its boundaries will have established and be close to maturity, the extent of the Proposed Development visible above the existing foreground vegetation will not change due to its elevation within views. This assumes that the existing trees within Redferns Wood have already reached maturity, and that the level of filtering of views that they already provide will not alter.

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect

A medium visual sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **moderate (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Years 1 and 10) from the most elevated edge of the settlement (at Coppice View and The Chase).

The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.

Additional Cumulative Effects

Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from this local community.

Table A5.4.2: Local Community of Coton in the Elms

Representative Viewpoint
None from the local community itself - the nearest is **Viewpoint 8: Church Street (near Coton in the Elms)** (0.6km from the Site boundary) which has been considered to inform an understanding of views/visibility from this local community along with the use of online mapping tools and ground truthing during field work.
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
The village of Coton in the Elms is a small, nucleated settlement situated along four roads (Elms Road, Burton Road, Mill Street and Church Street) which roughly form a square shape. A number of local PRoWs extend in all directions from the settlement, providing access to nearby woodlands (including Coton Wood to the south, Raddle Farm Wood to the south-west, Beehive Wood to the north-east, and Thompsons Wood to the north). The local community are afforded some open views across agricultural fields from the edges of the settlement, although vegetation in gardens and along rural roads nearby provides intervening features in other views, including hedgerows, hedgerow trees and occasional small, scattered copses/shelterbelts. Views to the north-west (in the direction of the Site) are largely obscured by vegetation at Thompsons Wood, as well as by frequent trees within field boundaries. Outward views from the centre of the village are frequently obscured by buildings and garden vegetation.
Judgement on Visual Sensitivity
Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as local communities within settlements have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are experienced by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the village. **Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor** Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as woodland and pastoral fields (which feature in the views) are in reasonable condition and contribute to a sense of rural

character. The scenic quality is however partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline and the foreground elements including barns and farm buildings, some of which are in poor condition.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, there will be occasional glimpsed views (from the north-western edge of the settlement) of construction vehicles moving around the Site and construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels, tracks and fencing within the south-eastern part of the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding), affecting the sense of rural character. These limited glimpses of construction activity will be seen at a distance of approximately 1km in winter views, whereas in summer views, construction activity will be filtered further by intervening layers of in-leaf vegetation (including field boundary hedgerows and mature trees, Thompsons Wood, and a small woodland copse to the south-east of the Site). The scale of visual effect at construction within winter views from along the north-western edge of the settlement is judged to be no more than **small**.

During operation (at Year 1), there will be limited glimpses through the gaps in vegetation of PV panels, fencing and short lengths of track within the south-eastern part of the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding) in winter views, seen at a distance of approximately 1km. The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) within winter views is judged to be no more than **small**, as the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a small change to the rural views that are experienced by residents and that contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement.

Geographical Extent

As indicated by the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** and confirmed through ground-truthing, limited views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from the north-western extents of this

settlement where intervening buildings and vegetation do not obstruct views. It will not be visible from much of the remaining settlement due to intervening vegetation and buildings. The geographical extent of the small scale of visual effect is therefore judged to be **small**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and **largely reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

The small scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **low** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, the nature of construction can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **low**.

At Year 10 the planting will have established and will be close to maturity. This will include the enhancement of existing field boundaries within the Site as well as a change in the management of the existing hedgerow along the south-eastern boundary (Catton Lane) by allowing it to grow taller (up to 3m in height) which would provide further filtering to the Proposed Development. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to being **barely perceptible** at Year 10.

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect

A medium visual sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **minor (not significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This will reduce to **negligible (not significant)** at Year 10.

The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.

Additional Cumulative Effects
Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from this local community.

Local Communities (2.5-5km from the Site)

Table A5.4.3: Local Community of Swadlincote

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 11: Sunnyside, Newhall (4.7km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
Swadlincote is a large town covering several suburban settlements and villages including Newhall and Castle Gresley. It lies at around 90m AOD, with the northern and southern edges rising to around 120m AOD. The town is served by several major roads including the A514, A444, A511 and B5353, linked by a network of minor roads. A large number of public footpaths extend from the edge of the settlement in all directions including those that cross open farmland to the north-west and provide a connection to Stapenhill. The western edge of the town comprises an industrial trading estate with numerous large warehouses. Views from the settlement are dominated by buildings and infrastructure that make up the town, interspersed with small areas of woodland at the settlement edge. Outward views to the south-west (in the direction of the Site) are largely obscured by the woodland at Badger Wood, Coton Park, Royle Farm, and Rosliston Forestry Centre, as well as smaller wooded copses and shelterbelts. There are however some glimpsed views towards the northern part of the Site (Park Farm landholding) from the south-western settlement edge near Castle Gresley where gaps in vegetation allow (glimpses of the existing Drakelow Solar Farm are also possible from this area), and from the more elevated Sunnyside area in Newhall (in the north-west of the settlement) where distant views look across gently rolling agricultural fields and woodland in the foreground.
Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as local communities within settlements have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are experienced by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the town.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **low** value as they are not protected or designated, and the scenic quality is degraded by the presence of electricity pylons (that are seen across the skyline) and urban elements (such as the industrial and commercial development at the settlement edge e.g. along the A514) which dominate foreground views. The scenic quality does improve from views experienced along the western edge of the settlement (e.g. from the Sunnyside area of Newhall) where features such as woodland, pastoral fields and gently rolling landform (which are in reasonable condition), contribute to some sense of rural character within the urban landscape.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, the visibility of construction activities will be limited; mainly obscured by buildings within the settlement. Layers of intervening vegetation in the form of woodlands and field boundaries (including tall hedgerow trees) will also provide partial filtering of views during winter, and increased filtering during summer when trees are in leaf. There will however be some distant glimpsed views of construction vehicles moving across parts of the Site (within the Park Farm landholding) when viewed from the south-western edge of the settlement near Castle Gresley and from the elevated Sunnyside area of Newhall in the north-west of the settlement. There will also be limited views of other construction activities (relating to the implementation of PV panels, tracks and fencing within the Oaklands Farm landholding) when viewed from Sunnyside. However, these construction activities will be seen at a distance of

3.5-5km and backclothed by wooded skylines. The scale of visual effect at construction within views from the settlement is judged to be **barely perceptible**.

During operation (Year 1), there will be limited distant views of PV panels from the elevated Sunnyside area of Newhall in the north-west of the settlement, glimpsed through intervening vegetation and backclothed by wooded skylines. The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **barely perceptible** as the change in views is likely to go unnoticed.

Geographical Extent

Not applicable as the scale of visual effect is judged to be barely perceptible.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

As the scale of visual effect is barely perceptible, so is the overall magnitude of visual change, both at construction and during operation (at Years 1 and 10).

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect

A medium visual sensitivity combined with a barely perceptible magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **negligible (not significant)** effect.

Additional Cumulative Effects

The proposed Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park project (CW9/1022/22) is adjacent to the south-western edge of Swadlincote and would therefore be prominent within some of the views experienced from the settlement edge. There may also be some views of the proposed energy storage facility off Mount Road (DMPA/2021/1698), energy storage building at Breach

Farm (DMPA/2020/0542) and Battery Storage Facility to the north of the Royle Farm Business Park (DMPA/2021/1221). Nevertheless, the introduction of the Proposed Development will still result in a **barely perceptible** scale of visual effect to the local community when considered against a baseline containing these projects, so there will be **no additional cumulative effects over and above those set out in the LVIA above**.

Road Users (within 2.5km of the Site)

Table A5.4.4: Coton Road/Church Street (between Walton-on-Trent and Coton in the Elms)

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 1: Coton Road (within the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 8: Church Street (near Coton in the Elms)** (0.6km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
These minor roads run to the west, south and south-east of the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding). Coton Road comprises a rural lane that provides access to and from the village of Walton-on-Trent (located to the north-west of the Site). It runs south-east from the village, passing by Oaklands Farm and a small row of three cottages before running through the southern part of the Site (between fields O2 and O5, O1 and O4, and O1 and O3). The road becomes Church Street at Lads Grave and continues south-east before connecting to the village of Coton in the Elms (located to the south-east of the Site). The roads also provide access points to local footpaths and a bridleway. They are relatively straight with occasional sharp bends, and gently undulate with some shallow rises in the landform. Along the route there are varying levels of enclosure. with much of its length lined by trimmed hawthorn hedgerows (with occasional hedgerow trees). This allows for some views into the open farmland it runs through, and views north-east into the Site (and also south into the Site from the section of road that passes through it), particular where land rises up from the road edge. The most open stretch of road is along the edge of fields O4 and O5 where low scrub/ ruderal vegetation has replaced hedgerow, resulting in open views north into the Site. There are

occasional short sections of taller untrimmed hedgerows, sometimes with lines of trees, which obscure/filter outward views. Vegetation and buildings associated with Oaklands Farm, and isolated properties along the road also limit views, intermittently.

From Coton Road there are some relatively open views north, east and south into the Site as illustrated by **Viewpoint 1**. From Church Street, views towards the Site are limited by hedgerows and trees which line the road, as well as in-field boundary vegetation, allowing occasional glimpsed views of the Site, as illustrated by **Viewpoint 8**.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **medium** as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as some of the hedgerows, trees, wooded copses and pastoral fields (which feature in the views) are in reasonable condition and contribute to a sense of rural character. The scenic quality is however partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline, large agricultural buildings at Oaklands Farm and some defunct/gappy hedgerows.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, vehicles will be seen moving in close proximity to the receptor (including along the road itself), affecting rural transitory views from some parts of the route, particularly from Coton Road where hedgerows lining the road are low, defunct or will be removed. The

removal of hedgerows will be required to accommodate visibility splays for construction and maintenance vehicles at the access points along Coton Road (between fields O1 and O2 south of the road and between fields O4 and O5 north of the road). This will affect approximately 120m of the hedgerow that runs along field O2 and 60m of the hedgerow that runs along field O5. Construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels, transformers, security portacabin (within field O5), fencing and tracks will also be visible (including within the adjacent fields of O1-O5, O6, O15 and O16), although existing roadside hedgerows along the edge of fields O1, O3, O15 and O16 will provide partial filtering of views during winter, and increased filtering during summer when in leaf. The scale of visual effect at construction will vary from different parts of the route, but from along Coton Road it is judged to be **large**. The scale of visual effect at construction will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development, and from Church Street oblique views of construction activity will often be glimpsed and intermittent between intervening vegetation.

During operation (Year 1), there will be views of PV panels (with the front, back and side of the panels seen depending on the viewing position), transformers, security portacabin (within field O5), fencing and tracks within fields O1-O5, O6, O15 and O16, affecting rural transitory views. The Proposed Development within fields O4 and O5 will be seen behind screening (such as opaque netting) that will be attached to the security fencing along the edge of these two fields (required to mitigate glint and glare hazards on road users) and will be in place until new hedgerow planting has matured. The Proposed Development would occupy a large extent of the views afforded from Coton Road where existing hedgerows are low, defunct or will be removed. The Proposed Development would mostly be seen in oblique views although with some direct views occurring from the section of road that passes through the Site as the development will surround the receptor. Proposed planting along the edge of Coton Road will be implemented (including hedgerows to replace those removed) but will not yet be effective in providing visual mitigation. The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **large** where vegetation or the buildings at Oaklands Farm do not filter/ screen the view, given the close proximity of the Proposed Development to the receptor and its large extent within available views. The scale of visual effect will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development and where vegetation provides intervening elements within views e.g. along

Church Street where the Proposed Development will be partially filtered by intervening vegetation in winter and summer views.

Geographical Extent

Whilst the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** indicates theoretical visibility from most of the route, actual visibility will be limited in places by intervening vegetation (e.g. field boundary hedgerows). The large scale of visual effect will occur from along stretches of Coton Road but not from Church Street, i.e. a **medium** geographical extent.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (at Year 1), the large scale of visual effect over a medium geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **high** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **high**.

At Year 10 the planting along Coton Road will have established and be close to maturity. This will include: restored sections of, previously defunct, hedgerow (i.e. along the southern edge of field O4 and part of field O5); replacement hedgerow along the edge of field O2 and part of field O5, and an increase in hedgerow height due to a change in the management of the existing hedgerows along the road allowing them to grow taller (up to 3m in height). These changes would provide further filtering of the Proposed Development. Field margins will also be reseeded with species rich grassland and scattered trees in the south of field O3 will assist in filtering views. By Year 10 the screening (such as opaque netting) attached to the security

fencing along the northern edge of Coton Road (and southern edge of fields O4 and O5) will have been removed as the new hedgerows will have matured. Although the new planting will filter views and soften the impact of the Proposed Development it will also bring a change to the existing open nature of views and the presence of the PV panels will still partly be apparent across the rolling farmland, altering its character. At Year 10 the overall magnitude of visual change will reduce to **medium**.
Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A medium visual sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **major (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This will reduce to a **moderate (significant)** effect at Year 10 (as a result of a medium visual sensitivity and medium magnitude of visual change). The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.
Additional Cumulative Effects
Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from this route.

Table A5.4.5: Rosliston Road (between Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston)

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 4: Rosliston Road/ Footpath (near Fairfield) (0.3km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
Rosliston Road is a minor road running west to east between the villages of Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston. There are several farmsteads along its length, including Ashtree Farm, Fairfields Farm, Corner Farm and Walton Lane Farm, and the road also provides access points to footpaths (including the Cross Britain Way/National Forest Way long distance footpath at Walton-on-Trent). The road passes through the centre of the Site between the northern (Park Farm) and southern (Oaklands Farm) landholdings. It is gently undulating, running generally straight with two sharp bends near Ashtree Farm and Fairfields Farm.

Agricultural fields either side of the road are enclosed by low-trimmed hawthorn hedges with occasional taller untrimmed sections, and some hedgerow trees which partially filter views from along the route.

The road is afforded varying levels of enclosure, with gently rising topography and high hedgerows providing immediate containment along its western extent and woodland associated with the Rosliston Forestry Centre containing some of the views to the north from along the eastern extent of the road. There are however intermittent views from along most of the route with elevated parts of the Site (in both directions) clearly visible above low trimmed hedgerows. There is also an open view towards the Oaklands Farm landholding over a field gate by a lay-by at the eastern end of the road. Buildings associated with the farmsteads scattered along the route obscure views, intermittently.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **medium** as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as some of the hedgerows, trees, woodland and pastoral fields (which feature in the views) are in reasonable condition and contribute to a sense of rural character. The scenic quality is however partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline, large agricultural buildings, and sections of hedgerow which have been replaced by post and wire fencing.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, vehicles will be seen moving along the skyline and in close proximity to the receptor, affecting rural transitory views from some parts of the route, particularly from the most elevated part of the road (west of Ashtree Farm) where low hedgerows provide limited filtering and within the open view by the lay-by near the eastern end. Construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels, transformers, fencing and tracks across elevated parts of the Site (within the Oaklands Farm landholding) will also be visible at a distance of between 0.3 and 1.5km, although existing hedgerows along the road will provide partial filtering of views during winter and increased filtering during summer when in leaf. There will also be more distant views of cranes lifting equipment for the battery storage into place. The underground grid cabling will cross underneath the road so there will be near views of machinery and excavation from a small section of the road (just west of Corner Farm). At this point the temporary construction access track will also be implemented which will cross the road and result in a small amount of hedgerow removal (approximately 6m along the southern edge of field F1 and 6m along the northern edge of field O24). The scale of visual effect at construction will vary from different parts of the route, depending on elevation and the containment provided by vegetation, but overall is judged to be **medium**. The scale of visual effect at construction will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development.

During operation (Year 1), there will be some open views of PV panels (with the back and side of the panels seen depending on the viewing position), transformers, fencing and tracks across elevated parts of the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding), affecting rural transitory views. The Proposed Development would be relatively prominent; with PV panels appearing on the skyline (at a distance of between 0.3 and 1.5km) when viewed from some parts of the road (including views south from the eastern extent of the road and views south-east from the most elevated part of the road west of Ashtree Farm) where existing hedgerows are low. From other parts of the road there will be oblique and incidental views, or no view where landform and vegetation provide filtering (such as from the western extent of the road). There will also be views from Fairfields Farm which sits slightly above the road (0.2km to the north of it), but the separation from the Proposed Development and intervening layers of vegetation will limit the impact on the views from this property. Proposed planting will be implemented but will not yet be effective in providing visual mitigation. The scale of visual effect during operation (at

Year 1) is judged to be **medium** where vegetation or buildings along the road do not filter/ screen the view, as there will be a clearly perceptible change in views with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element. The scale of visual effect will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development and where vegetation provides intervening elements within views.

Geographical Extent

Whilst the ZTVs at **Figures 5.5b** and **5.5d** indicates theoretical visibility from most of the route, actual visibility will be limited in places by intervening vegetation (e.g. field boundary hedgerows). The medium scale of visual effect will occur intermittently to the stretch of road between the most elevated part of the road (west of Ashtree Farm) in the west and the approach to Rosliston in the east. The geographical extent of the medium effect is therefore **medium**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers, fencing, the Proposed Development's substation and battery storage will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (Year 1), the medium scale of visual effect over a medium geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **medium** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **medium**.

At Year 10 the proposed planting within the Site and along its boundaries will have established and be close to maturity. This will include the enhancement of field boundaries, woodland planting and scattered trees to the south of Corner Farm. Whilst the new planting

will filter views and soften the impact of the Proposed Development to some degree, the extent of the Proposed Development visible will not change much due to its elevation within views. Therefore, the **medium** magnitude of visual change will remain at Year 10.

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A medium visual sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **moderate (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Years 1 and 10). The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.
Additional Cumulative Effects
There may be limited sequential views with the proposed energy storage system at Barr Hall Farm (DMOT/2023/0621), although at a distance of 0.4km, views of this project will be limited by intervening vegetation. The introduction of the Proposed Development will still result in a **medium** scale of visual effect over a medium geographical extent when considered against a baseline containing this project, so there will be **no additional cumulative effects over and above those set out in the LVIA above.**

Table A5.4.6: Catton Lane (between Rosliston and Church Street, Coton in the Elms)

Representative Viewpoint
No representative viewpoint but views/visibility analysed using online mapping tools and confirmed through ground truthing during field work.
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
Catton Lane is a minor road running to the south-west from the village of Rosliston for approximately 1.2km where it meets Church Street at Lads Grave. The majority of the road runs along the south-eastern boundary of the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding). A small part of the road runs through Thompsons Wood on the approach to Rosliston, and it also provides an access point to a local footpath which extends into the same woodland. The road gently climbs away from Rosliston and is generally straight with a two sharp bends where it runs through Thompsons Wood. Agricultural fields to the south-east of the road are enclosed by tall untrimmed sections of hedgerow (with frequent hedgerow trees) along most of the road providing immediate containment. In contrast, low trimmed and often gappy hedgerows line the north-western edge of the road (with some parts defunct), resulting in open oblique views of the Site with fields O3 and O7 seen in the foreground with other parts of the Site visible beyond. Pylons form prominent features on the skyline in views as they cross the Site.
Judgement on Visual Sensitivity
Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **medium** as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. **Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor** Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **low** value as they are not protected or designated, and the scenic quality is degraded by the presence of electricity pylons (that are prominent within views), intensive arable cultivation and the variable condition of hedgerow along the north-western edge of the road which is gappy/defunct in parts. The hedgerow

along the south-eastern edge of the road is in reasonable condition and contributes to some sense of rural character.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **low.**

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, vehicles will be seen moving in close proximity to the receptor, affecting rural transitory views from most of the route, as hedgerows lining the north-western edge of the road are low or defunct. Construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels, transformers, fencing and tracks will also be clearly visible (including within the adjacent fields of O3 and O7). The scale of visual effect at construction is judged to be **large**. The scale of visual effect at construction will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development, and from the north-eastern extent of the road views of construction activity will often be glimpsed and intermittent between intervening vegetation associated with Thompsons Wood.

During operation (Year 1), there will be clear views of PV panels (with the front, back and side of the panels seen depending on the viewing position), transformers, fencing and tracks within fields O3 and O7, affecting rural transitory views. The Proposed Development would occupy a large extent of the oblique views afforded from Catton Lane, introducing further manmade structures into a view where electricity pylons form prominent features on the skyline. Proposed planting along the edge of Catton Lane will be implemented but will not yet be effective in providing visual mitigation. The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **large**, given the close proximity of the Proposed Development to the receptor and its large extent within available views. The scale of visual effect will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development and where vegetation provides intervening elements within views e.g. along the north-eastern extent of the road where the Proposed Development will be partially filtered by intervening vegetation in summer and winter views.

Geographical Extent

As indicated by the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** and confirmed through ground-truthing, views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from along the majority of the route. The geographical extent of the large scale of visual effect is therefore **large**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (at Year 1), the large scale of visual effect over a large geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **high** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **high**.

At Year 10 the planting along Catton Lane will have established and be close to maturity. This will include restored sections of hedgerow where previously defunct (i.e. along the southern edge of field O3) as well as a change in the management of the existing hedgerows along the road by allowing them to grow taller (up to 3m in height) which would provide further filtering of the Proposed Development. Field margins will also be reseeded with species rich grassland and scattered trees in the south of field O3 will assist in filtering views. Although the new planting will filter views and soften the impact of the Proposed Development it will also bring a change to the existing open nature of views and the presence of the PV panels will still partly be apparent across the rolling farmland, altering its character. At Year 10 the overall magnitude of visual change will reduce to **medium.**

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A low visual sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **moderate (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This level of effect will remain at Year 10 (as a result of a low visual sensitivity and medium magnitude of visual change), given that the sense of openness experienced in baseline views will be fundamentally changed by the Proposed Development. The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.
Additional Cumulative Effects
Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from this route.

Table A5.4.7: Unnamed road (between Walton-on-Trent and Church Street, Coton in the Elms)

Representative Viewpoint
No representative viewpoint but views/visibility analysed using online mapping tools and confirmed through ground truthing during field work.
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
This is a minor road running south from Walton-on-Trent for approximately 2.5km before turning sharply and heading eastwards where it adjoins Church Street (which provides access to Coton in the Elms). The western part of the road runs parallel to the River Trent and is enclosed by large swathes of woodland and tree belts on either side for much of its length, limiting outward views. The southern section of the route runs east through large-scale arable fields which are bound by low-trimmed hawthorn hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees, allowing for some outward views including towards the small copses/woodlands associated with Borough Fields and Catton Farm Cottages. Much of the Site is obscured by intervening topography which rises gently away from the road and by layers of intervening vegetation associated with field boundaries. However, a small section of the road runs adjacent to the

southern boundary of the Site with views of field O1 partly seen beyond the hedgerow that lines the road.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **medium** as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, however views are transitory.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality particularly near to the River Trent, where woodland, trees and pastoral fields (which feature in the views) are in good condition and contribute to a sense of rural character. The scenic quality is partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline, intensive arable cultivation, and by sections of hedgerow which have been replaced by post and wire fencing.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, vehicles will be seen moving in close proximity to the receptor (including along the road itself), affecting rural transitory views from a small part of the route between Catton Farm Cottages and Lads Grave Cottage. Construction activities relating to the implementation of PV panels, transformers, fencing and tracks within field O1 will also be visible, although the existing hedgerow along the road will provide partial filtering of views during winter, and increased filtering during summer when in leaf. The scale of visual effect at construction will vary from different parts of the route, but between Catton Farm Cottages and Lads Grave Cottage it is judged to be **medium**.

During operation (Year 1) there will be views of PV panels (with the front and side of the panels seen depending on the viewing position), transformers, fencing and tracks within field O1, affecting rural transitory views. The Proposed Development will be seen in direct and oblique views from the section of road between Catton Farm Cottages and Lads Grave Cottage. Part of the Proposed Development will be seen behind screening (such as opaque netting) that will be attached to the deer fencing at the south-eastern corner of field O1 (required to mitigate glint and glare hazards on road users) and will be in place until new hedgerow planting has matured. This will be seen briefly by road users travelling along the sharp bend to the west of Lads Grave Cottage. Proposed planting along the edge of the road will be implemented but will not yet be effective in providing visual mitigation. Overall, it is considered that there will be a clearly perceptible change in views from a small section of road during operation (Year 1), creating a distinct new element in the view i.e. a **medium** scale of visual effect. Elsewhere along the road the Proposed Development will largely be obscured by intervening topography and vegetation.

Geographical Extent

As indicated by the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** and confirmed through ground-truthing, views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from a small part of the road (i.e. between Catton Farm Cottages and Lads Grave Cottage). The Proposed Development will not be visible from most of the road due to intervening topography and vegetation. The geographical extent of the medium scale of visual effect is therefore **small**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (Year 1), the medium scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **medium** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **medium**. At Year 10 the planting along the road will have established and be close to maturity. This will include restored section of hedgerow where previously defunct (i.e. along the south-eastern edge of field O1) as well as a change in the management of the existing hedgerows along the road by allowing them to grow taller (up to 3m in height) which would provide further filtering of the Proposed Development. Field margins will also be reseeded with species rich grassland. By Year 10 the screening (such as opaque netting) attached to the deer fencing at the south-eastern corner of field O1 will have been removed as the new hedgerow will have matured. The new planting will filter views and soften the impact of the Proposed Development but will also bring a change to the existing open nature of views. At Year 10 the overall magnitude of visual change will reduce to **small**.
Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A medium visual sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **moderate (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This will reduce to a **minor (not significant)** effect at Year 10 (as a result of a medium visual sensitivity and small magnitude of visual change). The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.
Additional Cumulative Effects
Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from this route.

Users of Recreational Routes that Cross Through the Site

Table A5.4.8: Users of the Cross Britain Way/National Forest Way long distance footpath

Representative Viewpoint

Viewpoint 2: Cross Britain Way (within the Site)

Viewpoint 3: Cross Britain Way (near Walton Hill Farm) (0.2km from the Site boundary)

Viewpoint 10: National Forest Way (at Park Farm) (3km from the Site boundary)

Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views

The Cross Britain Way is a long-distance footpath running 450km across England and Wales from Boston, Lincolnshire to Barmouth in North Wales. Along its course, the route incorporates sections of other existing named walking trails including the National Forest Way (another long-distance footpath running through the National Forest area, extending over 120km between the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire and Beacon Hill Country Park in Leicestershire). For the purpose of this assessment, both of these trails are treated as one as they follow the same route through the study area.

Within the study area the route broadly crosses from east to west and passes briefly through the Site (approximately 0.55km of the route crosses the northern tip of the Oaklands Farm landholding). From the east, the route crosses elevated land at Park Farm (**Viewpoint 10**) where it is largely enclosed by woodland at Top Wood and Penguin Wood. It then starts to descend westwards crossing arable fields and running partly along Linton Road before reaching the village of Rosliston where views are largely contained by the woodland associated with the Rosliston Forestry Centre. Views continue to be relatively well contained by woodland, field boundaries and topography as it crosses through mixed agricultural fields within the Site (**Viewpoint 2**). The route then begins to gently climb towards Walton-on-Trent as it runs parallel with the north-western boundary of the Oaklands Farm landholding. Along this stretch views begin to open up due to the elevation, with relatively long-distance views afforded across both parcels of the Site and beyond (**Viewpoint 3**). The route leaves Walton-on-Trent and continues westwards where it crosses the Trent Valley (with views influenced by industrial/commercial elements along the A38) and passes through the village of Barton-under-Needwood, before climbing up the Tatenhill ridge on the edge of Needwood Forest.

For local users of the route travelling its 2.4km length between Rosliston and Walton-on-Trent (or in reverse), the Site is visible from approximately 1km of the route.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as people using the recreational route are likely to have their attention focused on the surrounding landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **high** value as although they are not protected or designated, they are seen from a promoted route and are noted in guidebooks/websites as showcasing the transforming landscape of the National Forest.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **high**.

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, vehicles will be seen moving along the skyline and in close proximity to the receptor, affecting the rural transitory views experienced along the route. There will be clear open views towards all construction activity occurring within the middle of the Site (including the implementation of PV panels, transformers, tracks and fencing); some of which will be close to the receptors and will affect rural views. There will also be views of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development's substation and of cranes lifting equipment for the battery storage into place in field O12. There will be direct open views of these construction activities along the section of the route between Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston (including the small part that crosses through the Site) in both summer and winter views. From the more elevated part of the route (near Walton Hill Farm) views of construction activities will also extend further across the Oaklands Farm landholding as well as towards the Park Farm landholding where there may be glimpses of machinery and excavations associated with the underground grid cabling. The scale of visual effect at construction is judged to be **large** for this section of the route.

The scale of visual effect at construction will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development. Beyond the section between Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston (discussed above), visibility will be limited from along the route by intervening features. This includes the woodlands around Park Farm and at the Rosliston Forestry Centre which filter views seen from the eastern extent of the route. Views from the west will be mostly screened by intervening topography, buildings within the settlements of Barton-under-Needwood and Walton-on-Trent, as well as large industrial/commercial elements along the A38, and occasional woodland blocks.

During operation (Year 1), the Proposed Development will be clearly seen within rural transitory views and will surround the receptor in places as they engage in outdoor recreation. The PV panels, transformers, tracks and fencing, will all be visible in direct views experienced from along the route (as shown on the visualisations for **Viewpoints 2 and 5**). There will be some views of the Proposed Development's substation and battery storage area, although partly obscured by intervening landform (as shown in the visualisation for **Viewpoint 2**) or filtered by intervening vegetation (as shown in the visualisation for **Viewpoint 5**). Proposed planting within the Site will be implemented but will not yet be effective in providing visual mitigation. The scale of visual effect during operation (Year 1) is judged to be **large**, given the proximity of the Proposed Development to the receptor and its extent within available views. As discussed above, visibility will be limited beyond this section of the route due to the filtering/ screening provided by vegetation, buildings and topography.

Geographical Extent

As indicated by the ZTVs at **Figures 5.5b** and **5.5d** and confirmed through ground-truthing, views of the Proposed Development will mainly be experienced from a localised section of the route between Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston, i.e. a **small** geographical extent.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers, fencing, the Proposed Development's substation and battery storage

will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (Year 1), the large scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **high** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **high**.

At Year 10 the proposed planting within the Site will have established and be close to maturity. This will include a new hedgerow and woodland along the northern edge of the route where it crosses through the Site to partially filter views of PV panels, enhancement to existing field boundaries within the Site and the reseeding of field margins with species rich grassland. The new planting will filter views and soften the impact of the Proposed Development. At Year 10 the overall magnitude of visual change will reduce to **medium.**

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect

A high visual sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **major (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This will reduce to a **moderate (significant)** effect at Year 10 (as a result of a high visual sensitivity and medium magnitude of visual change).

The direction of the effect is considered to be **adverse** due to the presence of new man-made structures in rural views.

Additional Cumulative Effects

Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are unlikely to be visible from along the section of the route between Walton-on-Trent and Rosliston.

Users of Recreational Routes (within 5km)

Table A5.4.9: Users of PRoWs within 2.5km of the Site (located north of the Cross Britain Way/ National Forest Way route[1])

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 4: Rosliston Road/ Footpath (near Fairfield) (0.3km from the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 5b: Footpath west of The Chase, Rosliston** (0.2km from the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 7: Footpath south of Hill Covert** (0.4km from the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 9: Cauldwell Road/ Bridleway to Manor Farm** (2.5km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
The area north of the Cross Britain Way/ National Forest Way route and within 2.5km from the Site is predominantly characterised by large-scale, gently rolling fields, interspersed with small, wooded copses and larger woodlands. Land use mainly comprises mixed agriculture and field boundaries typically consist of intact hedgerows with hedgerow trees (some of which are managed and low-trimmed while others have grown out and are taller). There are a few footpaths and bridleways located within this area, connecting small settlements and dispersed farmsteads. They typically run across agricultural fields and through or alongside woodlands. A view from the eastern end of Walton-on-Trent Footpath 1 (SD48/1/1), at the junction with Rosliston Road, can be seen in **Viewpoint 4.** Most of this local footpath is within 0.7km from the Site and users have some intermittent and oblique views south towards the Site (Oaklands Farm landholding), although seen beyond agricultural fields in the foreground with field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees and farm buildings forming intervening features. Views north-east towards the Park Farm landholding are limited by a hedgerow that runs along the edge of this footpath. Rosliston Footpath 26 (SD38/26/1) is another short local footpath within 0.5km from the Site, where views of the Site are mostly obscured by Redferns Wood, apart from limited glimpses

[1] This route runs along an east-west alignment and crosses through the centre of the Site and the study area.

towards the top of fields O8 and O9, seen through the canopy in winter (as seen in **Viewpoint 5b).** Pylons are also prominent within the views experienced from this footpath.

Drakelow Footpath 5 (SD16/5/1) is also a short local footpath that runs within 0.3km and parallel with the northern parcel of the Site (Park Farm landholding) between Walton Road and the Rosliston Forestry Centre. There are some oblique views from the northern end of the footpath towards parts of the Site (fields P2-P4). The footpath then runs along the eastern edge of the linear woodland at Hill Covert which filters views west towards the majority of the Park Farm landholding. Where the footpath emerges at the southern end of Hill Covert, it runs along a low ridgeline (which is elevated relative to surrounding land), affording views east with parts of Swadlincote visible on the distant skyline. From this section, views to the west are partially filtered by a hedgerow field boundary which runs along the length of the footpath, although allowing intermittent views across fields P1, F1, F2 and F3, and into the Oaklands Farm landholding beyond (as illustrated by **Viewpoint 7**).

A view from the south-eastern end of Cauldwell Bridleway 4 (SD11/4/1), at the junction with Cauldwell Road, can be seen in **Viewpoint 9** where the Site is largely filtered by intervening woodland located around Rosliston.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as people using recreational routes are likely to have their attention focused on the surrounding landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as pastoral fields, woodlands, trees and hedgerows are generally in good condition and contribute to a sense of rural character; however, degraded slightly by the presence of electricity pylons in close proximity to the receptor in places, as well as intensive arable cultivation and large agricultural buildings. There are also long distant panoramic views from Drakelow Footpath 5 (SD16/5/1), which contribute towards the scenic quality.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium.**

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, there will be some intermittent views towards construction activity (including movement from vehicles, and the implementation of PV panels, transformers, tracks, fencing, the Proposed Development's substation and battery storage area), affecting rural views from sections of footpaths within approximately 0.7km to the east and west of the Site. This includes footpaths SD48/1/1 and SD16/5/1 where the scale of visual effect at construction is judged to be **small**. The construction activities relating to the installation of the underground grid cabling will also be seen from the northern and southern extents of footpath SD16/5/1 at a distance of approximately 0.4km, including the excavations required to bury the cables, as well as construction activities associated with the access track that will cross the Park Farm landholding. More distant views towards the Site from footpaths and bridleways beyond this distance to the north-east and east (e.g. footpath SD11/4/1), will be obscured by intervening vegetation and landform.

During operation (Year 1), there will be intermittent views of PV panels, transformers, tracks, fencing, the Proposed Development's substation and battery storage area from sections of footpaths within approximately 0.7km to the east and west of the Site, i.e. SD48/1/1 and SD16/5/1, introducing further manmade structures into a view where electricity pylons form prominent features on the skyline from some of the views. However, intervening vegetation will provide partial filtering of the Proposed Development when seen during winter, and increased filtering during summer when in leaf, with views mainly being glimpsed and oblique in nature. Within the area of the Site accommodating the underground grid cabling (i.e. fields F1- F3 and P1-P5), the ground will be restored (with the grid connection cables buried) but may leave scars in the early years that would be visible from the northern and southern extent of footpath SD16/5/1. From these footpaths the scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **small,** as the introduction of the Proposed Development will result in a

small change to the rural views that are experienced by people as they engage in outdoor recreation. The scale of visual effect will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development and where vegetation provides intervening elements within views.

Geographical Extent

Whilst the ZTVs at **Figures 5.5b** and **5.5d** indicate theoretical visibility from some of the routes within 2.5km of the Site, actual visibility will be limited by intervening vegetation (e.g. field boundary hedgerows and woodland). The small scale of visual effect will occur intermittently to the short sections of footpaths within 0.7km of the Site, i.e. footpaths SD48/1/1 and SD16/5/1. The geographical extent of the small effect is therefore **small**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (Year 1), the small scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **low** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **low**.

The **low** magnitude of visual change will remain at Year 10, as although proposed planting across the Site and its boundaries will have established and be close to maturity, the extent of the Proposed Development visible above existing foreground vegetation will not change when viewed from some sections of footpaths due to its elevation within views. This assumes that the existing trees within Redferns Wood will have already reached maturity and therefore not

provide further filtering of the Proposed Development within views from footpaths to the east of the Site.
Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A medium visual sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **minor (not significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Years 1 and 10).
Additional Cumulative Effects
There may be occasional sequential views with the proposed battery energy storage system north-west of Barn Farm (DMPA/2023/0170), the energy storage system at Barr Hall Farm (DMOT/2023/0621), the energy storage building at Breach Farm (DMPA/2020/0542), and the proposed Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park project (CW9/1022/22) from footpath SD16/5/1, although at a distance of 0.5km, 0.6km, 2.5km and 3km respectively, views of these projects will be limited by intervening vegetation. The introduction of the Proposed Development will still result in a **small** scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent when considered against a baseline containing these projects, so there will be **no additional cumulative effects over and above those set out in the LVIA above.**

Table A5.4.10: Users of PRoWs within 2.5km of the Site (located south of the Cross Britain Way/ National Forest Way route[2])

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 6: Bridleway/ Footpath by Borough Fields (0.4km from the Site boundary) **Viewpoint 8: Church Street (near Coton in the Elms)** (0.6km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
The area south of the Cross Britain Way/ National Forest Way route and within 2.5km from the Site is predominantly characterised by mixed arable and pastoral land in medium-large scale rectilinear fields, interspersed with small woodlands, coverts, wooded copses and

[2] This route runs along an east-west alignment and crosses through the centre of the Site and the study area.

shelterbelts, often associated with farms. There are several footpaths and bridleways in this area that run through woodlands and across farmland, generally following existing field boundaries and connecting dispersed farmsteads and small settlements in the area.

A view from Walton-on-Trent Bridleway 6 (SD48/6/1), at the junction with Walton-on-Trent Footpath 7 (SD48/7/2) to the south-west of the Site, can be seen in **Viewpoint 6.** Within approximately 0.7km from the Site, users have some intermittent views (both oblique and direct) north-east towards the Oaklands Farm landholding, although seen beyond agricultural fields in the foreground with field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland copses, an avenue of trees (along the bridleway as shown in **Viewpoint 6**) and farm buildings (associated with Oaklands Farm) forming intervening features. Further along Walton-on-Trent Footpath 7 (SD48/7/2) to the north, users are afforded with panoramic views where the main focus of the view is across the Trent Valley to the north and west, although also extends east towards the Site. There are other local footpaths to the south-east of the Site where some intermittent views (oblique and direct) of the Oaklands Farm landholding are also afforded, within approximately 0.7km (similar to the views seen in **Viewpoint 8** where vegetation provides intervening features). Two of these footpaths (Coton in the Elms Footpath 1 (SD13/1/1) and Coton in the Elms Footpath 4 (SD13/4/1)) join Catton Lane along the south-eastern boundary of the Site and are briefly afforded relatively open views into the Site, particularly where the existing hedgerow along the road is low or defunct. Views towards the Site from public rights of way beyond 0.7km are limited by intervening woodland, or in some cases non-existent such as to the north of Lullington where woodland located south of Coton in the Elms provides filtering.

Judgement on Visual Sensitivity

Visual Susceptibility

The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as people using recreational routes are likely to have their attention focused on the surrounding landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation.

Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as pastoral fields, woodlands,

trees and hedgerows are generally in good condition and contribute to a sense of rural character; however, degraded slightly by the presence of electricity pylons in close proximity to the receptor in places, as well as intensive arable cultivation and large agricultural buildings.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium.**

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction, there will be some clear open views towards construction activity (including movement from vehicles, and the implementation of PV panels, transformers, tracks and fencing), affecting the rural views experienced from parts of footpaths SD13/1/1 and SD13/4/1 where users will be in close proximity to the Site. Beyond the immediate surroundings of the Site, more distant views of construction activity will be afforded from sections of footpaths and a bridleway within approximately 0.7km to the south-east and south-west of the Site; however, layers of intervening vegetation and the buildings within Oaklands Farm will partially filter/ screen views. The scale of visual effect at construction will vary from different parts of the route, depending on elevation and vegetation coverage, but overall is judged to be **medium**.

During operation (Year 1), there will be intermittent views of PV panels, transformers, tracks and fencing from sections of footpaths within approximately 0.7km to the south-east and south-west of the Site, introducing further manmade structures into a view where electricity pylons form prominent features on the skyline from some of the views. However, layers of intervening vegetation will provide partial filtering of the Proposed Development when seen during winter, and increased filtering during summer when in leaf, with views mainly being glimpsed and oblique in nature. From footpath SD48/7/2, views of the Proposed Development will form a small part of the panoramic views afforded to users from this route (which mostly focus across the Trent Valley to the north and west). There will however be some open views with parts of the Proposed Development in close proximity to the receptor when seen from

small sections of footpaths SD13/1/1 and SD13/4/1. Given the proximity of the Proposed Development to the receptor in some places and its extent within available views, the scale of visual effect during operation (Year 1) is judged to be **medium**.

Geographical Extent

Whilst the ZTV at **Figure 5.5b** indicates theoretical visibility from some of the routes within 2.5km of the Site, actual visibility will be limited by intervening vegetation (e.g. field boundary hedgerows). The medium scale of visual effect will occur intermittently to the short sections of footpaths within 0.7km of the Site. The geographical extent of the medium effect is therefore **small**.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **partially reversible** as the PV panels, transformers and fencing will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. The tracks will either be left in situ providing a continuation of improved access for farmers or removed depending on the requirement of the landowner at the time.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

During operation (Year 1), the medium scale of visual effect over a small geographical extent (over a long term) is judged to result in an overall **medium** magnitude of visual change. Although the construction period is shorter in duration, it can be more evident than at operation because of on-site activity and part-built structures. Therefore, the overall magnitude of visual change at construction is also judged to be **medium**.

At Year 10 the planting will have established and will be close to maturity. This will include the enhancement of existing field boundaries within the Site as well as a change in the management of the existing hedgerow along the south-eastern boundary (Catton Lane) by allowing it to grow taller (up to 3m in height) which would provide further filtering to the

Proposed Development when viewed from footpaths SD13/1/1 and SD13/4/1. The magnitude of visual change will therefore reduce to being **low** at Year 10.
Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect
A medium visual sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **moderate (significant)** effect during construction and during operation (at Year 1). This will reduce to a **minor (not significant)** effect at Year 10 (as a result of a medium visual sensitivity and low magnitude of visual change).
Additional Cumulative Effects
Not applicable as the projects considered for the CLVIA are not visible from the PRoWs within 2.5km of the Site (located south of the Cross Britain Way/ National Forest Way route).

Table A5.4.11: Users of PRoWs to the north of the Cross Britain Way/National Forest Way and within 2.5-5km of the Site

Representative Viewpoint
Viewpoint 11: Sunnyside, Newhall (4.7km from the Site boundary)
Description of Visual Receptor and Existing Views
The area to the north of the Cross Britain Way/National Forest Way and within 2.5 - 5km of the Site is largely characterised by the suburban edges of Burton-Upon-Trent, Stapenhill and Swadlincote, and includes the small villages of Linton (to the east) and Tatenhill (to the west). Between these settlement, mixed agricultural fields are interspersed with small, wooded copses, and larger woodlands. In the west is the Branston Water Park Local Nature Reserve which comprises a series of disused gravel pits, as well as the Trent and Mersey Canal which runs between Barton-under-Needwood and Burton-Upon-Trent. There are several footpaths and bridleways in this area including 'The Way for The Millennium' locally promoted route which follows the canal path, as well as local footpaths running west from the canal towards elevated land at Battlestead Hill and Tatenhill Common. To the east there are a number of local footpaths crossing between the settlements of Stapenhill, Swadlincote and Linton. Overall views towards the Site are limited from footpaths and bridleways within this area due to intervening woodland and field boundary vegetation. There are however distant glimpsed views of the Site from local footpaths situated on the edge of the elevated Sunnyside area in Newhall (in the north-west of Swadlincote) which look across gently rolling agricultural fields in the foreground, as represented by **Viewpoint 11.**
Judgement on Visual Sensitivity
Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be **high** as people using recreational routes are likely to have their attention focused on the surrounding landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. **Value of the Views experienced by the Visual Receptor**

Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of **medium** value as although they are not protected or designated, they have some scenic quality as pastoral fields, woodlands, trees and hedgerows as well as the wetlands and riparian vegetation at the nature reserve and along the canal path, are generally in good condition and contribute to a sense of rural character. The scenic quality is partly degraded by the presence of electricity pylons across the skyline, as well as major roads and the urban edge of surrounding settlements which feature in views.

Visual Sensitivity

By combining the separate judgements on visual susceptibility and the value of views experienced by the visual receptor, the visual sensitivity of this visual receptor is judged to be **medium.**

Judgement on the Magnitude of Visual Change

Scale of Visual Effect

During construction the visibility of construction activities will be limited; as layers of intervening vegetation in the form of woodlands and field boundaries will provide partial filtering of views during winter, and increased filtering during summer when trees are in leaf. There will however be some distant glimpsed views of construction vehicles moving across parts of the Site (within the Park Farm landholding) and other construction activities (relating to the implementation of PV panels, tracks and fencing within the Oaklands Farm landholding) when viewed from elevated local footpaths near the Sunnyside area of Newhall in the north-west of Swadlincote. However, these construction activities will be seen at a distance of almost 5km and backclothed by wooded skylines. The scale of visual effect at construction within views from these footpaths is judged to be **barely perceptible**.

During operation (Year 1), there will be limited distant views of PV panels from elevated footpaths near the elevated Sunnyside area of Newhall in the north-west of Swadlincote, glimpsed through intervening vegetation and backclothed by wooded skylines. The scale of visual effect during operation (at Year 1) is judged to be **barely perceptible** as the change in views is likely to go unnoticed.

Geographical Extent

Not applicable as the scale of visual effect is judged to be barely perceptible.

Duration/Reversibility

During construction the changes in views experienced by this receptor will be **short-term** (up to 2 years) and largely **reversible**.

During operation the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be **long-term** (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be **reversible** as the PV panels will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased.

Overall Judgement on Magnitude of Visual Change

As the scale of visual effect is barely perceptible, so is the overall magnitude of visual change, both at construction and during operation (at Years 1 and 10).

Overall Level, Direction and Significance of Effect

A medium visual sensitivity combined with a barely perceptible magnitude of visual change is judged to result in a **negligible (not significant)** effect.

Additional Cumulative Effects

There may be intermittent glimpsed views of the proposed Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park project (CW9/1022/22), proposed energy storage facility off Mount Road (DMPA/2021/1698), energy storage building at Breach Farm (DMPA/2020/0542) and Battery Storage Facility to the north of the Royle Farm Business Park (DMPA/2021/1221). from local footpaths within 2.5-5km from the Site. Nevertheless, the introduction of the Proposed Development will still result in a **barely perceptible** scale of visual effect when considered against a baseline containing these projects, so there will be **no additional cumulative effects over and above those set out in the LVIA above.**