XLINKS' MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT

Environmental Statement

Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Access Land	The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 gives a public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'access land'.
Alverdiscott Substation	The existing National Grid Electricity Transmission substation at Alverdiscott, Devon, which comprises 400 kV and 132 kV electrical substation equipment.
Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	The development required at the existing Alverdiscott Substation Site, which is envisaged to include development of a new 400 kV substation, and other extension modification works to be carried out by National Grid Electricity Transmission. This does not form part of the Proposed Development, however, it is considered cumulatively within the Environmental Impact Assessment as it is necessary to facilitate connection to the national grid.
Alverdiscott Substation site	The National Grid Electricity Transmission site within which the Alverdiscott Substation sits.
Applicant	Xlinks 1 Limited.
Bipole	A Bipole system is an electrical transmission system that comprises two Direct Current conductors of opposite polarity (one conductor with positive voltage and one with negative voltage).
Characteristics	Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.
Converter Site	The Converter Site is proposed to be located to the immediate west of the existing Alverdiscott Substation Site in north Devon. The Converter Site would contain two converter stations (known as Bipole 1 and Bipole 2) and associated infrastructure, buildings and landscaping.
Converter station	Part of an electrical transmission and distribution system. Converter stations convert electricity from Direct Current to Alternating Current, or vice versa.
Critical National Priority Infrastructure	A policy set out at Section 4.2 of EN-1 which applies a policy presumption that, subject to any legal Requirements (including under section 104 of the Planning Act 2008), the urgent need for CNP Infrastructure to achieving our energy objectives, together with the national security, economic, commercial, and net zero benefits, will in general outweigh any other residual impacts not capable of being addressed by application of the mitigation hierarchy.
Development Consent Order	An order made under the Planning Act 2008, as amended, granting development consent.
Designated landscapes	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.
Earthworks	Covers the processes of soil-stripping, ground-levelling, excavation, and landscaping, as defined by the Institute of Air Quality Management.
Effect	The term used to express the consequence of an impact. The significance of effect is determined by correlating magnitude of the impact with the importance, or sensitivity, of the receptor or resource in accordance with defined significance criteria.
Environmental Impact Assessment	The process of identifying and assessing the significant effects likely to arise from a project. This requires consideration of the likely changes to the environment, where these arise as a consequence of a project, through comparison with the existing and projected future baseline conditions.
Environmental Statement	The document presenting the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment process.
Feature	Prominent elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines.

Term	Meaning
Green infrastructure	Networks of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities.
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a method of installing underground pipelines, cables and service conduit (or ducts) through trenchless methods to avoid obstacles and sensitive features (e.g. roads, watercourses, woodlands, etc.). The term HDD is used here interchangeably with other similar trenchless techniques but excluding micro tunnelling or direct pipe methods.
HVAC Cables	The High Voltage Alternating Current cables which would bring electricity from the converter stations to the new Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development.
HVAC Cable Corridors	The proposed corridors (for each Bipole) within which the onshore High Voltage Alternating Current cables would be routed between the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Site.
HVDC Cables	The High Voltage Direct Current cables which would bring electricity to the UK converter stations from the Moroccan converter stations.
Impact	Change that is caused by an action/proposed development, e.g., land clearing (action) during construction which results in habitat loss (impact).
Landfall	The proposed area in which the offshore cables make landfall in the United Kingdom (come on shore) and the transitional area between the offshore cabling and the onshore cabling. This term applies to the entire landfall area at Cornborough Range, Devon, between Mean Low Water Springs and the transition joint bays inclusive of all construction works, including the offshore and onshore cable routes, and landfall compound(s).
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP)	An Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan has been prepared for the application. It includes details of the landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement works required for the onshore elements (cable route and Converter Site) and the maintenance and management of the proposals.
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.
Landscape Character Areas	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 landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape Character Type	These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous 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, historical land use, and settlement pattern.
Landscape quality (condition)	A measure of 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 the proposal.
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.

Term	Meaning
Maximum design scenario	The realistic worst case scenario, selected on a topic-specific and impact specific basis, from a range of potential parameters for the Proposed Development.
Mean Low Water Springs	The height of mean low water during spring tides in a year.
National Grid Electricity Transmission	National Grid Electricity Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales.
National Policy Statement(s)	The current national policy statements published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in 2023 and adopted in 2024.
Offshore Cable Corridor	The proposed corridor within which the offshore cables are proposed to be located, which is situated within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone.
Onshore Infrastructure Area	The proposed infrastructure area within the Order Limits landward of Mean High Water Springs. The Onshore Infrastructure Area comprises the transition joint bays, onshore HVDC Cables, converter stations, HVAC Cables, highways improvements, utility diversions and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure including temporary compound areas and permanent accesses.
Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	The proposed corridor within which the onshore High Voltage Direct Current cables would be located.
Order Limits	The area within which all offshore and onshore components of the Proposed Development are proposed to be located, including areas required on a temporary basis during construction (such as construction compounds).
Planning Inspectorate	The agency responsible for operating the planning process for applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report	A report that provides preliminary environmental information in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This is information that enables consultees to understand the likely significant environmental effects of a project, and which helps to inform consultation responses.
Proposed Development	The element of Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project within the UK. The Proposed Development covers all works required to construct and operate the offshore cables (from the UK Exclusive Economic Zone to Landfall), Landfall, onshore Direct Current and Alternating Current cables, converter stations, and highways improvements.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of a proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs of the existing landscape.
Seascape	The visual and physical conjunction of land and sea which combines maritime, coast and hinterland character.
South West Coast Path	South West Coast Path part of the King Charles III England Coast Path
Special Qualities	A term usually used in relation to National Parks or National Landscapes (previously named Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). It is given to those qualities for which the area is designated.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
The national grid	The network of power transmission lines which connect substations and power stations across Great Britain to points of demand. The network ensures that electricity can be transmitted across the country to meet power demands.
Transition joint bay	A transition joint bay is an underground structure at the landfall area where the offshore cables are jointed to the onshore cables.
Tranquillity	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant feature in the landscape.

Term	Meaning
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy in their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on 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.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a proposed development.
Utility Diversions	Works required by statutory utility providers to re-route infrastructure around the Proposed Development.
Xlinks' Morocco UK Power Project	The overall scheme from Morocco to the national grid, including all onshore and offshore elements of the transmission network and the generation site in Morocco (referred to as the 'Project').
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	The areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now National Landscapes)
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
On-CEMP	Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan
CNP	Critical National Priority Infrastructure
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013)
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
IEMA	Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LI	Landscape Institute
LSVIA	Landscape, seascape and Visual Impact Assessment
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
NCA	National Character Area
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NL	National Landscapes (previously Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RPZ	(Tree) Root Protection Zone

Acronym	Meaning
SCA	Seascape Character Area
TGN	Technical Guidance Note
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Units	Meaning
%	Percentage
km	Kilometres
m	Metres
m^2	Square metres
NanoWatts/cm^2/sr	NanoWatts (Level of light radiance)

2 LANDSCAPE, SEASCAPE AND VISUAL RESOURCES

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for the United Kingdom (UK) elements of Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project (the 'Project'). For ease of reference, the UK elements of the Project are referred to in this chapter as the 'Proposed Development'. The ES accompanies the application to the Planning Inspectorate for development consent for the Proposed Development.

2.1.2 This chapter considers the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Development on landscape, seascape and visual resources during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases. Specifically, it relates to the onshore and offshore elements of the Proposed Development landward of Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) and seaward for 1 km from the Landfall for the Offshore Cable Corridor.

2.1.3 In particular, this ES chapter:

- identifies the key legislation, policy and guidance relevant to landscape, seascape and visual resources;
- details the EIA scoping and consultation process undertaken to date for landscape, seascape and visual resources;
- confirms the study area for the assessment, the methodology used to identify baseline environmental conditions, the impact assessment methodology, and identifies any assumptions and limitations encountered in compiling the environmental information;
- sets out the existing and future environmental baseline conditions, established from desk studies, surveys and consultation;
- details the mitigation and/or monitoring measures that are proposed to prevent, minimise, reduce or offset the possible environmental effects identified in the EIA process;
- defines the project design parameters used to inform for the impact assessment;
- presents an assessment of the likely impacts and effects in relation to the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape, seascape and visual resources; and
- identifies any cumulative, transboundary and/or inter-related effects in relation to the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development on landscape, seascape and visual resources.

2.1.4 This chapter also draws upon additional information to support the assessment contained within the following appendices:

- Volume 4, Appendix 2.1: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Planning Policy;
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report;
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report;
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology;
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations; and
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey Report and Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

2.2 Legislative and Policy Context

Legislation

2.2.1 National government policy and underpinning legislation is summarised in **Table 2.1**, together with how it has been considered in this chapter.

Table 2.1: Summary of legislation relevant to Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment (LSVIA)

Summary of national legislation/policy	How and where considered in the ES
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 Relevance: Nationally designated landscapes fall within the study area.	The effect on the North Devon Coast National Landscape (NL) is assessed in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
Environment Act 1995 Relevance: Nationally designated landscapes fall within the study area.	The effect on the North Devon Coast NL is assessed in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Relevance: Access Land (mountain, moor, heath and down) is designated under the Act. There are areas of Access Land within the study area.	The effect on land within the LSVIA study area designated as Access Land is addressed in the impact assessment in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Relevance: Areas of the sea fall within the Onshore study area.	The effect on land adjacent to the coast within the LSVIA study area is addressed in the impact assessment in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter, where appropriate.
Environment Act 2021 Relevance: The Act mandated the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies ((LNRSs) across England. LNRSs are a new system of spatial strategies for nature recovery and will play a major role in providing detail on the best locations to create, enhance and restore nature and deliver wider environmental benefits. They will be critical in delivering new government targets for species abundance and habitat creation commitments, as well as other pressing environmental outcomes for water and flood risk, carbon and tree planting and woodland creation. LNRSs will also drive the creation of a Nature Recovery Network (NRN), a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.	Opportunities have been taken to both mitigate the landscape effects of the Proposed Development and enhance the existing landscape, this includes areas of habitat creation at the Converter Site, hedgerow enhancements along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and planting proposals to the east of the River Torridge. Further details are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the ES. An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been submitted as part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (document reference 7.10) with input from the following disciplines: landscape architecture,

Summary of national legislation/policy	How and where considered in the ES
	arboriculture, ecology, hydrology, and historic environment.
Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 Relevance: Section 245 – Protected Landscapes - Requires greater weight given to the purpose of conserving and enhancing protected landscapes such as National Parks and National Landscapes (formally Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)). Such designated areas are required to set out management plans and how they would contribute to the Environment Act 2021 targets. Nationally designated landscapes fall within the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and converter station study areas	The effect on the North Devon Coast NL is assessed in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. An illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan for the Converter Site has been prepared and provided within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10). The Outline LEMP provides details of how the land and hedgerows would be replanted/reinstated following construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. These measures would help conserve the natural beauty of the North Devon Coast NL.

Planning Policy Context

2.2.2 The Proposed Development would be located within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) offshore waters (beyond 12 nautical miles (nm) from the English coast) and inshore waters, with the onshore infrastructure proposed to be located wholly within Devon, England. As set out in Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction, of the ES, the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has directed that elements of the Proposed Development are to be treated as development for which development consent is required under the Planning Act 2008, as amended.

National Policy Statements

2.2.3 There are currently six energy National Policy Statements (NPSs), three of which contain policy relevant to the Proposed Development, specifically:

- Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1) which sets out the UK Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero 2023a);
- NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero 2023b); and
- NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero 2023c).

2.2.4 **Table 2.2** sets out key aspects from the NPSs relevant to the Proposed Development, with particular reference to the need for and approach to consenting such infrastructure.

2.2.5 The policies within the current NPSs relevant to all topics in the ES can be viewed in the NPS Compliance Tracker within the Planning Statement (document reference 7.2), which forms part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application.

Table 2.2: Summary of relevant NPS policy

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
NPS EN-1 Provisions relevant to landscape and visual resources	
'*In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as…* • *…landscape enhancement* • *increased access to natural greenspace, or* • *the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands.* [Paragraph 4.6.13 NPS EN-1]	Opportunities to deliver wider environmental gains, including landscape enhancements and the creation of woodland have been considered as part of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10). The Outline LEMP has been developed with input from the following disciplines: landscape architecture, arboriculture, ecology, hydrology, and historic environment. Opportunities have been taken to both mitigate and enhance the existing landscape, this would include areas of habitat creation at the Converter Site, along with planting and hedgerow improvements along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. Further details are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description and Volume 1, Figure 3.16 of the ES. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.
'*Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project*.' [Paragraph 4.6.15 NPS EN-1]	
'*Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area*.' [Paragraph 4.7.2 of NPS EN-1]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles (document reference 7.4) have identified how 'Good Design' can be applied with reference to NPS EN-1.
'*Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process*.' [Paragraph 4.7.6 of NPS EN-1]	
'*The landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. In this context, references to landscape should be taken as covering seascape and townscape where appropriate*.' [Paragraph 5.10.1 NPS EN-1]	The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**.

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
'*Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation*.' [Paragraph 5.10.5 of NPS EN-1]	The potential landscape effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) sets out the landscape design proposals for enhancement of the local landscape, where practicable, and the Design Principles (document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design.
'*Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate*.' [Paragraph 5.10.6 of NPS EN-1]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives. The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** and in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).
'*The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. In these locations, projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further the purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development*.' [Paragraph 5.10.8 of NPS EN-1]	No part of the Converter Site is located within any designated landscapes. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been generated for the tallest buildings to be constructed at the Converter Site. This showed that parts of the Converter Site would be theoretically visible from the North Devon Coast NL (Volume 4, Figure 2.2). Without mitigation bunds, a corner of one of the buildings is visible. An indicative example bund was used to test whether the building could be successfully screened from the NL and it was found to not be visible (see Figure 2.5.40, Representative viewpoint 40 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES). The direct impacts resulting from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are summarised in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. A detailed study of the effects of the Proposed Development on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL has been undertaken in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. The Landfall and a section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are outlined in **Table 2.15** of this chapter and detailed in **paragraphs 2.7.9** and **2.7.10**. The effects on the relevant special qualities are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
'*The Secretary of State has a duty of to have regard to the statutory purposes of National Parks and AONBs in Wales when making decisions about development schemes within England which affect designated landscapes in Wales. Similar regard should also be had in relation to schemes in England which have impacts on National Parks and National Scenic Areas in Scotland*.' [Paragraph 5.10.9 of NPS EN-1]	
'*Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development*.'	

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
[Paragraph 5.10.12 of NPS EN-1]	
'*All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites*.' [Paragraph 5.10.13 of NPS EN-1]	The potential visual receptors of the Proposed Development are identified in **section 2.7** (see **paragraphs 2.7.51** to **2.7.72**) and assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**.
'*The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project*.' [Paragraph 5.10.14]	
'*Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion because of the potential high visibility of development on the foreshore, on the skyline and affecting views along stretches of undeveloped coast*.' [Paragraph 5.10.15 of NPS EN-1]	
'*Landscape effects arise not only from the sensitivity of the landscape but also the nature and magnitude of change proposed by the development, whose specific siting and design make the assessment a case-by-case judgement*.' [Paragraph 5.10.4 of NPS EN-1]	The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. The potential cumulative landscape, seascape and visual effects are considered in **section 2.13**. The assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES in addition to the guidance set out in **paragraph 2.6.1**. The methodology used for the assessment, including the significance criteria used is provided in **section 2.6**. A detailed explanation of the assessment methodology in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2013) is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES. The siting and design of the Proposed Development is discussed in Volume 1, Chapter 4: Needs and Alternatives of the ES and the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4).
'*The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues*.' [Paragraph 5.10.16 of NPS EN-1]	
'*The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales*.' [Paragraph 5.10.17 of NPS EN-1]	Existing landscape assessments and related studies (where relevant) are identified in **section 2.7** and assessed in **section 2.10**

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
'*For seascapes, applicants should consult the Seascape Character Assessment and the Marine Plan Seascape Character Assessments, and any successors to them*.' [Paragraph 5.10.18 of NPS EN-1]	The North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment has been detailed in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES and considered in **section 2.7** of this ES chapter.
'*The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme*.' [Paragraph 5.10.19 of NPS EN-1]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES. Once construction compounds are removed and remediation has taken place, the landscape and ecological mitigation/restoration can take place. The landscape mitigation proposals are detailed within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).
'*The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, or an NL, the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas*.' [Paragraph 5.10.20 of NPS EN-1]	The assessment includes impacts of the Proposed Development on landscape components and character during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning, and these are and assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. The Landfall and a section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are outlined in **Table 2.15** of this chapter and detailed in **paragraphs 2.7.9** and **2.7.10**. The effects on the relevant special qualities are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
'*The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation*.' [Paragraph 5.10.21 of NPS EN-1]	The potential effects on visual amenity during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. This includes consideration of light pollution effects during construction. The effects of light pollution with respect to nature conservation are considered separately in Volume 2, Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES.
'*The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised*.' [Paragraph 5.10.22 of NPS EN-1]	The potential effects on residential amenity during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. This includes consideration of light pollution effects during construction. The effects of noise pollution on human and ecological receptors are considered in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Noise and Vibration of the ES and Volume 2, Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature conservation of the ES respectively.
'*Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape quality*.' [Paragraphs 5.10.24 of NPS EN-1]	An Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) has been developed that includes restoration, enhancement and creation of hedgerows, as well as the creation of woodlands, to enhance and connect habitats. This would help to minimise adverse effects.

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
'*In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development*.' [Paragraph 5.10.25 of NPS EN-1]	**Table 2.20** provides a list of other projects and plans considered within the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) in **section 2.13**. This includes the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, which would be taken forward by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) (see Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description for further details).
'*Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function*.' [Paragraph 5.10.26 of NPS EN-1]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** and have been set out in detail within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and the Design Principles (document reference 7.4).
'*Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings*.' [Paragraph 5.10.27 of NPS EN-1]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. The outline landscape design incorporating native and locally characteristic species and features is set out within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles (document reference 7.4).
'*Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista*.' [Paragraph 5.10.28 of NPS EN-1]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. However, this does not include offsite planting. Opportunities for off-site biodiversity enhancement is detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description, but this is not assessed within the EIA.
'*The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project*.' [Paragraph 5.10.35 of NPS EN-1]	The effects of the temporary and permanent elements of the Proposed Development on the landscape are assessed in **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. The visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed at **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter. The judgement provided on the visual assessment of the Proposed Development has been undertaken by a chartered landscape architect using best practice and the
'*In reaching a judgment, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is*	

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.' [Paragraph 5.10.36 of NPS EN-1]	embedded methodology as outlined in **section 2.6** of this assessment and in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape, and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology. The Statement of Need (document reference 7.1) outlines the benefits of the Proposed Development as part of the Governments decarbonisation targets for 2035 in energy generation.
'*The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation*.' [Paragraph 5.10.37 of NPS EN-1]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8.** Furthermore, an Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) have been submitted as part of the DCO application.
'*The Secretary of State should consider whether Requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and technical Requirements for landscape and visual impacts.*' [Paragraph 5.10.38 of NPS EN-1]	
'*An energy infrastructure project will have a direct effect on the existing use of the proposed site and may have indirect effects on the use, or planned use, of land in the vicinity for other types of development. Given the likely locations of energy infrastructure projects there may be particular effects on open space including green and blue infrastructure*.' [Paragraph 5.11.1 of NPS EN-1]	The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. This includes consideration of existing or proposed land uses within the vicinity of the Order Limits. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**, including removal and replacement of trees, hedgerows, and grassland.
'*Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. In the EIP, the Government committed to increase the tree canopy and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area of England by 2050. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.'* [Paragraph 5.11.27 of NPS EN-1]	A tree survey has been undertaken in accordance with BS5837:2012 and an Arboricultural Impact Assessment carried out (see Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey Report and Arboricultural Impact Assessment) which includes an assessment of the impacts on trees during the construction phase. It identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. Overall, the Arboricultural Impact Assessment indicates that there would be minimal impact on trees. Tree Root Protection Zones (RPZs) have been mapped and the routing of the cables would take account of the Tree Survey findings (see Volume 4, Appendix 2.6 of the ES). Where work must be undertaken within a RPZ of a tree that is to be retained, a method statement would be agreed with the relevant tree officer. Where a tree cannot be retained, replacement trees would be planted as close to the original location as possible. The Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (On-CEMP) (document reference 7.7) includes an Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (document reference 7.7,

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
	Appendix E), which would be further developed prior to construction.
'*Where a project has a sterilising effect on land use (for example in some cases under transmission lines) there may be scope for this to be mitigated through, for example, using or incorporating the land for nature conservation or wildlife corridors or for parking and storage in employment areas*.' [Paragraph 5.11.29 of NPS EN-1]	No new overhead lines are proposed as part of the Proposed Development. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.
'*Public rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way*.' [Paragraph 5.11.30 of NPS EN-1]	No Access Land would be affected. The South West Coast Path National Trail will not be closed or diverted during the construction works at the Landfall and the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, unless there is necessity to do so resulting from an emergency. A Public Right of Way (PRoW) at Kenwith Stream (Abbotsham Footpath 2) would require temporary diversion during construction and there will be a managed crossing at the two PRoW (Abbotsham Footpath 5 and Alwington Footpath 3) crossed by the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor in a trenched crossing. An Outline PRoW Management Plan has been developed as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.11). No Access Land or PRoW would be affected or closed at the Converter Site. The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development on amenity of PRoW and Access Land are assessed in **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. The potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the use and convenience of PRoW and beaches are considered in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation of the ES.
'*The Secretary of State should consider whether the mitigation measures put forward by an applicant are acceptable and whether Requirements or other provisions in respect of these measures should be included in any grant of development consent*.' [Paragraph 5.11.31 of NPS EN-1]	The Proposed Development comprises infrastructure that is a Critical National Priority (CNP) for the UK as defined in NPS EN-1. The landscape and ecological mitigation proposals would minimise adverse landscape and visual impacts as far as possible. There would be adverse residual impacts, which would diminish over time as the landscape mitigation becomes established and matures. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.
'*Applicants should include measures to mitigate fully the direct and indirect effects of development on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees or other irreplaceable habitats during both construction and operational phase*.' [Paragraph 5.4.32 of NPS EN-1]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. Where possible, protected and unprotected areas of woodland, mature and protected trees (i.e. veteran trees), as well as other ecologically sensitive habitats have and would be avoided.

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
'*Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Keepers of Time, the government's policy for ancient and native trees and woodlands in England sets out the government's commitment to maintain and enhance the existing area of ancient woodland, maintain and enhance the existing resource of known ancient and veteran trees, excluding natural losses from disease and death, and to increase the percentage of ancient woodland in active management. Ancient and veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable. Other types of irreplaceable habitats include blanket bog, limestone pavement, coastal sand dunes, spartina salt marsh swards, Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, and lowland fen*.' [Paragraph 5.4.15 of NPS EN-1]	Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey Report and Arboricultural Impact Assessment includes an assessment of the impacts on trees during the construction phase. It identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. Furthermore, as detailed within Volume 1, Appendix 3.1: Commitments Register of the ES, where possible, protected and unprotected areas of woodland, mature and protected trees (i.e. veteran trees), as well as other ecologically sensitive habitats have and would be avoided.
NPS EN-3 Provisions relevant to landscape and visual resources	
'*When considering applications for CNP [critical national priority] Infrastructure in sites with nationally recognised designations (such as SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Parks and Gardens, and World Heritage Sites), the Secretary of State will take as the starting point that the relevant tests in Sections 5.4 and 5.10 of EN-1 have been met, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the urgent need for this type of infrastructure*.' [Paragraph 2.3.6 of NPS EN-3]	The landscape, seascape and visual baseline is identified in **section 2.7** and assessed within **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. The Landfall and a section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are outlined in **Table 2.15** of this chapter and detailed in **paragraphs 2.7.9** and **2.7.10**. The effects on the relevant special qualities are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. The need for the Proposed Development, as CNP is explained in the Statement of Need (document reference 7.1) and Planning Statement (document reference 7.2).
'*Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-location with other marine and terrestrial uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage*.' [Paragraph 2.5.2 of NPS EN-3]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. Opportunities to benefit ecology and biodiversity through good landscape design have been adopted within the Proposed Development. The outline landscape design is set out within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4).
'*Applicants should follow relevant guidance including, but not limited to seascape and landscape character assessments, landscape sensitivity assessments, and marine plan seascape character assessments (e.g., NRW Marine Character Areas (with associated guidance) England's marine plans)*.' [Paragraph 2.8.207 of NPS EN-3]	The assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES in addition to the guidance set out in **paragraph 2.6.1**. The methodology used for the assessment, including the significance criteria used is provided in **section 2.6**. A detailed explanation of the assessment methodology in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4:

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
	Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.
'*As part of the [S]LVIA, photomontages will be required. Viewpoints to be used for the [S]LVIA should be selected in consultation with the statutory consultees at the EIA Scoping stage*.' [Paragraph 2.8.210 of NPS EN-3]	Photomontages have been produced for each of the representative viewpoints identified and are presented in Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES. Viewpoints were selected in consultation with Torridge District Council prior to the submission of the DCO. Consultation undertaken to date relevant to the assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources is presented in **Table 2.6**.
'*Applicants should assess the magnitude and significance of change to both the identified seascape receptors (such as seascape and landscape units, visual receptors and the special qualities of designated landscapes) in accordance with the standard methodology for [S]LVIA*.' [Paragraph 2.8.211 of NPS EN-3]	The assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES in addition to the guidance set out in **paragraph 2.6.1**. The methodology used for the assessment, including the significance criteria used is provided in **section 2.6**.
'*Where appropriate, cumulative [S]LVIA should be undertaken in accordance with the policy on cumulative assessment outlined in Section 5.10.16-17 of EN-1*.' [Paragraph 2.8.212 of NPS EN-3]	The potential cumulative landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are considered in **section 2.13**.
'*Where adverse effects are anticipated either during the construction or operational phases, in coming to a judgement the Secretary of State should consider the extent to which the effects are temporary or reversible*.' [Paragraph 2.8.352 of NPS EN-3]	The landscape, seascape and visual effects during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases have been assessed within **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. This includes consideration of the temporary or reversible nature of potential impacts when determining the overall likely significance effect, where appropriate.
NPS EN-5 Provisions relevant to landscape and visual resources	
'*There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated substations, and applicants should consider carefully their placement in the local landscape, as well as their design*.' [Paragraph 2.2.8 of NPS EN-5]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES.
'*New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts*.' [Paragraph 2.9.9 of NPS EN-5]	The landscape, seascape and visual effects during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases have been assessed within **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. This includes the consideration of above ground infrastructure such as the converter stations. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.
'*Cumulative adverse landscape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation*.' [Paragraph 2.9.10 of NPS EN-5]	The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development are considered in **section 2.13** of this chapter. The permitted solar farm that is under construction (application reference 1/1057/2021/FULM) has been considered within the landscape, seascape and visual resources baseline.

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
	No new overhead lines are proposed as part of the Proposed Development. The onshore HVDC Cables and HVAC Cables would be buried underground. The mitigation and enhancement proposed within the Proposed Development (see **Table 2.18)** would also assist in softening the views of the existing overhead powerlines and existing infrastructure. The landscape proposals would also increase connectivity and assist in enhancing landscape character, in line with the landscape character area management guidelines.
'*The Horlock Rules – guidelines for the design and siting of substations – were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989. These principles should be embodied in applicants' proposals for the infrastructure associated with new overhead lines*.' [Paragraphs 2.9.18 of NPS EN-5] Paragraph 2.9.19 of NPS EN-5 lists the requirements of the Horlock Rules, which the applicants should consider.	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10) to mitigate and minimise the effects of the Proposed Development.
'*• Additionally, there are more specific measures that might be taken, and which the Secretary of State could mandate through DCO Requirements if appropriate, as follows:* *• landscape schemes, comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting, are sometimes used for larger new overhead line projects to mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These may be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s), or the developer may compulsorily acquire the land or land rights in question. Advice from the relevant statutory authority may also be needed; and* *• screening, comprising localised planting in the immediate vicinity of residential properties and principal viewpoints can also help to screen or soften the effect of the line, reducing the visual impact from a particular receptor*.' [Paragraph 2.10.6 of NPS EN-5]	The Design Principles (document reference 7.4) details the aims of and rationale behind both the Converter Site buildings architecture and the landscape proposals, which has been shown in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).
'*Furthermore, since long-term management of the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes*.' [Paragraph 2.10.8 of NPS EN-5]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.

Summary of NPS Requirement	How and where considered in the ES
'*The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the development, so far as is reasonably possible, complies with the Holford and Horlock Rules (please see paragraphs 2.9.16 - 2.9.19) or any updates to them*.' [Paragraph 2.11.2 of NPS EN-5]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES.
'*In circumstances where it can be demonstrated that a mitigation measure and/ or technological approach is appropriate and/ or necessary for a project, including to limit landscape and visual impact as set out above, the Secretary of State should take this into account in decision making*.' [Paragraph 2.11.4 of NPS EN-5]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.
'*Nationally designated landscapes have specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection. The Secretary of State should have special regard to nationally designated landscapes, where the general presumption in favour of overhead lines should be reversed to favour undergrounding*.' [Paragraph 2.11.5 of NPS EN-5]	The Landfall and a section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are outlined in **Table 2.15** of this chapter and detailed in **paragraphs 2.7.9** and **2.7.10**. The effects on the relevant special qualities are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
'*When planning and evaluating the proposed development's contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important – for both the applicant and the Secretary of State – to supplement the generic guidance set out in EN-1 (Section 4.6) with recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to:* *i. reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and/or* ii. *connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.*' [Paragraph 2.5.1 of NPS EN-5]	An Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) has been developed to minimise and mitigate the effects of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Converter Site, as well as enhance the environment in and around these areas, where possible. The landscape proposals are summarised in **section 2.8.**

The National Planning Policy Framework

2.2.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in 2012 and updated in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023 and 2024 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England.

2.2.7 **Table 2.3** sets out a summary of the NPPF (2023) policies relevant to this chapter.

2.2.8 The NPPF has been updated and the draft version was published for consultation on 30 July 2024 with the consultation period ending on 24 September 2024 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024).

Table 2.3: Summary of NPPF Requirements relevant to this chapter

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
2. Achieving Sustainable Development	'*To protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*' [Paragraph 8 of the NPPF]	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. The outline landscape design is set out within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles (document reference 7.4).
12. Achieving Well Designed and Beautiful Places	'*Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot*.' [Paragraph 137 of the NPPF]	Justification for the location of the Proposed Development, including a description of the environmental constraints considered as part of the iterative design process, is set out within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES. Early engagement with the landscape consultant working for Torridge District Council, as well as with the wider planning department at the council has been undertaken and is ongoing. Consultation undertaken to date relevant to the assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources is presented in **Table 2.6**.
14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	'*Development in a Coastal Change Management Area will be appropriate only where it is demonstrated that:* • *it will be safe over its planned lifetime and not have an unacceptable impact on coastal change;* • *the character of the coast including designations is not compromised;* • *the development provides wider sustainability benefits; and* • *the development does not hinder the creation and maintenance of a continuous signed and managed route around the coast*.' [Paragraph 178 of the NPPF]	The Landfall and section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. However, the construction effects would be temporary, with the land returned to pasture once the construction is complete. An assessment of the effects on the special qualities of the NL is in **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter. The reasons for the designation of the North Devon Coast NL would not be compromised. The South West Coast Path would not be closed or diverted during the construction work at the Landfall, unless required in the event of an emergency.
15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	'*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:* • *protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);* • *recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider*	The Converter Site is not located within a nationally or locally designated landscape. The Landfall and section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. This would cause a temporary impact, with the land being returned to pasture once the construction is complete. An assessment of the effects on the special qualities of the NL is in **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12** of this

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; and • *maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate*.' [Paragraph 180 of the NPPF]	chapter. The reasons for the designation of the North Devon Coast NL would not be compromised. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES. An Outline LEMP has been submitted (document reference 7.10), which sets out how the Proposed Development would retain, restore and enhance hedgerows and woodlands, to connect and expand existing habitats. The proposals would also provide mitigation from the impacts on landscape character, views and visual amenity. Ancient Woodland, veteran trees and their RPZ would be avoided by the direct impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the Converter Site. Further details are provided within Volume 4, Appendix 2.6 of the ES.
	'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.' [Paragraph 182 of the NPPF]	
	'*When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty [NL], permission should be refused for major development, other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest*.' [Paragraph 183 of the NPPF]	
	'*Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:[….]* • *limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation*.'	The night time effects on landscape and seascape character are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. The nighttime effects on views and visual amenity are considered in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**.

Policy	Key Provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	[Paragraph 191 of the NPPF]	

2.2.9 The draft NPPF includes similar provisions as the current designated NPPF. The draft NPPF has been reviewed and there are no material updates for landscape, seascape and visual resources.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.2.10 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2024) supports the NPPF and provides guidance across a range of topic areas.

2.2.11 The relevant sections of the PPG for landscape, seascape and visual resources include the following.

- Natural Environment – Landscape (February 2024).
- Light Pollution (November 2019).

2.2.12 Further details on the above PPG sections are included within Volume 4, Appendix 2.1: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Planning Policy Context.

Local Planning Policy

2.2.13 The onshore elements of the Proposed Development are located within the administrative area of Torridge District Council (and Devon County Council at the County level).

2.2.14 The relevant local planning policies applicable to landscape, seascape and visual resources based on the extent of the study areas for this assessment are summarised in **Table 2.4**. The policies are provided in full within Volume 4, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Visual Resources Planning Policy Context, of the ES.

Table 2.4: Summary of local planning policy relevant to this chapter

Policy	Key provisions	How and where considered in the ES
North Devon & Torridge Local Plan (2011-2031) Adopted 2018		
Section 2: Spatial Planning Vision	*'The overarching principle supporting the Local Plan in northern Devon is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It is the intention of the Councils to enable the delivery of infrastructure, jobs, accessible local services and housing for future generations while supporting the world-class environment of the Biosphere Reserve.' (paragraph 2.1)* *'Future development must be sensitive to the area's environmental assets and ensure that the local character,*	The Proposed Development lies within the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. The assessment of effects on the North Devon Biosphere Reserve is in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. An Outline LEMP has been submitted (document reference 7.10) that includes restoration, enhancement and creation of hedgerows, as well as the creation of woodlands, to enhance and link habitats. This would assist minimising adverse effects as much as possible. The Design Principles Statement

Policy	Key provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	distinctiveness and environmental quality is not eroded but where possible enhanced as a consequence of development' (paragraph 2.21)	(document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design and includes the aim to integrate the converter stations and associated buildings into the existing landscape.
ST04: Improving the quality of development	The policy requires that development will achieve high quality design, responding to the characteristics of the site, its wider connect and the surrounding area.	The Design Principles (document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design as well as the architectural objectives for the Converter Site.
ST09: Coast and estuary strategy	The policy requires the maintenance and enhancement of the landscape setting of coastal communities. Within the Coastal and Estuarine Zone, new development '*will be supported where it does not detract from the unspoilt character, appearance and tranquillity of the area…and is required because it cannot reasonably be located outside the Undeveloped Coast and estuary'* The policy requires that the '*continuity of the South West Coast Path and Tarka Trail will be protected and a network of connecting routes be improved'*	The South West Coast Path and the Tarka Trail would remain open as trenchless techniques would be used to install the Landfall and River Torridge, crossing thus avoiding both PRoWs. Key characteristics of the seascape are set out in the North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment (Land Use Consultants, 2015). The effects on these characteristics are considered in **section 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
ST14: Enhancing environmental assets	The policy requires that the *"quality of northern Devon's natural environment will be protected and enhanced by ensuring that development contributes to: (e) conserving the setting and special character and qualities of the Northern Devon Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty…"; "(f) ensuring development conserves and enhances northern Devon's local distinctiveness including its tranquillity, and the setting and special qualities of Exmoor National Park including its dark night skies; (g) protecting and enhancing local landscape and seascape character, taking into account the key characteristics, the historical dimension of the landscape and their sensitivity to change.'*	The Landfall and section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The impact of construction within the North Devon Coast NL are assessed at **section 2.10** of this chapter. It can be summarised that the effects of the construction works would be temporary. After construction the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, including land above the transition joint bays, which would be returned to farmland. The night time effects on landscape and seascape character, as well as effects on views and visual amenity, are assessed at **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. The Converter Site is approximately 6.4 km from the boundary of the North Devon Coast NL and 21.5 km from the boundary of the Exmoor National Park. Due to distance and lack of visibility, the impacts of the Converter Site do not have the potential to affect the special qualities of either nationally designated landscape or their settings and so are not assessed within this chapter. The cumulative effects of the Proposed
ST16: Delivering renewable energy	*"Renewable and low carbon energy"…"will be supported in the landscape character types where: (a) landscape sensitivity is best able to support them, assessed in accordance with the Councils' Landscape Sensitivity Assessments and by the landscape's sensitivity to accommodate the scale of development; (b) there is no significant effect on local amenities; and (c) the*	

Policy	Key provisions	How and where considered in the ES
	special qualities of nationally important landscape…designations and their settings are conserved or enhanced." The policy also notes that *"renewable and low carbon energy will be supported where it can demonstrate that the cumulative impact of operational and proposed development on the landscape character does not become a significant or defining characteristic of the wider fabric, character and quality of the landscape."*	Development are assessed at **section 2.13** of this chapter.
DM01: Amenity considerations	Policy DM01 explains that development *"will be supported where (a) it would not significantly harm the amenities of any neighbouring occupiers or uses."* The explanatory text at Local Plan paragraph 13.3 (b) is concerned with light intrusion, explaining that *"poorly designed lighting can result in the spillage of light into the countryside, impact on residential amenities and increase sky glow."* The need to minimise unnecessarily obtrusive lighting by design, is highlighted.	The nighttime effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and seascape character are assessed at **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. The nighttime effects of the Proposed Development on views and visual amenity are assessed at sections **2.10** and **2.11**. The Converter Site is located within a rural area but is not located in or near the North Devon Coast NL or Exmoor National Park or the Dark Sky Reserve. The Landfall and section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated within the North Devon Coast NL. The impact of construction within the North Devon Coast NL are assessed at section **2.10** of this chapter. It can be summarised that the effects of the construction works would be temporary. After construction the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, including land above the transition joint bays, would be returned to farmland.
DM02: Environmental protection	The prevention of light pollution is also raised in this development management policy. Point (2) (d) explains that development will be supported if it does not result in unacceptable impacts to *"light pollution (sky glow, light intrusion, and light spillage), where light overspills on to areas not intended to be lit. Areas particularly sensitive to light pollution include tranquil areas of open countryside, in particular areas of nature conservation value and Exmoor National Park's Dark Sky Reserve."*	
DM04: Design principles	This policy explains that good design should: (a) be sympathetic to setting in terms of scale, density, massing height, layout and landscape features; (b) reinforce the key characteristics and special qualities of the area in which the development is proposed; (d) contribute positively to local distinctiveness; and, (f) retain and integrate existing landscape features.	The Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design and includes the aim to integrate the converter stations and associated buildings into the existing landscape. An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10) which includes restoration, enhancement and creation of hedgerows, as well as the creation of woodlands, to enhance and connect habitats. This would help to minimise adverse effects.
DM08A: Landscape	The policy requires development to be: (1) *"of an appropriate scale, mass and*	The Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) sets out the

Policy	Key provisions	How and where considered in the ES
and seascape character	*design that recognises and respects the landscape character of both designated and undesignated landscapes and seascapes; it should avoid adverse landscape and seascape impacts and seek to enhance the landscape and seascape assets wherever possible."* The policy requires that new development in the North Devon Coast NL or Exmoor National Park should have regard to its statutory purposes, including the conservation and enhancement of landscape character and natural beauty. The policy also notes that development should not compromise the NL Management Plan. Major development within the NL will be refused, unless it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest as set out in national policy.	process of achieving good design and includes the key architectural objectives. The landscape, seascape and visual effects during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases are assessed within **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12**. This includes impacts upon the North Devon Coast NL. The Landfall and section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are situated in the North Devon Coast NL. Following construction, the land will be returned to its pre-construction condition. Though the theoretical ZTV suggests there is some visibility from the designated areas (Figure 2.5a), the Converter Site is not visible/too far from the North Devon Coast NL and Exmoor National Park to affect their settings (Figure 2.5.78 and 2.5.80). The Proposed Development would not conflict with or compromise the statutory purposes of the national landscape designations. The cumulative effects of the Proposed Development together with relevant projects are considered in **section 2.13**.
DM09: Safeguarding green infrastructure	The policy states that development involving the loss of green infrastructure will only be supported where (a) equivalent, alternative green infrastructure is provided, or (b) the existing network of green infrastructure can be retained or enhanced.	The landscape, seascape and visual effects during the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases have been assessed within **sections 2.10**, **2.11** and **2.12.** Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. An Outline LEMP has been submitted (document reference 7.10) that includes restoration, enhancement and creation of hedgerows, as well as the creation of woodlands, to enhance and link habitats. This would assist minimising adverse effects as much as possible.

2.3 Consultation and Engagement

Scoping

2.3.1 In January 2024, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate, which described the scope and methodology for the technical studies being undertaken to provide an assessment of any likely significant effects for the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. It also described those topics or sub-topics which are proposed to be scoped out of the EIA process and provided justification as to why the Proposed Development would not have the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects in these areas.

2.3.2 Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) provided a Scoping Opinion on 7 March 2024. Key issues raised during the scoping process specific to LSVIA are listed in **Table 2.5**, together with details of how these issues have been addressed within the ES.

Table 2.5: Summary of Scoping Responses

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
Planning Inspectorate	
'*The Scoping Report does not at this stage identify whether there are any ancient woodland or veteran tree habitats present in the study area that could be affected by the Proposed Development. The ES should include an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on ancient woodland and veteran trees, where significant effects are likely to occur, and explain the effort made to avoid effects on ancient woodland and veteran trees, and increased fragmentation of these habitats. Measures to fully mitigate direct and indirect effects of the Proposed Development on ancient woodland, veteran trees, or other irreplaceable habitats should be clearly described and appropriately secured*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.1.5)	The arboricultural (tree) surveys and Arboricultural Impact Assessment are set out in Volume 4, Appendix 2.6 of the ES. It identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. Tree RPZs have been mapped and the final routing of the cables would take account of the Tree Survey findings (see Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey Report and Arboricultural Impact Assessment of the ES). Where work must be undertaken within a RPZ of a tree that is to be retained, a method statement would be agreed with the relevant tree officer. Where a tree cannot be retained, replacement trees would be planted as close to the original location as possible. The Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) includes an Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (document reference 7.7, Appendix E), which would be further developed prior to construction.
'*Considering the nature of the operational development, the Inspectorate agrees that changes in character from offshore activities during operation can be scoped out. However, the Inspectorate does not consider that sufficient evidence is provided to scope this matter out from onshore activities during operation, in the absence of the ZTV and information regarding operational lighting, for example. Changes to character from onshore activities during operation, including the use of lighting, should be assessed and reported in the ES, where likely significant effects could occur.*	Only the impacts of the offshore and onshore cable corridors on landscape and seascape character during operation and maintenance have been scoped out. As detailed in **Table 2.8**, this is because the cables and associated joint bays would be buried underground and existing habitats and features would be reinstated once construction is complete, with no significant changes in visual amenity likely to persist post-construction. However, the impacts of the Converter Site on landscape and seascape character during operation and maintenance has been considered

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
With respect to decommissioning, the Scoping Report does not contain sufficient evidence to explain why likely significant effects would not occur from either offshore or onshore activities. The ES should include an assessment of this matter or evidence to confirm that likely significant effects would not arise.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.1)	within **section 2.11**. This includes the consideration of night-time lighting effects due to the operation of the converter stations. The assessment of impacts arising during the decommissioning phase is considered in **section 2.12**. The decommissioning phase is effectively the construction process in reverse for the Converter Site medium-term and temporary, albeit taking place within an established and maturing landscape. Note this is not the case with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor where the cable ducts would be left *in situ* with only the cables and link boxes being removed, with no potential for significant effects. Therefore, it is considered that the decommissioning effects would be no greater than the construction phase of the Proposed Development.
'*Potentially significant effects on publicly accessible views as a result of offshore and onshore activity (including lighting) and use of construction compounds - operation and decommissioning. The Inspectorate notes that this matter is repeated in two separate rows of Table 9.3.2, one appears to scope in construction stage effects only, the other scopes in all stages of the Proposed Development. Summary Table 12.1.3 also identifies this matter as being scoped in for all stages. For the avoidance of doubt, the Inspectorate considers that this matter should be scoped in for all stages of the Proposed Development, where likely significant effects could occur*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.2)	Details and justification for scoping out topics have been presented within **Table 2.8**. The impact of the Converter Site on landscape, seascape and visual resources during operation and maintenance has been scoped into the assessment, as it is recognised that there is potential for significant effects. However, the impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on landscape, seascape and visual resources during operation and maintenance has been scoped out. This is because the cables would be buried underground. The existing habitats and features affected by the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be reinstated following completion with no significant landscape effects likely to persist post-construction as there would be no above ground features along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during operation.
'*…The ES should include an assessment of construction phase impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources and receptors beyond 1km from the onshore HVDC cable, where likely significant effects could occur. The Applicant is encouraged to seek to agree the sensitive receptors/resources with relevant consultation bodies, such as the Local Authorities*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.2)	The LVIA study area includes a 1 km radius extending from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. It was defined based on the medium-term, temporary duration and expected scale of the construction works required for the installation of the linear underground development, also considering the underlying topography and vegetated nature of the surrounding landscape. A ZTV has not been produced for the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor construction phase, as the plant used in the construction of the Proposed Development is varied and its location changes. In addition, the ZTV is considered as not being effective for such a low-lying development by using 5 m DTM data, also it does not consider the effect of distance. Therefore, professional experience and judgement has been applied.
'*The Scoping Report states that distances greater than 10km are not anticipated to experience significant effects. A ZTV is not provided with the*	The 10 km study area for the Converter Site has been agreed with Torridge District Council.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
Scoping Report and therefore it is not clear why a 10km study area has been applied. In the absence of justification, the Inspectorate is not content to scope this matter out, an assessment of impacts on landscape and visual resources and receptors beyond 10km from the converter sites should be included in the ES, where likely significant effects could occur. The ES should include an assessment of impacts on sensitive landscape and visual resources/receptors due to the construction of the converter station and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, where likely significant effects could occur.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.4)	The extent of the study area was defined by the height of the proposed converter stations. A ZTV was generated using the heights of the converter stations (based on the table under paragraph 48 of Visual Representation of Wind Farms Version 2.2, NatureScot, 2017). As the effect of distance cannot be modelled in the ZTV, this was verified through the fieldwork. Although the converter stations might be visible beyond 10 km, there is no potential for significant landscape or visual effects to occur at this distance. The assessment of construction effects is provided in **section 2.10**, operational effects in **section 2.11**, decommissioning effects in **section 2.12** and cumulative effects in **section 2.13**. The Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development does not form part of the Proposed Development, as detailed within Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology. However, it is considered as a cumulative development in **section 2.13** of this chapter.
'***All impacts of the Offshore Cable Corridor and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on landscape, seascape and visual resources and receptors – operation.*** *The Inspectorate agrees to scope out this matter for the Offshore Cable Corridor. The Inspectorate however does not agree to scope out this matter with regards to the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during operation.* *No details are provided regarding mitigation landscape planting and how long it would take to be established. It is unclear whether there would be planting restrictions over the cable corridor during operation. The Inspectorate considers that effects from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during operation on landscape, visual resources and receptors should be assessed in the ES, where likely significant effects could occur*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.5)	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor assessment has been scoped out for operation and decommissioning, as detailed within **Table 2.8**. The HVDC Cables would be installed underground. Where existing landscape features are crossed using a trenched method, they would be reinstated once construction is complete, with no significant changes in visual amenity likely to persist post-construction. If hedgerow trees are removed and cannot be planted above the cables, they would be replaced as close as possible to the original location within the reinstated hedgerow. The replanted hedges would be laid (when mature enough) where the existing hedge has a similar management regime. Many of the field boundary crossings are Devon hedgebanks. Where these are crossed using a trenched method they would be replaced with a similarly constructed hedgebank. As this is an earth and stone structure, the replacement boundary would have an immediate presence. Although planted hedgerows would take longer to establish than the Devon hedgebanks, it is not anticipated that there will be significant effects during the operation and maintenance phase while these become established.
'*As the cumulative effects assessment has not yet been undertaken, the cable route is not finalised and the ZTV not yet been produced, the Inspectorate does not agree to scope out cumulative effects at this stage and these should be assessed in the ES*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.7)	The cumulative projects selected for consideration within this chapter are listed at Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES and are shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7. The specific projects, plans and activities scoped into the CEA, are outlined in **Table 2.20** and illustrated on Volume 4, Figure 2.7. Cumulative effects have been assessed for LSVIA in **section 2.13**.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
'*Effort should be made to agree the number and location of viewpoints with relevant consultation bodies, such as the host and neighbouring local authorities, the North Devon National Landscapes team, and other stakeholders such as the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Strategy and the Exmoor National Park Authority.* *The Inspectorate advises that the ES should include confirmation of the consultation undertaken, together with evidence of agreement about the final viewpoints selected. Where any disagreement remains, an explanation as to how the final selection was made should be provided. Viewpoint locations should be identified on a plan within the ES and viewpoints should include night-time views to identify any effects from lighting Requirements. Baseline viewpoint photography for summer and winter should be provided*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.8)	The representative viewpoints have been agreed with Torridge District Council's landscape consultant, which includes viewpoints within Torridge District and North Devon District, as well as the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and the North Devon Coast NL. Details of consultation undertaken are presented in **Table 2.6**. The Exmoor National Park lies approximately 21.5 km from the Converter Site at the closest point, which is outside the study area and is too distant for any potential significant effects to be experienced from within it. Therefore, Exmoor National Park Authority has not been consulted. Both statutory and non-statutory consultees have been consulted. Devon County Council, Torridge District Council, North Devon District Council, Natural England, North Devon Coast National Landscape and The Woodland Trust, have all been consulted, in respect of landscape and visual matters. Viewpoint locations are shown on the ZTV overlay on Volume 4, Figures 2.5a to 2.5e. The baseline panoramas from the agreed representative viewpoints for the Proposed Development are presented in Figures 2.3.1 to 2.3.47 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report. The figures are baseline summer and winter photography of all representative viewpoints listed in Table 2.17 of this chapter.
'*Part of the cable corridor route goes through the North Devon National Landscapes and the Hartland Heritage Coast. The Inspectorate considers that effects on these receptors should be included within the assessment, where likely significant effects could occur*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.9)	The effects on the North Devon Coast NL, are assessed in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. Heritage Coast is not a landscape (or a heritage) designation.
'*Section 4 of the Scoping Report makes reference to the need for landscape and ecological planting for the Converter Sites. No mitigation measures appear to be discussed for the cable corridor. The ES should explain the types of mitigation proposed to avoid/reduce adverse effects on landscape and how they would be secured. The ES should include a masterplan and visualisations/ illustrations, where possible, to demonstrate the effectiveness of landscape mitigation*.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.19.10)	Mitigation measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development are described in **section 2.8**. The Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10) to present details of the management of the proposed mitigation planting at the Converter Site and along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, including the location, species and details as well as maintenance and management of planting.
'*The Inspectorate agrees that likely significant effects arising from residues and emissions (e.g. dust, pollutants, light, noise, vibration) are to be assessed in the relevant aspect chapters of the ES and a standalone aspect chapter for residues and emissions is not required. The Applicant's attention is however directed to the Inspectorate's comments in the relevant aspect chapters above*	Light pollution/night-time effects are considered at a high level within sections and of this chapter.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
with regards to residue and emission matters, for example lighting.' (Scoping Opinion ID: 3.23.1)	
Alverdiscott and Huntshaw Parish Council	
'*The security and lighting aspects of the Alverdiscott site which are included in sections 4.6.13, 14 & 23, are felt to require further detail. The area, although not a designated Dark Sky area, does enjoy a high degree of night-time darkness at present. The council feels that both these aspects are to a greater or lesser extent connected, and therefore would enquire as to what extent the lighting would impinge upon this (we note that measures to prevent light spill would be considered), and to what extent the security fencing would be lit*.'	Light pollution/night-time effects are considered at a high level within the text of **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter.
Devon County Council	
'*It is recommended that the application assesses any impingement from light pollution, and directional lighting, on local properties and communities. It is not clear if the effects from lighting would be significant and should be scoped into the Environmental Statement, but it is likely that any significant effects could be mitigated to an acceptable level through the application process*.'	Light pollution/night-time effects are considered at a high level within the text of **sections 2.10** and of this chapter.
'*The Environmental Statement should acknowledge that the proposal will affect a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the area and should therefore subsequently provide a detailed assessment of how each PRoW is likely to be impacted and what mitigation will be put in place to ensure minimal disruption*.'	The LSVIA considers the visual effects on users of PRoW within **sections2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation of the ES considers other effects on users of PRoW.
Exmoor National Park	
'*Lighting has potential to impact on Exmoor National Park through the creation of light domes above the construction and operational sites. Lighting has been scoped into the EIA but is not specific on how this will be measured/assessed or from where… Consequently, we would request that potential effects of construction and operational lighting on the National Park is provided in the ES, given the status of the National Park as an international dark sky reserve. Locations such as the elevated ridge running along the south-west and west of the National Park and the high coast cliffs may potentially be affected*.'	Light pollution/night-time effects are considered at a high level within the text of **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. The Exmoor National Park lies approximately 21.5 km from the Converter Site at the closest point. During construction, core working hours would be restricted to Monday to Friday 07:00-19:00 and Saturday 07:00-13:00. However, there would be some continuous working hours (i.e. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) works) requiring night time working. These night time works would be short-term and temporary. The Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) includes details regarding construction lighting measures. Construction site lighting would only operate when required and would be designed, positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination of adjacent properties, sensitive ecological receptors and users of public footpaths. Where necessary, light shield guards would be used to prevent light spill.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
	Operational lighting at the Converter Site would be designed in accordance with the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4), as well as the latest guidance and legislation. The operational lighting would be designed to avoid illumination of areas beyond the operational site. This would include directional lighting to minimise overspill into the surrounding landscape.
Forestry Commission	
'*A reference to Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees would be needed, as this will require significantly more surveying capacity and as referenced below to appropriately assess Root Protection Areas*.'	The tree survey for the Proposed Development area is presented at Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment, of the ES. It identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. Overall, the Arboricultural Impact Assessment indicates that there would be minimal impact on trees.
'*There are key opportunities in the Eastern areas of the site maps, South of Gammaton Moor for Woodland expansion. This could extend from the screening required around the substation site and enhance the scale and connectivity of the relatively fragmented woodland habitats situated in that area. This could be key as it would be enhancing areas of Grade 4 agricultural land bringing significant biodiversity improvements*.'	The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) includes the Illustrative Landscape and Ecological Strategy Plan, which details the woodland that would link various small copses/woodlands in the area, to increase connectivity, and expand woodland cover in the area. Further details are provided within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation, of the ES.
'*We note that in this application, there is potential impacts on the northern limits of the Pixey Copse. This site is a recognised and mapped Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). As stated previously with the several references to how essential ancient woodland is as an 'irreplaceable habitat'*. *With section 9.2.15 within the scoping report referring to impacts to woodland, the project should look to avoid the ancient woodland situated at Pixey Copse, Pillmouth Wood, and Thorne Wood/Bidd Copse, considering more significantly the irreplaceable ecology represented in the site rather than just GHG*.'	The tree survey for the Proposed Development area is presented at Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment, of the ES. It identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. Overall, the Arboricultural Impact Assessment indicates that there would be minimal impact on trees. As detailed within Volume 1, Appendix 3.1: Commitments Register, where possible, protected and unprotected areas of woodland, mature and protected trees (i.e. veteran trees), as well as other ecologically sensitive habitats have and would be avoided.
'*As stated, HDD or similar trenchless methods should be used to mitigate significant impacts and disturbance to the ground flora and fauna. When using this method, we would hope a Root Protection Area (RPA) would be appropriately calculated and executed to ensure minimal impact on the woodland. The Ancient Tree Forum, Woodland Trust and other literature suggests ancient woodlands and veteran trees need the have larger RPA's.* *The consensus suggest it should be whichever is greater of:* *• an area with a radius which is 15 times the diameter of the tree, with no cap* *• 5m beyond the crown.*	The tree survey for the Proposed Development area is presented at Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment, of the ES. Furthermore, the Outline On-CEMP includes an Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (document reference 7.7, Appendix E) that would be developed further prior to construction. This outlines the relevant measures to be implemented to ensure the protection of trees during construction.

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
This is informed and underpinned from the guidance from the Forestry Commission and Natural England…'	
'*Monitoring would be essential in all aspects of the project and a commitment to continued monitoring to ensure woodland establishment, with appropriate restocking regimes each year. Establishing Woodland Management Plans for any woodland creation would be expected*.'	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10), which provides detail on the monitoring and maintenance during planting establishment.
Natural England	
'*Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character, priority habitats and species or protected species. Local environmental data should be obtained from the appropriate local bodies. This may include the local environmental records centre, the local wildlife trust, local geo-conservation group or other recording society*.'	Noted - local (county and district level) landscape studies have been used to develop the landscape, seascape and visual baseline presented in **section 2.7**.
'*The ES should assess the impacts of the proposal on the ancient woodland and any ancient and veteran trees, and the scope to avoid and mitigate for adverse impacts. It should also consider opportunities for enhancement*.'	The tree survey is presented at Volume 4, Appendix 2.6: Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment, of the ES. No ancient woodland is affected by the Proposed Development. Volume 2, Appendix 2.6 identifies that no Veteran Trees or trees within Ancient Woodland are proposed for removal. The landscape mitigation, shown on the Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Plan in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) includes woodland that would link the various small copses/woodlands in the area, to increase connectivity and expand woodland cover.
'*The proposal is within or may impact on a nationally designated landscape, namely North Devon Coast National Landscape (defined in legislation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The development site is also within or may impact on the Hartland Heritage Coast*.'	The chapter considers both direct and indirect effects on the North Devon Coast NL, its special qualities and the purposes of its designation, in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**.
'The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Assessment in 2013. LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing, and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character.'	The assessment of landscape, seascape and visual resources has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES in addition to the guidance set out in **paragraph 2.6.1**. The methodology used for the assessment, including the significance criteria used is provided in **section 2.6**. A detailed explanation of the assessment methodology in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2013) is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.
'A landscape and visual impact assessment should also be carried out for the proposed development and surrounding area. Natural England recommends use of the methodology set out in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013 ((3rd edition) produced by the	

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Management.'	
'*For National Parks and AONBs, we advise that the assessment also includes effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area. These identify the particular landscape and related characteristics which underpin the natural beauty of the area and its designation status*.'	This chapter considers both direct and indirect effects on the North Devon Coast NL, its special qualities and the purposes of its designation in **sections 2.10** and **2.11**.
'*The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage*.'	This chapter includes an assessment of cumulative effects (see **section 2.13**).
'To ensure high quality development that responds to and enhances local landscape character and distinctiveness, the siting and design of the proposed development should reflect local characteristics and, wherever possible, use local materials. Account should be taken of local design policies, design codes and guides as well as guidance in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code.'	Landscape mitigation is described in **section 2.8** of this chapter and shown on the Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan, which is included within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10). The landscape mitigation responds to local landscape character area management guidelines where possible.
'The ES should set out the measures to be taken to ensure the development will deliver high standards of design and green infrastructure. It should also set out detail of layout alternatives, where appropriate, with a justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.'	
'The ES should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, public rights of way and, where appropriate, the England Coast Path and coastal access routes and coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, in line with NPPF paragraph 104 and there will be reference in the relevant National Policy Statement. It should assess the scope to mitigate for any adverse impacts. Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs) can be used to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.'	The impacts on the views of people using PRoW, Access Land, etc. are considered in **sections 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter. Other impacts of the Proposed Development on the PRoW network are covered in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation and Volume 4, Chapter 4: Human Health of the ES.
'The proposal is adjacent to the South West Coast Path National Trail and the Tarka Trail. We therefore also advise you to seek the advice of the National Trail Officer and/or the Coast Path Officer for Northern Devon to ensure adequate mitigation is secured to avoid adverse effects on the Trail. Their knowledge of the location and wider landscape setting of the development should help to confirm whether it would impact significantly on the trail. The National Trails website provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officers.'	

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
'Measures to help people to better access the countryside for quiet enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature should be considered. Such measures could include reinstating existing footpaths or the creation of new footpaths, cycleways, and bridleways. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure, including the role that natural links have in connecting habitats and providing potential pathways for movements of species.'	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. The outline landscape design is set out within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles (document reference 7.4). The landscape mitigation responds to local management guidelines, where possible.
'Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.'	
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc.	
'If a landscaping scheme is proposed as part of the proposal, we request that only slow and low growing species of trees and shrubs are planted beneath and adjacent to the existing overhead line to reduce the risk of growth to a height which compromises statutory safety clearances.'	No tree planting is proposed beneath overhead lines.
North Devon Council	
Although the development falls to be considered by Torridge District Council, given the scoping zone is in close proximity to the North Devon District Council (NDDC) border, there is moderate probability that the substation building may be viewed within NDDC district, with subsequent landscape impact, and effect on any public receptors within the zone or beyond, as identified below.	The LSVIA study area includes North Devon and direct and indirect effects on landscape and visual resources in both Torridge and North Devon Districts are assessed within this chapter at **sections 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**.
'*There is moderate to high potential for cumulative impacts with other renewable projects in NDDC, which must be either discounted or taken into account in the determination. It is necessary to examine the transboundary and cumulative effects of the substation when/if seen within the NDDC area and cumulating with any existing or approved renewable projects within the NDDC area (as well as those in TDC).*'	The cumulative assessment at **section 2.13** of this chapter includes all relevant projects within the LSVIA study area. A long list of projects is provided in Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.
'*The site is elevated within the local landscape and is therefore subject to long-distance views. In addition, there could be moderate to high cumulative impacts due to the proposals relationship with other consented and implemented renewable projects in TDC. Furthermore, the consultation response by North Devon Council (NDC) is noted which argues for greater consideration of longer distance landscape impacts (i.e. from areas within NDC parishes). In this regard, it is suggested that the suggested 10km ZTV / study area may not be extensive enough to take into consideration the sensitive landscape receptors identified by NDC given some of these sit just outside of the ZTV.*'	The assessment considers direct and indirect effects on landscape and visual receptors within the 10 km LSVIA study area. Having visited long distance receptors, e.g. Codden Hill and those north of the Taw estuary (outside the 10 km LSVIA study area), it is judged that there is no potential for significant effects beyond 10 km.

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

2.3.3 The preliminary findings of the EIA process were published in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) on 16 May 2024. The PEIR was prepared to provide the basis for statutory public consultation under the Planning Act 2008. This included consultation with statutory bodies under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.

2.3.4 A summary of the key items raised specific to landscape, seascape and visual resources is presented in **Table 2.6,** together with how these issues have been considered in the production of this ES chapter.

Further Engagement

2.3.5 Throughout the EIA process, consultation and engagement (in addition to scoping and section 42 consultation) with interested parties specific to LSVIA has been undertaken.

2.3.6 A summary of the key items raised specific to landscape, seascape and visual resources is presented in **Table 2.6,** together with how these issues have been considered in the production of this ES chapter.

Table 2.6: Summary of consultation relevant to this chapter

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
October 2022	Telephone call and emails between Torridge District Council's and applicant's landscape consultants to agree candidate representative viewpoints using the ZTV of the Converter Site.	Torridge District Council's landscape consultant stated that the candidate viewpoints appeared to be fairly representative of the range of areas from where the buildings may be visible. Two additional viewpoints were suggested (from the B3232 south of Alverdiscott and the A388 between Monkleigh and Landcross). It was also advised that there was a cluster of plant and infrastructure centred on the Alverdiscott Substation, in various stages of development and that these should be included in the cumulative effects section of the assessment.	Photography from the suggested additional representative viewpoints was taken, these are presented as Viewpoint 30 Figure 2.3.30 and Viewpoint 41, Figure 2.3.41 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The CEA (see **section 2.13**) includes those relevant existing and proposed projects in the vicinity of the Converter Site, that are in the public domain, in line with Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Planning Inspectorate, 2024).
10 to 14 February 2023	Emails between Torridge District Council's planning officer and landscape consultant and applicant's landscape consultant, to agree/change candidate representative viewpoints, due to change of location for the Converter Site.	Torridge District Council's landscape consultant provided advice on viewpoints. In much of rural Devon quiet local lanes are used as part of the footpath network, so that people often stop and take panoramic viewpoints from gateways to fields. Thus, views towards the Converter Site, from roads, should be taken from gateways. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant advised that the viewpoints are representative of the areas selected. Exact locations to be decided on site, to ensure best visibility. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant marked up the revised ZTV (for the Converter Site at the new location) and suggested four additional viewpoints: • Codden Hill (popular destination) • Rickard's Down (within North Devon Coast NL) • Lovatt Green (gateways with long views south) • Road at Huntshaw Woods (potential visibility from lane)	The photographs from the additional viewpoints have been taken and the locations added to Volume 4, Figures 2.5a to 2.5e. The baseline panoramas are Figures 2.3.1 to 2.3.40 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The baseline panoramas have been used to inform this ES chapter, with the baseline presented in **section 2.7**.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
28 February 2023	Meeting at Torridge District Council offices, Bideford – Torridge District Council planning team, the Applicant and planning consultant.	**Converter Site feedback:** • There were concerns over elevation of site and long views. Could tree planting be expedited in the landscape proposals? • The potential of light pollution was raised. • There was concern over the shaping of bunds and the converter design. It was advised that they need to be softened to fit into landscape. • Have to demonstrate that new site creates less visual harm to the landscape than the original site. **Photomontages of the Converter Site:** • Torridge District Council wanted to discuss/agree baseline landscape character. • Photomontages would be key, as landscape and visual impact is the biggest consideration at this site. However, the significant benefits could outweigh the harm. **Alternative cable routes around Abbotsham:** • Concern over impact of Landfall structures on the North Devon Coast NL. • Requested photographs of haul routes. • Concern over loss of hedgerows and woodland and when hedgerows would be replanted. • TDC interested in what the reinstatement/remediation would look like. • Explained that it would take two years, but would be in sections. TDC interested in what reinstatement/remediation would look like. **National Landscape:** • Torridge District Council's landscape consultant confirmed that he'd already agreed viewpoints with the Applicant's landscape consultant	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES, details the process of site selection. The relevant, published landscape character assessments have been used in the assessment, these are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The assessment of the impacts on the various landscape and seascape character areas is in **sections 2.10 and 2.11** of this chapter. The assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are in **sections 2.10** and **2.11** of this chapter. Nighttime effects on landscape character are assessed at **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. Nighttime effects on views and visual amenity are assessed at **sections 2.10** and **2.11**. The Applicant is working with architects to achieve a high-quality design of the Converter Site. However, the design of these is largely influenced by their functionality. The impact of the Landfall during construction would be temporary. Following construction, there would be no above ground features and the land would be re-instated to the original condition. Therefore, there would not be any likely effects during the operation and maintenance at the Landfall.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
28 February 2023	Email from Torridge District Council landscape consultant reporting on a meeting with other Xlinks project team members, to applicant's landscape consultant.	Follow-up request, from meeting of the 28 February 2023 (above) to consider the following within the LSVIA: • Landscape character baseline studies, ensure the following are included: – Devon LCA (Devon Character Areas) – Torridge and North Devon Landscape Character Assessment (Landscape Character Types) – North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment – North Devon Coast AONB [now NL] Management Plan (special qualities) • Visualisations: – Two received so far, appear to be to Landscape Institute *Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual representation of Development Proposals*, 'Type 4' standard, which is what they would expect – Visualisations to include Year 1 and Year 15 – Requested A3 versions for site work. The email notes that the Torridge and North Devon LCA is being reviewed/revised, but that a consultation draft is not available as yet.	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. This includes the replanting of hedgerows across the route and landscape planting at the Converter Site. Further details on the landscape planting proposals are included within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).
27 March 2023	Landscape Note 1: Review of visualisations from TDC's landscape consultant	**Key points regarding visual effects:** • Confirmed representative viewpoints had been selected, but requested four others. • Visualisations were not fully rendered and no allowance made for mitigation plant growth. • Highlighted that the Converter Site is set on a high spots and requires effective mitigation to reduce visual impacts. • Extent of site and scale of the structures is out of context with the local landscape.	The natural slope of the land would be used to ameliorate visual effects by using cut and fill to dig the proposed buildings into the hillside, reducing impacts from the north and west. Carefully designed earth-modelling would be used to build up land to screen views from these directions, as well as used in creating softened forms to the bunding to the south and east of the Converter Site. Discussions are ongoing as the exact locations of the Converter Site within the parameters

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		• Development appears on the skyline or approaching the skyline in some views. Increased bunds and planting could help to reduce skyline influence. However, judgement is needed as to how high the mounding could go before it becomes an obtrusive landscape element itself. **Key points regarding landscape effects:** Notes the landscape strategies for the LCA include the protection of open skylines and protect/enhance rural character. The nature, scale and extent of the Proposed Development are likely to lead to large-scale change on-site and could impact on the special qualities of the surrounding landscape. Effects would be most noticeable to the east and south, diminishing with distance from the site. Effects on the NL and Coast and Estuary Zone are mitigated by siting on the southeast facing slopes and by the mounding proposed to the north and west. The note also includes details of the factors likely to contribute to a greater scale of effects, including the scale of buildings, siting of buildings on high ground leading to more prominent views, the design of the bunds, and a lack of mitigation measures to reduce landscape effects. It is hoped that further design development can address these issues, resulting in lesser adverse landscape and visual effects.	shown in the visualisations in Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES. The landscape proposals have included planting on and/or around the earth-modelling, which would assist in softening and integrating the newly created landform. The potential for significant landscape impacts from the Converter Site are recognised. While the management strategies for the LCA and LCT cannot be applied to the area of the built development itself, due to the nature and functionality of the infrastructure, the need to integrate the buildings into the landscape, as far as it possible is recognised. The management strategies can be applied to the land surrounding the buildings and to areas outside the location of the Converter Site. A mitigation strategy within the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) has been submitted as part of the DCO application. It includes enhancement of hedgerows and woodlands, as well as restoration/creation of hedgerows and woodlands, which link existing landscape elements.
29 March 2023	Meeting with Torridge District Council, Bideford: Torridge District Council planning officers and landscape consultant, Applicant's project team and Applicant's planning consultant.	Torridge District Council's planning officers raised the concern that the Converter Site might not be as good as the original site (e.g. due to buildings being located on a ridgeline/hill). Further issues were raised including the following:	Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and Alternatives of the ES, details the process of site selection. The Applicant has taken a parameter lead approach showing an indicative siting and design of the Proposed Development, including the Converter Site. However, the DCO application

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
	Applicant's landscape consultant joined by Teams link.	• TDC's landscape consultant expressed interest in creating a "focal point" to the north of the site. • Planting required to break up the profile and corners of buildings. • Need to try prevent the buildings breaking the skyline. • Noted that the solar farm development was lower and of lesser impact than the Converter Site. • Torridge District Council would like an LSVIA comparison for the two sites	includes a series of outline management plans and Requirements within the draft DCO, where the Applicant would need to consult with and require approval from the Local Authority for the detailed landscape scheme post-consent. Cut and fill techniques remain a key approach at the Converter Site. Further details on the cut and fill earthworks are provided within Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the ES. An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10). It includes enhancement of hedgerows and woodlands, as well as restoration/creation of hedgerows and woodlands, which link existing landscape elements.
15 May 2023	Site visit to the location of the Converter Site, with Torridge District Council's landscape consultant.	Access to the Converter Site had not been granted at this stage, so the visit was to the land surrounding the site and views towards site. This allowed the character of the Converter Site to be assessed. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant suggested views from local roads should be explored.	Views from local roads were taken on the 16 May 2023 and are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report, Figures 2.3.49 to 2.3.54 of the ES. The viewpoint location plan is Figure 2.3.55 of the same appendix
16 May 2023	Meeting at Torridge District Council's offices in Bideford, meeting of Xlinks team, including RPS consultants, with planning officers and Torridge District Council's landscape consultant.	• Torridge District Council requested that the ES includes an explanation of why previous site was rejected by applicant's team. • It was also highlighted that a strategic landscape-scale landscape plan would be required at the Converter Site. It should include strategic planting, including woodland blocks linking to existing woodland, with advance planting where possible. It	ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Need and alternatives, details the process of site selection including the siting of the converter stations. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		should also provide visual screening and to filter views of the site. • It was also noted that the plan should be developed in co-ordination with the ecology team to incorporate biodiversity planting. • Torridge District Council is expecting to see adverse impacts, however, would like to see how the mitigation would be manage impacts.	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10). It includes enhancement of hedgerows and woodlands, as well as restoration/creation of hedgerows and woodlands, which link to existing landscape elements.
24 and 26 May 2023	Emails between Torridge District Council's landscape consultant and the applicant's landscape consultant.	Sending the stitched panoramic photography (character, local roads study and additional representative viewpoint photographs) undertaken on the 15 and 16 May2023 to Torridge District Council's landscape consultant.	The character photography is included within Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report, of the ES. The additional representative viewpoint photography and the views from local roads are included within Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*LURA 2023: Natural England advises that the application will need to provide due consideration of Section 245 (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. We would therefore also advise consulting with the National Landscape Partnership regarding viewpoints, visualisations and potential impacts*.'	The Applicant is cognizant of the requirements in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023, including Section 245: Protected Landscapes and has had regard to the provisions therein. The Applicant has prepared an Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan for the Converter Site, which is provided in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10). The Outline LEMP provides details of how the land and hedgerows would be replanted/reinstated following construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. These measures would help conserve the natural beauty of the North Devon Coast NL. The representative viewpoints for the Converter Site have been agreed with Torridge District Council and have included suggestions made by

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
			North Devon District Council. The viewpoints are presented on Volume 4, Figure 2.5a to 2.5e.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*Natural England welcomes the commitment to undergrounding the cables to avoid permanent impacts on the North Devon National Landscape (NL). The LSVIA relies on a number of such embedded mitigation measures to support the conclusion that there will not be a significant effect on the special qualities and setting. However, Natural England's view is that impacts on the NL at the landfall site and cable route are under assessed because of their temporary nature. Construction and full reinstatement of landscape features is likely to take longer than 5 years which would be considered medium term.* *Section 245 places a duty on relevant authorities in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, the Broads or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England, to seek to further the statutory purposes of the area. This duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area, but impacting on its natural beauty*.'	The construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would take up to 36 months. The installation of the Landfall would be 18 months initially, followed by a gap before a final 6 months of work. The Landfall compound would have a duration of 36 months. However, it is likely that construction activities would be undertaken in short-term stages along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor rather than continuously over the 36 months. Further details on the construction programme is provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description. The impact of the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on landscape, seascape and visual resources during construction are provided in section **2.11.** Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. This includes the reinstatement of hedgerows / hedgebanks and reseeding of pasture once construction is complete along a section of the corridor. Therefore, existing habitats and features affected by the construction of the onshore export cable corridor would be reinstated following completion with no significant landscape effects likely to persist post-construction. Impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on landscape character and visual resources have been scoped, as detailed in **Table 2.8**.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*The scoping out of the onshore cable route during operation is not clear, clarity is required over what is included in the construction phase and operational phase. After physical construction of the cable route, there will be a time lag during which reconstruction and reinstatement of the cable corridor is undertaken. Is it considered that this phase falls within the construction or the operational phase? Even after reinstatement measures have taken place, there will be a time period where impacts will still be apparent until reinstatement measures settle into the landscape/mature. Does this aspect not fall into the operational phase? This aspect is mentioned in the PEIR, Volume 4 Chapter 2 LSVIA as follows:*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		Potentially significant effects will occur during both the construction and operation and maintenance phases of the Converter Site, Onshore HVAC Cable Corridor and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development. Initial impacts at the of these developments in the first year of operation will reduce as the proposed planting becomes established (our emphasis).'	The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) includes reference to advanced planting to allow for the growth of vegetation prior to the end of the construction period. The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) (GLVIA3) requires that only likely significant effects be assessed in an LVIA (paragraph 1.17). This proportionate approach is reiterated in Landscape Institute Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01 (Landscape Institute, August 2024) section 1(5).
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*8.2.10 of the NTS suggests an adverse effect on the characteristic landscapes, tranquillity and dark night skies of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve during construction and operation of the Proposed Development. We advise that this also applies to the North Devon NL, particularly for the special qualities of tranquillity, dark skies and panoramic views, wild coast scenery*.'	The night-time effects on the North Devon Coast NL and its special qualities are assessed in **sections 2.10 and 2.11** of this chapter.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	*'The sensitivity of the people using the local PRoW network and Access Land for informal recreation is high because appreciation of the surrounding environment is a primary concern. However, those users of the South West Coast Path National Trail, as it crosses the North Devon Coast NL, are considered to have a very high sensitivity to change. This reinforces the likely impact on the NL.'*	This ES chapter has assessed people using the PRoW network as having a high sensitivity and those people using the South West Coast Path as having a very high sensitivity.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	*'2.8.11 identifies the sensitivity of the NL special qualities as high, but the magnitude of impact as negligible. Natural England questions this assessment. The reliance on temporary impacts and geographical extent serves to underplay the significance. Short term impacts are classified as 0-5 years, but the landfall works will occur between 2026 and 2031 albeit in 2 phases over 6 years*	This ES chapter has corrected the construction period to be medium-term and temporary. The assessment of the effects of the proposed development, including night-time effects, on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are at **sections 2.10 and 2.11** of this chapter.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		which would be medium term (Volume 4 appendix 2.4 section 1.7.22) *a. Natural England's view is that the onshore cable route is likely therefore to cause medium term, temporary harm to the special qualities during the construction phase of the proposed development. Any harm to the natural beauty harms the purpose of the designation, and this cannot be reduced by claiming that the effect is limited in any way. Any assessment should determine impact on the special qualities and reason for designation of the landscape.* *b. The tranquillity of the NL can be experienced in motion, in the same way as views and the diversity of the landscape. The sound of construction in the tranquil landscape will reach further than the visible activity which may be screened from view and movement of construction vehicles and the sound they make will also have a significant effect on this special quality.* *c. The PEIR indicates that HDD works may require operations 24/7 and are therefore likely to require lighting at night (2.8.106 appendix 2.4) which again have implications for the special qualities of the NL.'*	However, Natural England is correct that trenchless techniques, such as HDD would require 24-hour operations. These operations would be undertaken in accordance with the On-CEMP, to be developed in line with the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7). The Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) includes details regarding construction lighting measures. Construction site lighting would only operate when required and would be designed, positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination of adjacent properties, sensitive ecological receptors and users of public footpaths. Where necessary, light shield guards would be used to prevent light spill.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	*'1.12.20 states that fully rendered photomontages will be produced for the ES, from the agreed viewpoints using AutoCAD and Sketchup software, to provide an illustrative image of the appearance of the proposed converter stations and associated buildings and infrastructure. Regarding the daytime photomontages, modelled representations are combined with the baseline view photographs to create a photorealistic rendered photomontage image of the Proposed Development. This is welcome.'*	As the planning application has changed from a Town and Country Planning Application to a DCO application, the visualisations have changed from fully rendered images of the converter stations to 'translucent boxes', which represent the Maximum Design Scenario parameters. The converter stations would be located within these translucent boxes, but not built out to all the edges of the box. The visualisations are presented within Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	*'There may be more opportunities along the cable route for landscape and ecological enhancements to reinforce landscape character and the NL special qualities.'*	The Applicant notes Natural England's comments and will work with it/ the North Devon Coast NL Partnership to understand the potential for mitigation enhancements. An Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) has been submitted with the DCO application. The finalisation of the LEMP would be a Requirement of the DCO. The detailed planting plans would also be a Requirement of the DCO. Both the LEMP and the landscape proposals would be finalised and agreed with Torridge District Council. A Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) has been provided as part of the application, which sets out the process for good design and includes the architectural objectives for the Converter Site. The Applicant is confident that the mitigation proposed is technically feasible and that although trees cannot be planted directly over the HVDC cable route, if any are removed they would be replanted as close to their original position as possible. The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has been routed to avoid areas of woodland, including Ancient Woodland and veteran trees. Where it has not been possible to go round these sensitive receptors a trenchless method has been proposed, thus avoiding the removal of any vegetation. For the effects on ecological receptors, see Volume 2, Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES. None of the effects of the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be long-
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*We recommend that opportunities are taken to work closely with the North Devon NL Partnership to further reduce landscape and visual impacts where possible.* *c) Mitigation: Much of any proposed additional mitigation, other than HDD, seems to be deferred to the proposed outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). However, it is unclear at what stage the LEMP and the design code will be produced. This will be needed at an early stage so that Natural England and the National Landscape Partnership can assess the suitability of the proposals. Therefore, we advise that an Outline LEMP is included with the application.* *Should there not be the technical feasibility to undertake mitigation that has been proposed at a high level at this stage, then assessment of significance of impacts may need to be revisited. Additionally, this could impact on the detail within the future DCO application. Without seeing further detail and feasibility of mitigation proposals, in particular for the pipeline construction and remediation, the scale and magnitude of impacts cannot be determined. Issues such as loss of hedgerows with reinstatement and any tree planting must be considered within the feasibility of reinstating these features, for example, tree planting cannot take place in the same location as the pipeline. This may lead to a long term and potentially irreversible impact on the special qualities of the North Devon NL. Time for reinstatement including the growth rate of reinstatement vegetation needs to be added to the timescale for the temporary nature and reversibility of the impacts. Factors impacting on the reinstatement/restoration timescale could well move into a*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		more "long term" timescale which will impact the conclusions of the LSVIA in terms of significance. *HDD or similar should be used to avoid impacts where hedgerows or other valuable ecological receptors are crossed to avoid severance across the landscape for the period of time that it would take for the habitat to be restored. This also fits with the avoid, mitigate, compensate hierarchy.'*	term. The assessment of effects of the Proposed Development at **sections 2.10 and 2.11** does not need revisiting.
July 2024	Natural England, Section 42 Response	'*Natural England acknowledges that if the cables are laid under the path using HDD techniques there would be no requirement to close the Trails. However, we would recommend you seek the advice of the National Trail Officer and/or the Coast Path Officer for North Devon. Their knowledge of the location and wider landscape setting of the development will help to identify appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts. The National Trails website provides information including contact details for the National Trail Officers. Please see previous comments in relation to HDD feasibility*.'	The use of the South West Coast Path and other public rights of way during the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor is considered in Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation of the ES. Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation details the consultation undertaken to date, which includes discussions with the PRoW Officers regarding the management of PRoW and the development of an Outline PRoW Management Plan (document reference 7.11).
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	'*The current consultation has limited details in respect of the design and scale of the convertor stations. The Council is keen to have sight of visual material as soon as it is available and for this to be discussed in future pre-application meetings.* *The site is prominent and whilst it is proposed to sink the building down into the land and provide extensive landscaping, it is important that the scheme is mitigated as far as possible to reduce any impact on the character of the surrounding landscape. The Council's response to the PEIR sets out detailed comments on landscape and visual impact matters which can be discussed in future pre-application meetings*.'	As part of the ongoing consultation, the Applicant has shared and discussed the viewpoint locations (Volume 4, Figure 2.5a to 2.5e)**,** visualisations (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5 of the ES) and the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10), including the illustrative landscape management plan. Feedback has been used to update and improve these documents and plans. The Applicant thanks Torridge District Council for its constructive and helpful comments, which it has incorporated into the landscape proposals. The Applicant notes that this is an ongoing process and looks forward to developing the mitigation proposals should the DCO be made.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	'*8.8.24 The Council is concerned that the conclusion reached on the impact on the Coastal Areas may not take into account the potential for nuisance caused by the noise of construction. The area of coast within which the cable landfall lies is designated as Undeveloped Coast within the adopted development plan (North Devon and Torridge Local Plan 2011-2031), recognising its unspoilt nature. The area tends to be tranquil, so any nearby construction activity has the potential to have an adverse impact on recreational* *users of the coast by virtue of both noise and visual disruption of the unspoilt landscape. This does not currently appear to be a consideration in the assessment but should however be acknowledged and appraised when determining the magnitude of impact.'*	The effects of construction noise on receptors within coastal areas is considered in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Noise and Vibration, of the ES. The impact of the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on the views and visual amenity of people within coastal areas and in other locations along the route are considered at **sections 2.10 and 2.11** of this chapter, under different receptor groups and people at different representative viewpoints. Users of the public rights of way network are considered to have a high sensitivity to the Proposed Development and people using the South West Coast Path National Trail are considered to have a very high sensitivity. The assessment of effects in **sections 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12** has been undertaken on this basis. The magnitude of impacts during the construction phase has been revisited since the PEIR, taking into account the change from short-term to medium-term for the duration of the construction works, amongst other factors. The assessment of the effects during the operation and maintenance phase has also been revisited since the PEIR, as details of the Proposed Development have been clarified. The impacts of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on dynamic receptors and recreational users of Public Rights of Way have been addressed in **section 2.10** of this chapter. The inter-related effects experienced by resources and receptors are considered in
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'8.8.25 As per the comments on Coastal Areas above, the conclusions reached on the potential impact to the Coastal Path and Tarka Trail section of [National Cycle Route] NCR 27 appears to have focused on the notion that there will be no physical impairment to the routes. Whilst this is accepted, it does not however appear to take account of the potential scope for the construction works to have an adverse impact on the experience of the user and the scope for the local environs to be adversely affected by construction activity, due to both noise and visual impact on what is in places an unspoilt and tranquil setting.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	'*8.8.25 / 8.8.26 – this does not take into account any visual blighting or noise disruption that could reasonably impact on the enjoyment of the environs for the users of the routes. Looking simply at the physical disruption to the routes is too simplistic and does not fully appraise the potential impacts. This is of particular concern for the SWCP and other areas that fall within the National Landscape (AONB) and the Undeveloped Coast,*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		recognising that these areas are known for their tranquillity and unspoilt nature. The users of these routes are therefore have the scope to be particularly sensitive receptors to any disruption caused by the works.'	Volume 4, Chapter 5: Inter-related effects of the ES. The impacts of the operational phase of the Proposed Development on dynamic receptors and recreational users of Public Rights of Way have been addressed in **section 2.11** of this chapter. The assessment of the landscape and visual effects for the operational phase of the Proposed Development have been addressed in **section 2.11** of this chapter. Following comments from the PIER, the Applicant has made additional clarifications with respect to the landscape and visual significance in each case of the assessment section of this chapter in **sections 2.10 and 2.11**.
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'8.8.29 – would question the conclusion of low magnitude. Does this not have the potential to have a more disruptive effect, given the nature of the recreational activity – fishing which is renowned for its associated tranquillity? Would question whether this could have a more fundamental impact on the likely usage of the lakes for this activity over the duration of the works, with an associated impact on the host business/ club. It is however recognised that given the fact that activity associated to cable laying is likely to be transient and short-lived.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'8.8.32 – the assessment would appear to be too narrow in its scope. This would appear to overlook the potential disruption to users (receptors) from any nearby construction activity – impacting on the enjoyment of the environs and recognising the often tranquil nature of these routes, particularly in the Undeveloped Coast and National Landscape (AONB).'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Very little detail on the specifics of the proposals has been made available as part of the PEIR and assumptions have been made as a result on factors such as visibility, effect of mitigation and effects on landscape elements. Assessments should therefore be treated with some caution and their "preliminary" nature is stressed. The assumptions made by the assessors are based on a "maximum Design Scenario", which allows for 2 convertor buildings at 26m height, 373,000sqm total footprint and a 2.8ha substation. Significant adverse landscape / visual effects are predicted for the landfall, cable route and converter station elements of the scheme during the construction phase of the project. Adverse landscape and visual effects are predicted for the operational phase of*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		the development, but the PEIR does not predict any of these to be significant. Our view is that development of site layout, a mitigation strategy and building design is necessary in order to test this assertion.'	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'SLVIA Methodology Assessments of seascape, landscape and visual effect are made by combining judgements on the value, condition and susceptibility of a receptor to change (Sensitivity) with judgements on the scale of change, its geographical extent and its duration/reversibility (magnitude of change). Volume 4 Appendix 2.4 of the PEIR sets out the methodology used in making these judgements and how they are combined to determine whether the effect of development will be significant or not.'*	The Applicant notes Torridge District Council's comments on the methodology and has provided more information on this matter in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'We have identified a number of minor areas where clarification would be helpful in understanding how the methodology has been used in the assessment of effects. These cover the areas of the weighting given to judgements of duration and geographical extent of effects, how landscape value is assessed outside the National Landscape and the threshold for an effect to be considered significant.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Baseline Studies Appendices 2.2 and 2.3 of Volume 4 detail the landscape and visual baseline conditions. The landscape / seascape baseline report takes account of the relevant national, countywide and local character assessments and the relevant national and local guidance. There are a small number of very minor clarifications required, but on the whole the baseline studies are comprehensive. The Visual baseline study and representative viewpoints were agreed as part of the previous PPA and have been carried through into the current PEIR. We believe that all visual receptors and viewpoint situations have been addressed.'*	The Applicant notes Torridge District Council's comments on the landscape and visual baseline appendices, which are noted below: • Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report; and • Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report. The viewpoints are presented on Volume 4, Figure 2.5a to 2.5e of the ES.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'A broadly representative range of viewpoints have been selected within this area and additional viewpoints suggested at the previous PPA stage have been included. These include: Codden Hill – The only identified OS Viewpoint in the study area with potential visibility of the proposals. It is a popular destination locally. Rickards Down – There are long views inland from field entrances at and near the crossroads. Rickards Down is representative of potential views from within the Northern Devon National Landscape. Area around Lovacott Green – To fill a gap in viewpoint coverage from lanes and paths in this area.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Very little detail on the specifics of the proposals has been made available as part of the PEIR and assumptions have been made as a result on factors such as visibility, effect of mitigation and effects on landscape elements. Assessments should therefore be treated with some caution and their "preliminary" nature is stressed. The preliminary assessments are helpful in identifying areas where further design work and mitigation strategies are necessary in order to minimise potential adverse effects.'*	**Table 2.19** of this chapter presents the Maximum Design Scenario parameters of the Proposed Development, as required in DCO applications. This provides a reasonable worst case scenario for the landscape, seascape and visual resources assessment. This is in line with the EIA methodology presented in Volume 1, Chapter 5 of the ES. However, Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and associated illustrative landscape strategy plan have been developed further.
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	'*Significant visual effects are predicted where public rights of way cross the cable route. Both the South West Coast Path and National Cycle Network (Tarka Trail) routes cross the cable route. An issue that will require further consultation is how temporary significant visual effects on these two major routes will be avoided*.'	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. An Outline On-CEMP forms part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.7), which includes measures relating to landscape and visual resources. This includes the use of fencing to screen compound sites and design of construction lighting to minimise disturbance to users of PRoW. Proposed Development also includes the reinstatement of
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Significant visual effects are predicted for people walking on paths and lanes with views of the converter station construction site. Effects on views from Gammaton Moor, Webbery Cross and viewpoints within around 2km of the site are predicted to be significant adverse. Further development of the construction management plan could*	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		address how much scope there is for mitigating these effects during the construction phase.'	hedgerows following construction works. The Outline On-CEMP includes measures relating to reducing the gap of hedgerow crossings to minimise the loss of hedgerow and vegetation. These measures would be developed further into a final On-CEMP(s) in consultant with Torridge District Council prior to consultation.
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Construction Effects: Landscape Effects Significant and not significant moderate adverse temporary effects are predicted to landscape character areas and character types along the cable route and the cable landfall. At the Landfall adverse effects are predicted to the quality of tranquillity on the undeveloped coast. We would expect further development of the construction management plan to explore how these inevitable effects could be mitigated so that it is the smallest possible area that is affected.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'On the cable route, significant adverse effects are predicted in areas where the cable route will cut through hedgebanks and sunken lanes. A cable corridor has been proposed, but a more detailed exploration of crossing points of lanes and hedge boundaries and exploration of non-trenching cabling techniques could mitigate the worst effects of the cable construction.'*	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	*'Mitigating measures are suggested, including setting the buildings in the ground, extensive earth mounding, tree planting and a commitment to work with the local authority on the colour palette to be used in the buildings. Some positive steps had been taken towards a detailed mitigation strategy as part of the previous PPA, as summarised in section 2.7 of the SLVIA (Vol.4 Ch2 pp82-84). The submitted site layouts do not include details of how or where the mitigation strategy is to be applied. Further design development during the pre planning period will be necessary in order to make sure that permanent, significant adverse landscape and visual effects are minimised.'*	Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. An Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) sets out the landscape and planting proposals to reduce visual impacts during operation and maintenance of the Converter Site. The Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design and includes the aim to integrate the converter stations and associated buildings into the existing landscape.
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	Operation Effects: Visual Effects The SLVIA contains a limited series of visualisations, as the detail of the proposals and mitigation is still at an early stage.	Visualisations have now been undertaken from all agreed representative viewpoints, these are in

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		Visualisations are from higher sensitivity viewpoints. Locations are reasonably representative of the range of views of the site from a spread of geographical directions. Visualisations as submitted are not based on a final layout, are not fully rendered and have made no allowance has been made for mitigating plant growth. The visualisations illustrate a number of issues for consideration in design development of the proposals Siting on a local high spot increases the extent over which the development exerts a visual influence. Mitigation has to work harder to reduce visual impacts (e.g. VP29). The extent of the site and scale of the structures is out of context in the local landscape. The site is very large in comparison with farmsteads in the same view (e.g. VP32). Existing hedgerow trees are lower than the roofline of the proposed buildings (e.g. VP33). Mitigation by mounding is effective in reducing influence on views where the buildings are on the skyline, but judgement is needed as to how high the mounding could go before it becomes an obtrusive landscape element itself.	Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES. As noted in a response above, the DCO application take a parameters based approach. The visualisations show a translucent box, describing the outer measurements of the converter stations and associated buildings. The converter stations would be located within the box, but the exact location is not known at the time of application. The Applicant welcomes Torridge District Council's continuing assistance in the development of both the Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan and the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10). The detail of both documents is to be agreed with Torridge District Council and this would be secured as Requirements within the DCO. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8** of this ES chapter. An Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) sets out the landscape and planting proposals to reduce visual impacts during operation and maintenance of the Converter Site. The Design Principles (document reference 7.4) sets out the process of achieving good design and includes the aim to integrate the converter stations and associated buildings into the existing landscape.
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	The PEIR predicts major adverse effects to views from the lane to the west of the site. Moderate adverse effects are predicted from views to the north, east and south of the site up to about 3km distance. These effects are predicted to decrease with time, as mitigating planting matures. Our own view is that the development and the proposed mounding will markedly change the character and quality of views in an area up to 3km from the site. The extent to which proposals can be integrated into the landscape and their level of significance will very much depend on decisions made during the design stage of the project.	
July 2024	Torridge District Council, Section 42 Responses	Next Steps The preliminary SLVIA is a helpful document on which to base further design development, site layout and a construction management plan. Although there are	

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		a few minor areas where clarification is required from the applicants, the SLVIA provides a useful assessment of the main areas where major and moderate adverse are likely to occur. It will help to focus development of the mitigation strategy to minimise significant landscape and visual effects.	
July 2024	Residents, Section 42 Response	Concerns related to the need to address/mitigate the environmental concerns and visual impacts from the converter stations. Concerns of the visual impacts during the construction phase, including interrupting views of the AONB (now referred to as National Landscape) and visual impacts from temporary construction compounds.	The potential landscape, seascape and visual effects of the Proposed Development are assessed in **section 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12**. Measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential impacts on landscape, seascape and visual resources are provided in **section 2.8**. This includes the implementation of an On-CEMP(s) and LEMP(s). The Applicant is working with Torridge District Council to minimise and mitigate against these effects.
July 2024	Local Resident, Section 42 Response	Page 32 of the Booklet notes that Xlinks invites comments on opportunities to enhance the local environment. I would strongly recommend and urge that Xlinks consider use of the land south of Gammaton Cross as part of their LEMP so as to achieve a net gain in biodiversity, etc. That would seem to assist the planning process for Xlinks and would avoid that land being offered for an alternative form of industrial development and/or some other converter station in the future. If that land then had some reasonable and generally acceptable level of public access it could also benefit the local community.	Details regarding the biodiversity and mitigation opportunities are provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the ES. Volume 1, Figure 3.16 shows the areas that have been identified within the Order Limits where current habitat conditions are anticipated to provide an opportunity to improve habitat quality or where improvements can be made to habitats identified as functionally linked to designated sites. The Applicant is engaging and working with landowners and North Devon Biosphere to identify potential opportunities for delivering biodiversity enhancement off-site (e.g., funding to undertake biodiversity improvements).
July 2024	Local Resident, Section 42 Response	There could be opportunities to enhance the local biosphere when carrying out remedial work after project installation.	
8 July 2024	Meeting with Torridge District Council's planning team and	Meeting provided an overview of the main changes since the previous meeting, when the project was a Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) application.	The Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10).

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
	landscape consultant and the application	Torridge District Council's landscape consultant noted that the Applicant should take opportunities to have more planting within the landscape proposals. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant requested that representative viewpoint 40 be retaken due to lighting conditions. The landscape consultant also had some methodological matters, which he would send through to Torridge District Council.	The Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan is also Figure 1.1 of the Outline LEMP. A series of regular meetings with Torridge District Council was set up. Representative viewpoint 40 (Rickards Down, within the North Devon Coast National Landscape) was retaken and is presented in Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline technical report, of the ES.
6 August 2024	Meeting between Torridge District Council's landscape consultant and the Applicant's team	The draft illustrative landscape strategy plan was presented and discussed with Torridge District Council. Feedback was provided and there were queries regarding bund widths, unplanted areas and visibility splay at the entrance. Torridge District Council's Landscape Architect noted that, with other infrastructure projects being proposed/developed in Devon, the methodology used in the LSVIA would be looked at in detail. The Applicant's landscape consultant reported that the photography for those representative viewpoints with views of the proposed solar farm south of the converter site had now been retaken, as the solar farm had been constructed.	The Applicant provided an updated Illustrative Landscape and Ecology Strategy Plan (Figure 1.1 of the Outline LEMP, document reference 7.10) addressing the points raised in this meeting. The Applicant has reviewed the LSVIA methodology and it is presented in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES. The Applicant noted Torridge District Council's landscape consultant's comments on methods to reduce the effects of the construction of the cable corridor. The updated photography is presented in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report, of the ES. This photography has been used in the updated visualisations (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES).
28 August 2024	Email from North Devon Coast National Landscape Partnership	• The proposed development lies within the North Devon Coast NL and within its setting. As such, Section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 applies. • The proposed development crosses the NL, a Heritage Coast, the Biosphere Reserve and a SSSI.	The Applicant has noted section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (see **Table 2.1** of this chapter) The Applicant notes the North Devon Coast NL Partnership's concerns regarding the areas

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
		• The North Devon Coast NL Partnership agrees that the representative viewpoints are appropriate. • The North Devon Coast NL Partnership anticipate potentially significant effects extending through the construction phase and into the operational phase, up to six years. • The North Devon Coast NL Partnership lists the different landscape character areas that the cable corridor passes though within the NL, together with the special qualities of the NL. • The North Devon Coast NL Partnership has additional concerns regarding lighting and noise during the construction phase, on both the landscape of the NL and the visitors to the NL. • The North Devon Coast NL Partnership points the Applicant to the relevant NL/AONB policies in the AONB Management Plan.	(some designated) that the Proposed Development crosses through. The Applicant notes that Heritage Coast is not a landscape (or Heritage) designation. The Mermaid's Pool to Rowden Gut SSSI is a geological designation, which is considered in Volume 2, Chapter 4: Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions of the ES. While the Applicant understands the North Devon Coast NL Partnership's concerns regarding the length of time the construction period spans, it is likely that construction activities would be undertaken in short-term stages along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. The Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) details measures to minimise impacts during the construction phase, including the design of the construction lighting to avoid disturbance, and use of screening to minimise visual impacts. The Outline On-CEMP also includes the like-for-like reinstatement of hedgerows (including Devon hedgebanks) during construction. The Applicant confirms that any effect on the key characteristics of the landscape and seascape character areas, as well as the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL have been assessed in **sections 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter. Construction lighting would be controlled by the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) which has been submitted as part of the DCO application. The effects on both landscape and visual receptors are considered within **sections 2.10, 2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter.

Date	Consultee and type of response	Issues raised	How and where considered in the ES
			The effects of noise during construction is addressed in Volume 2, Chapter 6: Noise and Vibration of the ES.
9 September 2024	Meeting between Torridge District Council's planning team and landscape consultant, and the Applicant's project team	[A revised illustrative landscape and ecological strategy plan, together with revised visualisations had been sent to Torridge District Council and its landscape consultant prior to the meeting]. The 'work in progress' Land Plans were shared by the Applicant at the meeting, to show Torridge District Council that more land was being acquired at the southern part of the converter site to enable two existing woodlands to be linked by proposed woodland as part of the landscape and ecological strategy. The Applicant confirmed that the existing woodlands within the Order Limits would be managed by the client together with the proposed wooded landscape and other landscape mitigation. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant noted that the bunding in the northern field was visually not in-keeping with the surrounding hills when viewed from some viewpoints. They also commented that the new access road at the National Grid substation was on the skyline and that the carriageway of the road should be lower than the existing/proposed ground level, to avoid it being prominent on the skyline.	The Applicant will look at these issues as the Application progresses, but notes that the final LEMP(s), Landscape Strategy Plan and details of the landscape mitigation will be agreed post consent with Torridge District Council and secured through Requirements of the DCO.

2.4 LSVIA Study Areas

2.4.1 The LSVIA study area (Volume 4, Figure 2.1) comprises the areas of sea and land to be temporarily and permanently occupied during the construction and operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development, and including the following.

- 1 km buffer from the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor.
- 10 km buffer from the Converter Site.

2.4.2 These LSVIA study area extents are formulated in accordance with relevant best practice guidance and were discussed and agreed as a basis for locating representative viewpoints with Torridge District Council's landscape consultant, as documented in **Table 2.6**.

2.4.3 While it will be theoretically possible to see the Proposed Development outside the LSVIA study area, given the site locations and nature of development at those locations, there is no scope for significant effects to arise beyond these distances. Sensitive landscape, seascape and visual receptors within the LSVIA study area, have been included for assessment in the LSVIA.

2.5 Scope of the Assessment

2.5.1 The scope of this ES has been developed in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees as detailed in **Table 2.5** and **Table 2.6.**

2.5.2 Taking into account the scoping and consultation process, **Table 2.7** summarises the issues considered as part of this assessment.

Table 2.7: Impacts considered within this assessment

Activity	Potential effects scoped into the assessment
Construction Phase	
Installation of the Offshore Cable Corridor within seascape areas of study areas	• Effects on seascape character, views and visual amenity (seascape and visual effects). • Effects on landscape character, views and visual amenity (landscape and visual effects). • Effects on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL. • Cumulative landscape, seascape and visual effects on character and views and visual amenity.
Installation of the Offshore Cable Corridor at Landfall (including barge, related to trenchless technique used to drill under the coastline, such as HDD)	
Installation of onshore HVDC Cables	
Construction of Converter Site	
Installation of HVAC cables	
Construction and other compounds associated with the construction phase	
Operation and Maintenance	
Operation and maintenance of the converter stations	• Landscape and visual effects. • Effects on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL. • Cumulative landscape and visual effects.

Activity	Potential effects scoped into the assessment
Decommissioning	
Decommissioning of the converter stations	• Landscape and visual effects. • Effects on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL. • Cumulative landscape and visual effects.
Decommissioning compounds	

2.5.3 Impacts that are not likely to result in significant effects have been scoped out of the assessment. A summary of the impacts scoped out, together with justification for scoping them out and whether the approach has been agreed with key stakeholders through either scoping or consultation, is presented in **Table 2.8**.

Table 2.8: Issues scoped out of the assessment

Impact	Justification
Construction Phase	
No impacts scoped out	-
Operation and Maintenance	
Impacts of the Offshore Cable Corridor on landscape, seascape and visual resources during the operation and maintenance phase	As the cables, transition joint bays and joint bays would be buried, there is no potential for significant effects on the following resources/receptors: • Landscape and seascape character • Views and visual amenity • The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL • Cumulative landscape, seascape and visual resources and receptors The existing habitats and features affected by the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, HVAC Cable Corridors and Landfall would be reinstated following completion with no significant landscape effects likely to persist post-construction. Furthermore, the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) details that there would be the reinstatement and enhancement of hedgerows along the cable route during the construction phase.
Impacts of the Landfall on landscape, seascape and visual resources during the operation and maintenance phase	
Impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on landscape, seascape and visual resources during the operation and maintenance phase	
Impacts of the HVAC Cable Corridors on landscape, seascape and visual resources during the operation and maintenance phase	
Decommissioning	
No impacts scoped out	-

2.5.4 The decommissioning phase is effectively the construction process in reverse for the Proposed Development albeit taking place within an established and maturing landscape. Note this is not the case with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor where it is the assumption that the cable ducts would be left *in situ* with only the cables and link boxes being removed.

2.6 Methodology

Relevant Guidance

2.6.1 The LSVIA has been undertaken based on the guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment within GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013), and draws on other, relevant best practice guidance including the following:

- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021);
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, August 2024);
- Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for judging Capacity and Sensitivity (Countryside Agency [now Natural England] and Scottish Natural Heritage [now NatureScot] 2004);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2014);
- Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency [now Natural England] and Scottish Natural Heritage [now NatureScot] 2002); and
- Representation of Wind Farms – Guidance: Version 2.2 (Scottish Natural Heritage [now NatureScot] 2017).

2.6.2 In addition, the LSVIA has considered the relevant legislative and policy framework as identified in **Table 2.1** and as detailed in Volume 4, Appendix 2.1: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Planning Policy of the ES.

2.6.3 A detailed LSVIA methodology based on GLVIA3 is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.

Methodology for Baseline Studies

Desk Studies

2.6.4 For this LSVIA, a desktop review of published information, including landscape character assessments, OS data, online mapping data, aerial photography and local planning documents was undertaken. To further inform the LSVIA, representative views looking towards the Converter Site were selected. Figures have been produced to support the LSVIA (see Volume 4, Figures), including:

- Figure 2.1: LSVIA study area;
- Figure 2.2: International and National Designated Landscapes;
- Figure 2.3: Devon Landscape Character Areas;
- Figure 2.4: North Devon and Torridge Landscape and Seascape Character Types;
- Figure 2.5a to 2.5e: Viewpoint Location Plan - Converter Site; and
- Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations.

2.6.5 The data sources that have been collected and used to inform this LSVIA are summarised in **Table 2.14**.

Representative Viewpoints

2.6.6 Photography was undertaken at the Landfall and along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, at publicly accessible locations. Candidate representative

viewpoints towards the proposed Converter Site were sent to the Planning Officer at Torridge District Council on the 4 March 2022, as being representative of a range of views from publicly accessible locations within the ZTV. Photography was undertaken on the 15, 17 and 18 March 2022. Whilst undertaking the fieldwork, additional viewpoints were identified, and photography undertaken at these locations. Additionally, the landscape consultant appointed by Torridge District Council suggested further viewpoints that were undertaken on 11 and 20 October 2022. Latterly additional photography was undertaken on the 13 and 14 February 2023, with additional viewpoints, suggested by the council's landscape consultant on the 19 February 2023 and the 15 and 16 May 2023. A site visit was undertaken with Torridge District Council's landscape consultant, for which access to the land surrounding the site was granted, but not to the site itself. Landscape character photographs were taken during the visit, views towards the Converter Site from local roads were also undertaken on the 16 May 2023, to inform micro-siting and design, including landscape mitigation proposals. Subsequently photography was undertaken on the 10 and 11 of July 2024, to include the recently constructed solar farm adjacent to the Converter Site.

2.6.7 The locations of panoramic baseline photographs looking towards the Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Converter Site are shown on Figures 2.5a to 2.5e (see Volume 4, Figures). The locations of character photographs are shown on Figure 2.2.9 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The locations of those photographs taken from local roads are shown on Figure 2.3.55 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. From the fieldwork, it was evident that people at some of the locations would not experience a significant effect, primarily due to distance, but also due to the converter stations being substantially obscured by landform or vegetation, or due to the sensitivity of the receptor.

2.6.8 The viewpoint photography has been broken down into those at the location of the Landfall, the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the Converter Site.

2.6.9 A full set of the photographs and description of each viewpoint are included in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The site character photographs are included as ES, Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report, Figures 2.2.8a to 2.2.8q. However, in the interests of proportionality, only those viewpoints that represent the views of those people likely to experience significant effects have been included below. Viewpoints where there is no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects, due to factors, which may include the location and siting of the Proposed Development, the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures or landform, have not been taken forward to the assessment stage. Site visits to the land surrounding the Converter Site were undertaken on 15 May 2023 to record views from these and other publicly accessible locations, as well as to gain an understanding of the local landscape character. Fieldwork assisted in the assessment of the potential effects on the landscape character of the Converter Site and surrounding landscape, as well as on visual receptors.

2.6.10 A summary of the site-specific surveys undertaken is provided in **Table 2.9**.

Table 2.9: Summary of site-specific surveys

Title	Date	Extent of survey	Overview of survey	Reference to further information
Site photography at and around the previous (Huxhill) Converter Site.	4 March 2022	Site photography at Landfall and Converter Site.	Photography of Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Converter Site and associated construction compounds. 'Winter' photography	Original Converter Site photography not included in ES. Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and construction compound photography, as well as relevant candidate and additional representative viewpoint photography included at Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.
Site and candidate representative viewpoint photography of and towards original Converter Site.	15, 17 and 18 March 2022	Site photography at Landfall and Converter Site. Photography within the 10 km buffer area of Converter Site.	Site photography and representative viewpoint photography of cable corridor and associated compounds, as well as Converter Site from candidate representative viewpoints. 'Winter' photography	
Representative viewpoint photography of original Converter Site.	11 and 20 October 2022	Photography within the 10 km buffer area of Converter Site.	Additional representative viewpoint photography suggested by Torridge District Council's landscape consultant. 'Summer' photography	
Representative viewpoint photography of current Converter Site.	13 and 14 February 2023	Photography within the 10 km buffer area of Converter Site.	Additional representative viewpoint photography suggested by Torridge District Council's landscape consultant. 'Winter' photography	
Representative viewpoint photography of current Converter Site and surrounding area (character) photography.	15 and 16 May 2023	Photography within the 10 km buffer area of Converter Site, as well as character photography from adjacent fields and local roads.	Additional representative viewpoint photography suggested by Torridge District Council's landscape consultant. As well as site character photography and views from local roads to inform local visual screening	

Title	Date	Extent of survey	Overview of survey	Reference to further information
			study. No access to the Converter Site was possible at this stage. 'Summer' photography	
Representative viewpoint photography of current Converter Site following requests in the Scoping Opinion	21 March 2024	Photography within the 10 km buffer area of the Converter Site.	Additional representative viewpoint photography suggested by North Devon District Council 'Winter' photography	
Photography at the current Converter Site	10 and 11 June 2024	Only those close viewpoints with views of the new solar farm were retaken.	Retakes of existing photography, to capture the newly constructed solar farm adjacent to the Converter Site. 'Summer' photography	Additional representative viewpoint photography included at Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

Impact Assessment Methodology

Overview

2.6.11 The LSVIA has followed the methodology set out in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES, a summary of which is reproduced below in this section.

2.6.12 Specific to the LSVIA, the following document provides key guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition, 2013, Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management (GLVIA3); and
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, August 2024).

2.6.13 In addition, the LSVIA has considered the relevant legislative and policy framework as summarised in **section 2.2**, and detailed in Volume 4, Annex 2.1: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources Legislation and Policy of the ES.

2.6.14 For the purposes of this LSVIA, the standard criteria wording has been refined to accord with GLVIA3 best practice guidelines. There are some differences between the Landscape Institute's criteria as set out in GLVIA3 and that set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: EIA Methodology of the ES. Where there are differences, the LSVIA methodology has followed GLVIA3, as industry-specific guidance.

Impact Assessment Criteria

2.6.15 The approach to determining the significance of effects is a two-stage process that involves defining the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of the receptor. This section describes the criteria applied in this chapter to assign values to the magnitude of impacts and the sensitivity of the receptors.

2.6.16 More detail on the LSVIA methodology is contained within Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.

Receptor Sensitivity/Value

2.6.17 The criteria for defining sensitivity in this chapter are outlined in **Table 2.10**. Note that, in LSVIA, the sensitivity of landscape/seascape and of visual receptors is determined by an assessment of two separate factors: the value of the receptor; and the receptor's susceptibility to the development proposed.

Table 2.10: Definition of term relating to the sensitivity of the receptor

Sensitivity	Definition	
Landscape/seascape resource and receptors	**Resource/receptor susceptibility**	**Resource/receptor value**
Very High	Exceptional landscape/seascape quality; absence of landscape/seascape detractors; no or limited potential for substitution. Key elements/features well known to the wider public.	Internationally/nationally designated landscapes, or key elements, or features of internationally/nationally designated landscapes.
High	Strong/distinctive landscape character; relatively free of landscape detractors.	Nationally/regionally designated landscape areas or features.
Medium	Some distinctive landscape/seascape characteristics; presence of landscape/seascape detractors.	Regionally/locally designated/valued landscape/seascape areas and features.
Low	Absence of distinctive landscape/seascape characteristics; unavoidable presence of landscape/seascape detractors.	Undesignated landscape/seascape areas and features.
Negligible	Absence of positive landscape/seascape characteristics. Significant presence of landscape/seascape detractors.	Undesignated/non-valued landscape/seascape and features.
Visual receptors	**Receptor susceptibility**	**Receptor value**
Very High	Observers, drawn to a particular view, including those who have travelled from around Britain and overseas to experience the views.	Judgements made about the value of views should take account of: *'recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in*

Sensitivity	Definition	
High	Observers on the public rights of way network in the countryside are more sensitive to visual change.	*relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations; and, indicators of value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provision of facilities for their enjoyment (such as parking places, sign boards or interpretive material) and references to them in literature or art…'* (GLVIA3, para 6.37)
Medium	Observers enjoying the countryside from vehicles on quiet/promoted routes or pedestrians on less scenic/urban rights of way are moderately sensitive to visual change.	
Low	Observers in vehicles or people involved in outdoor activities where attention is not focused on landscape are less sensitive to visual change.	
Negligible	Observers in vehicles or people involved in frequent or frequently repeated activities are less sensitive to visual change.	

2.6.18 Where the sensitivity of a particular receptor is judged to be in between the above categories, or it varies with location it is expressed as negligible to low, low to medium, medium to high or high to very high.

Magnitude of Impact

2.6.19 The criteria for defining magnitude in this chapter are outlined in **Table 2.11.** Note that in LSVIA, there are three criteria determining the magnitude of an impact. These are: size or scale of proposed change; geographical extent; and duration and reversibility of the change.

2.6.20 Of these three factors the size/scale of change has the most influence on the overall judgement of magnitude. Size or scale of change is assessed on a number of criteria: distance; size; scale; field of view; contrast; consistency of image; skyline/background; number; and nature of visibility. These criteria are explained in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES.

2.6.21 Duration is defined below:

- short-term: a period of months, up to one year;
- medium-term: a period of more than one year, up to five years; and
- long-term: a period of greater than five years.

Table 2.11: Definition of terms relating to the magnitude of an impact

Magnitude of impact	Definition
Large	Landscape/seascape Total loss, or/very substantial loss or addition of, key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape/seascape) and/or introduction of dominant, uncharacteristic elements compared with the attributes of the receiving landscape/seascape.
	Visual Complete or very substantial visual change involving complete or very substantial obstruction of existing view or complete change in character and composition of visual baseline (i.e. pre- development view) (e.g. through removal of key elements).
Medium	Landscape/seascape Partial loss or addition of, or moderate alteration to, one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape/seascape) and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but would not be substantially uncharacteristic in comparison to the attributes of the receiving landscape/seascape.
	Visual moderate visual change, which may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of visual baseline (i.e. pre-development view) through the introduction of new elements or removal of existing elements. Change may be prominent but would not substantially alter the scale and character of the surroundings and the wider setting. Composition of views would alter. View character may be partially changed through the introduction of features which, although uncharacteristic, may not necessarily be visually discordant.
Small	Landscape/seascape minor loss or addition of, or alteration to, one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape/seascape and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic compared with the surrounding landscape/seascape).
	Visual minor change to the visual baseline (i.e. pre-development view) – change would be distinguishable from the surroundings whilst view composition and character would be similar to the pre-change circumstances.
Negligible	Landscape/seascape Very minor loss or addition of, or alteration to, one or more key elements/features/patterns of the baseline (i.e. pre-development landscape/seascape) and/or introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic in comparison to the surrounding landscape/seascape; approximating to a 'no-change' situation.
	Visual Very slight change in visual baseline (i.e. pre-development view) – change barely distinguishable from the surroundings. Composition and character of view substantially unaltered.
No change	No loss, alteration, or addition to the receiving landscape/seascape resource. No alteration to the existing view.

2.6.22 Where the magnitude of impact is judged to fall in between the above categories it is expressed as negligible to small, small to medium, or medium to large.

Significance of Effect

2.6.23 The significance of the effect upon LSVIA has been determined by taking into account the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the impact. The method employed for this assessment is presented in **Table 2.12**. Where a range of significance levels is presented, the final assessment for each effect is based upon expert judgement.

2.6.24 In all cases, the evaluation of receptor sensitivity, impact magnitude and significance of effect has been informed by professional judgement and is underpinned by narrative to explain the conclusions reached.

2.6.25 For the purposes of this assessment, any effects with a significance level of substantial or major have been deemed significant. In general, any effects with a significance level of moderate or less have been judged as not significant. However, an example of where moderate might be considered significant, is in the judgements of effects on landscape and visual resources and receptors within/of nationally designated areas, where a moderate effect may be judged as significant in some circumstances. GLVIA3 explains at paragraph 3.32 that *"Some practitioners use the phrase 'not significant in EIA terms' to describe those effects considered to fall below a 'threshold' of significance but this can potentially confuse since the phrase has no specific meaning in relation to the EIA Regulations (IEMA,2011)."* All judgements of significance of effect have been made by suitably qualified and experienced landscape professionals.

2.6.26 Effects are assessed as being adverse, neutral, or positive. The judgements regarding the significance of effect and that relating to whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate. The assessment of whether an effect is positive, neutral or adverse is based on professional judgement having regard to the relevant objective factors.

Table 2.12: Assessment of significance matrix

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact			
	Negligible	**Small**	**Medium**	**Large**
Negligible	Negligible	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor
Low	Negligible to minor	Negligible to minor	Minor	Minor to moderate
Medium	Negligible to minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate to major
High	Negligible to minor	Minor to moderate	Moderate to major	Major
Very High	Minor	Moderate to major	Major	Substantial

2.6.27 **Table 2.13** provides definitions for significance of effect levels recorded in the LSVIA.

Table 2.13: Definitions of LSVIA significance criteria

Level of significance	Typical descriptors	
	Landscape/seascape resource	**Visual resource**
Substantial	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a landscape of exceptional landscape quality (e.g. internationally designated landscapes) or key elements known to the wider public of nationally designated landscapes (where there is no or limited potential for substitution nationally).	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a view of remarkable scenic quality, within designated landscapes or key features or elements of nationally designated landscapes that are well known to the wider public.
Major	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued aspect of (or a high quality) landscape/seascape.	Where proposed changes would be uncharacteristic and/or would significantly alter a valued view or a view of high scenic quality.
Moderate	Where proposed changes would be out of scale or at variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views would be out of scale or at variance with the existing view.
Minor	Where proposed changes would be at slight variance with the character of an area.	Where proposed changes to views, although discernible, would only be at slight variance with the existing view.
Negligible	Where proposed changes would have an indiscernible effect on the character of an area.	Where proposed changes would have a barely noticeable effect on views/visual amenity.

2.6.28 Where the magnitude of impact is 'no change', no effect would arise.

Assumptions and Limitations of the Assessment

2.6.29 The exact locations and massing of the buildings to be constructed within the Converter Site and the details of the proposed bunding and other landscape mitigation has not been finalised. The assessment has assumed that bunding and planting would take place to assist in mitigating the effects of the operational development as built from the most sensitive landscape receptors such as the NL. However, the extent of this is uncertain at this stage.

2.6.30 The assessment has been undertaken based upon the maximum design scenario approach, based on the parameters contained within **Table 2.19**. Photography was undertaken in both summer and winter conditions. Winter conditions (no deciduous vegetation in leaf) provide the worst-case, i.e., most visible conditions to be assessed. All visits were undertaken in good visibility.

2.6.31 Regarding the approach taken in the LSVIA to the assessment of the different development phases of the Proposed Development, the following assumption/limitation should be noted. For developments of this type and scale, landscape, seascape, and visual impacts arising would increase in magnitude on a continuum from the start of construction through to completion of the construction works in the medium-term, remaining fairly constant during operations and maintenance in the long-term.

2.7 Baseline Environment

Desk Study

2.7.1 Information on LSVIA within the study area was collected through a detailed review of existing studies and datasets. These are summarised in **Table 2.14** below.

Table 2.14: Desk study sources used to inform the LSVIA

Title	Source	Year	Author
National Character Area (NCA) 149: The Culm	Natural England website: (Accessed 2022)	2013	Natural England
The Devon Landscape – An appraisal of Devon's landscape at the beginning of the 21st Century	Devon County Council	2002	Devon County Council
Devon's landscape character assessment	Devon County Council website: https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/landscape/devons-landscape-character-assessment/ and interactive map (Accessed 2022)	Ongoing	Devon County Council
Joint landscape character assessment for North Devon and Torridge Districts	North Devon and Torridge District Councils, Devon County Council and Natural England	2023	Land Use Consultants
North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment	National Trust, North Devon Coast AONB [now NL], Exmoor National Park Authority, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council and Natural England	2015	Land Use Consultants
North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019-2024	North Devon Coast AONB [now NL]	2019	North Devon Coast AONB (now NL) Partnership

2.7.2 In addition, the visual assessment is based on analysis of OS mapping of the site and surrounding area, as well as site surveys conducted as illustrated within captured photography provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3 Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES (see below).

2.7.3 A record and summary description of the desk study activities is provided in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline

Identification of designated sites

2.7.4 All designated sites within the study area and qualifying interest features that could be affected by the construction, and operation and maintenance phases of the Proposed Development are set out in **Table 2.15**.

Table 2.15: Designated sites and relevant qualifying interests

Designated Site	Distance to the Proposed Development	Relevant Qualifying Interest
North Devon UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve	Proposed Development is within the Biosphere Reserve: Landfall and part of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are within the Buffer Zone. Converter Site is within the Transition Zone.	• Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows. • Dramatic coastal landscapes of North Devon Coast NL. • Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens. • High level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area.
North Devon Coast NL	Landfall and part of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are within NL. Converter Site is 6.4 km from the NL.	• Diversity of scenery contained within a small area, including some of the finest cliff scenery in the country. • Panoramic seascape, with seaward views to Lundy within Atlantic Ocean, across the Bristol Channel to Wales and along the coastline. Views are of landscape and seascape devoid of human influence. • Panoramic views of a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas. • Wild coastal scenery – in the south high, rugged cliffs, dramatic rock formations, exposed headlands, wave cut platforms and rocky coves. • A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness where coastal road is located away from the coastline. • Dark night skies.

North Devon UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve

2.7.5 No part of the Proposed Development lies within the Core Area of the Biosphere Reserve (North Devon Biosphere Strategy for Sustainable Development 2014-2024, page 2) (Volume 4, Figure 2.2). The location of all parts of Proposed Development and study area for the Converter Site lie within the Biosphere Reserve Transition Zone, which covers "*the whole of the*

catchments of the Rivers Taw and Torridge and the offshore marine areas stretching out to Lundy and beyond" (Biosphere Strategy, page 4). It is not clear whether the Proposed Development lies within the Buffer Zone to the Core Area. The definition of a Buffer Zone in this context is understood to include adjoining areas with supporting designations. We presume that the National Landscape is a supporting designation and therefore, since the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor is routed through the National Landscape it is treated as falling with the Biosphere Buffer Zone. Biospheres have three primary functions: Conservation; sustainable development; and knowledge generation/sharing. The designation does not prohibit development.

2.7.6 The special features of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve include a number of features under the collective term Diverse wildlife and landscape (Biosphere Strategy, page 5). Of these, those that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows;
- dramatic coastal landscapes of North Devon Coast NL;
- special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens; and
- high level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area.

2.7.7 The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of Landfall) lies within the Biosphere Buffer Zone and therefore, it has the potential for significant effects during the construction phase i.e. medium-term and temporary. The effect on the designated landscape is considered in the North Devon Coast NL (formally AONB) section below.

Exmoor National Park

- The National Park lies approximately 21.5 km from the Converter Site. Due to distance, there is no potential for the Exmoor National Park to experience significant landscape or visual effects during daylight hours. The National Park is only taken forward to the assessment stage, for potential night-time effects during the operation and maintenance phase, as the Converter Site will be manned. This has the potential to affect special quality: Dark Skies, including the Dark Sky Reserve.

2.7.8 Whilst the operational lighting would be designed in such a way as to avoid illumination of areas outside the site boundaries, and as such does not have the potential to have significant effects, it has been taken forward to assessment for completeness. Note LITGN-2024-01 notes at Section 5 8(2) *"A night-time assessment should not be a routine requirement and will only be required where lighting will have a potential significant influence on landscape character and/ or visual amenity, as a result of the combination of the sensitivity of the receiving night-time environment and the nature of the proposed lighting."*

North Devon Coast National Landscape (formally AONB)

2.7.9 The North Devon Coast NL was designated under the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. The primary purpose of the NL designation is '*To conserve and enhance natural beauty*'. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, expands on this. Section 85, of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, requires that public bodies '*have regard to the purpose of conserving and*

enhancing natural beauty' of NLs when coming to any decisions or carrying out activities relating to or affecting the designated area (North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019-2024, page 13). The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act (2023) reiterates the need to conserve and enhance nationally designated landscapes, including AONBs (now National Landscapes) at Section 245, subsections (6) and (7).

2.7.10 The study area includes the North Devon Coast NL (Volume 4, Figure 2.2). The Landfall and part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would fall within the North Devon Coast NL. The Converter Site lie 6.4 km to the east of the North Devon Coast NL. The special qualities are set out in the North Devon Coast AONB Management Plan 2019-2024, pages 9 to 12. The Special Qualities, of relevance to the Proposed Development, are the following.

- Diversity of scenery contained within a small area, including some of the finest cliff scenery in the country (as mentioned at designation).
- Panoramic seascape, with seaward views to Lundy within the Atlantic Ocean, across the Bristol Channel to Wales and along the coastline. Views are of a landscape and seascape devoid of human influence.
- Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas.
- Wild coastal scenery. In the north, hogsback cliffs of varying heights; in the south high, rugged cliffs, dramatic rock formations, exposed headlands, wavecut platforms and rocky coves.
- A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness where the coast road is located away from the coastline.
- Dark night skies.

National, County and District Character Areas

2.7.11 National Character Areas (NCAs) and relevant regional landscape and seascape character areas within the study area have been identified.

2.7.12 The characteristics with potential to be affected have been identified and described in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.2.2 to 2.2.4.

2.7.13 **Table 2.16** below lists the character types/areas scoped into the assessment.

Table 2.16: Landscape and seascape character types/areas assessed in the LSVIA

Character type/area reference	Title	Administrative level	Jurisdiction	Source
North Devon Coast NL, Landscape Character Type (LCT)				
LCT 5B	Coastal undulating farmland	National	UK	North Devon Coast AONB [now NL] Management Plan 2019-2024 (North Devon Coast AONB Partnership, 2019)
North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Areas (SCA) – Directly affected by the Proposed Development				
SCA 21	Abbotsham	County	Devon County	North Devon and Exmoor

Character type/area reference	Title	Administrative level	Jurisdiction	Source
	Coast			Seascape Character Assessment (LUC, 2015)
North Devon and Exmoor SCAs – Indirectly affected by the Proposed Development				
SCA 18	Braunton Burrows and Saunton Coast	County	Devon County	North Devon and Exmoor Seascape Character Assessment (LUC, 2015)
SCA 19	Taw-Torridge Estuary			
SCA 20	Northam Burrows and Westward Ho!			
No indirectly affected SCAs have been taken forward to the assessment stage, due to distance from the Converter Site, lack of visibility, or the temporary nature of the works (in relation to the Offshore Cable Corridor works and work at the Landfall).				
NCA – Directly affected by the Proposed Development				
NCA 149	The Culm	National	England	Natural England
Devon County Landscape Character Areas (LCA) – Directly affected by the Proposed Development				
Bideford Bay Coast		County	Devon County	Devon County Council website and interactive map (Accessed 2022)
Torridge Valley				
High Culm Ridges				
All directly affected county LCAs have been taken forward to assessment				
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types (LCT) – Directly affected by Proposed Development				
LCT 4H	Cliffs	Local	Torridge District	Joint North Devon and Torridge Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2023)
LCT 5B	Coastal undulating farmland			
LCT 3H	Secluded valleys			
LCT 4A	Estuaries			
LCT 3G	River valley slopes and combes			
LCT 5A	Inland elevated undulating land			
LCT 3A	Upper farmed and wooded valley slopes			
LCT 1F	Farmland lowland moorland and Culm grassland			
All directly affected district LCTs have been taken forward to assessment				

Character type/area reference	Title	Administrative level	Jurisdiction	Source
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types (LCT) – Indirectly affected (i.e., within the ZTV of the Converter Site)				
LCT 1D	Estate wooded ridges and hilltops	Local	North Devon and Torridge Districts	Joint North Devon and Torridge Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2023)
LCT 4E	Extensive inter-tidal sands			
LCT 4F	Dunes			
LCT 5D	Estate wooded farmland			
LCT 7	Main cities and towns			
None of the LCTs within the ZTV of the Converter Site lie close enough to the Proposed Development to have the potential to be significantly affected. Therefore, none of the indirectly affected LCTs have been taken forward to the assessment stage.				

Site-Specific Surveys Landscape and Seascape Character

2.7.14 The following section outlines the specific landscape character and value that applies within the Order Limits of the Proposed Development using a combination of desk-based assessment and site surveys.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor

2.7.15 Access to areas of the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor was not agreed prior to the ES being submitted and so the site-specific assessment of the character of the land crossed by the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor was conducted from publicly accessible areas.

Converter Site Description

2.7.16 Whilst local plans often provide values for LCTs or LCAs (set out in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report, of the ES) they sometimes do not reflect the particular character of areas within the wider LCT/LCA, as they provide a more general over-view of the whole of the LCT/LCA, which are often large areas of land. The location of the Converter Site is such an area.

2.7.17 In addition to the published landscape and seascape character assessments, a site-specific survey was undertaken from accessible locations adjoining the Converter Site, including NGET land, in May 2023, as access to the Converter Site itself was not permitted at that stage. Torridge District Council's landscape consultant accompanied the Applicant's representative on this site visit. However, the location of the converter stations has altered slightly. Nevertheless, the fieldwork is still valid, as the current location remains within

the area surveyed. The paragraphs below provide a brief overview of the landscape character of the Converter Site. Site character photographs are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.2.8a to 2.2.8q. Figure 2.2.9 shows the location of the character viewpoints.

Location, Land Use and Development Context

2.7.18 The Converter Site lies approximately 2.5 km from the outskirts of East-the-Water, a town on the eastern side of the River Torridge. The Converter Site lies in an area of farmland bounded by four minor roads, to the south of the hamlet of Webbery Barton and north of the hamlet of Gammaton Moor. The Converter Site adjoins a field containing the Alverdiscott Substation. To the immediate south is a recently constructed solar farm. Currently the fields in which the converter stations are proposed host part of the most recently constructed solar farm.

Access and Infrastructure

2.7.19 Access to the Converter Site is from a minor road linking Webbery Barton with Gammaton Moor. The existing access road to the National Grid's Alverdiscott Substation provides access to the two fields where the converter stations (Bipole 1 and Bipole 2) would be located.

2.7.20 Built infrastructure in adjacent land includes the Alverdiscott Substation and the recently constructed solar farms. Additionally multiple overhead power lines cross the landscape on pylons of varying sizes, to and from Alverdiscott Substation.

Topography

2.7.21 National Grid's Alverdiscott Substation and one of the recently constructed solar farm lie on locally lower ground (approximately 115 m to 120 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) surrounded by higher land on all sides, which rises to high points of 144 m and 150 m AOD along the minor road between Webbery Barton and to Gammaton Moor. The higher land extends round to the north and south of the Converter Site (Bipole 1 and Bipole 2) and to the south another solar farm has recently been constructed. The most recent solar farm also includes land to the north west and west of Alverdiscott substation.

2.7.22 The field in which Bipole 1 would be located is land that broadly slopes north west to south east, from a high point of approximately 145 m AOD on the north west side of the field to a low point of approximately 128 m AOD in the east.

2.7.23 The field in which Bipole 2 would be located is similarly broadly north west to south east. However, it is a spur of high land and the northernmost part of the field slopes down to the northeast. Although the top of this field is very gently sloping, the highest part of the field is just below 132 m AOD on the western boundary and the lowest point is just above 116 m AOD at the south eastern corner.

2.7.24 An overview of the topography in which the Proposed Development is located is illustrated on Figure 2.2.5, of Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

Hydrology and Drainage

2.7.25 Ditches and small watercourses run southeast, from the eastern boundary and close to the southern boundary of the fields in which the converter stations would be located. They join a small stream, which runs southwest to join the River Torridge, to the south of Weare Giffard.

Vegetation at the Converter Site

2.7.26 The Converter Site is a farmed landscape. The northern field where Bipole 2 is to be located is laid to pasture and has sparsely vegetated field boundaries.

2.7.27 The boundaries of the field in which Bipole 1 is to be located are in better condition, with hedgebanks marking the boundary with the minor road between Webbery Barton and Gammaton Moor. This is an arable field.

Vegetation in the Area Surrounding the Converter Site

2.7.28 The northern field where Bipole 1 is to be located has sparsely vegetated field boundaries, with overhead lines and an electricity pylon within it. The eastern boundary of the field in which Bipole 1 is located is partly formed by a mature line of trees, planted as part of the Alverdiscott Substation site.

2.7.29 The boundaries of the field in which Bipole 2 is to be located are in better condition, with hedgebanks marking the boundary with the minor road between Webbery Barton and Gammaton Moor. The southern hedgerow has mature trees within it, as does the northern boundary (along the access road to the Alverdiscott Substation). The eastern boundary is marked by a hedgerow with an established wood adjoining it towards the southern boundary. The landscape quality of the field in which Bipole 2 is located is higher than the field in which Bipole 1 is located.

Converter Site Landscape Value

2.7.30 As with every landscape, whilst the Converter Site is undesignated the fields have value. Landscape Institute *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations*, Table 1 (Landscape Institute, May 2021) provides a range of factors that are to be considered when identifying landscape value. Broadly, they fit into the categories outlined in GLVIA3 at Box 5.1, which are summarised below.

2.7.31 As with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, access to the Converter Site was not obtained prior to the submission of the ES. Therefore, site specific characterisations have been undertaken from adjoining and higher land, which allowed sufficient visibility for the assessment. Assessment of the site-specific characterisation was completed using a combination of desk study and site survey photography in publicly accessible areas. These characterisations have been sufficient for the purposes of assigning value to the site landscape.

Landscape Quality

2.7.32 Landscape quality, or condition, measures the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, how intact the landscape is and the condition of individual elements.

2.7.33 The Converter Site lies within a farmed landscape, with the access road to the Alverdiscott Substation site dividing the land. The eastern field where Bipole 1 is to be located has sparsely vegetated field boundaries, with overhead lines and an electricity pylon within it. The eastern boundary of the field in which Bipole 1 is to be located is partly formed by a mature line of trees, planted as part of the Alverdiscott Substation site.

2.7.34 The boundaries of the field in which Bipole 2 is to be located are in better condition, with hedgebanks making the boundary with the minor road between Webbery Barton and Gammaton Moor. The southern hedgerow has mature trees within it, as does the northern boundary (along the access road to the Alverdiscott Substation site). The eastern boundary is marked by a hedgerow with an established wood adjoining it towards the southern boundary. The landscape quality of the field in which Bipole 2 (western converter station) is to be located is higher than the field in which Bipole 1 (eastern converter station) is to be located.

Scenic Quality

2.7.35 This measures the degree to which the landscape appeals primarily to the visual senses.

2.7.36 As with landscape quality and for the reasons given in **paragraphs 2.7.33** to **2.7.35** the scenic quality of the fields in which Bipole 2 is to be located is higher than the field in which Bipole 1 is to be located.

Rarity and Representativeness

2.7.37 Rarity is concerned with the presence of rare features and elements in the landscape or the presence of a rare character type or elements within a site and its surroundings which are considered particularly important examples, which are worthy of retention.

2.7.38 There are no rare character elements or characteristics at the Converter Site. However, the southern boundary of field in which Bipole 2 is to be located contains some mature oak trees. There is a mature Copse to the north of the field in which Bipole 1 is to be located, associated with the existing Alverdiscott Substation site. An established woodland lies adjacent to the eastern boundary. In addition, landscape features at the Converter Site include Devon Hedgerows, and streams with wooded banks.

Conservation Interests

2.7.39 This considers the presence of features of wildlife, earth science, historical and cultural interest that can add value to a landscape.

2.7.40 There are no rare features of wildlife, earth science, historical or cultural interest associated with the Converter Site that add value to them.

2.7.41 Ecological and landscape features of interest include all Devon Hedgerows, and all streams with wooded banks.

Recreational Value

2.7.42 This considers any evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.

2.7.43 There is no public access to the Converter Site.

Perceptual Aspects

2.7.44 A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.

2.7.45 Tranquillity, a perceptual aspect of landscapes, is defined differently by different organisations. The Landscape Institute defines it as *'a state of calm and quietude associated with peace'* (Glossary, GLVIA3). The Countryside Agency (now Natural England) and Scottish Natural Heritage described it as *'a composite feature related to low levels of built development, traffic, noise and artificial lighting'* (paragraph 7.23, Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland, 2002). The Campaign to Protect Rural England prefers to define it as *'undisturbed land'*.

2.7.46 The Campaign to Protect Rural England have produced a Tranquillity Map for England. The tranquillity map for the Converter Site and surrounding areas is at Figure 2.2.6 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The Converter Site lies within an area that is in roughly the middle range of the spectrum.

2.7.47 The Campaign to Protect Rural England have also produced Dark Skies mapping for England. The mapping for the Converter Site is illustrated at Figure 2.2.7, of Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report to this chapter. The converter stations are situated in an area that experiences light levels at the lower end of the spectrum (0.25 to 1 NanoWatts/cm^2/sr) which corresponds to observations in the field.

2.7.48 There are very low levels of lighting and noise, in the location of the Converter Site (apart from the noise associated with the overhead power lines). However, this is a working agricultural landscape, rather than undisturbed land. The 400 kV and 132 kV overhead power lines and pylons cross through the landscape and these together with views of the Alverdiscott Substation, and the recently installed solar farms compromise visual tranquillity.

Associations

2.7.49 This considers any evidence of artistic endeavours and historic events that contribute to the perceptions of the natural beauty of an area.

2.7.50 No artistic endeavours or historic events that contribute to the perceptions of natural beauty have been found to be associated with the Converter Site. Information on the historic environment/history of the site and its surroundings is detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 2: Historic Environment of the ES.

Visual Baseline

Visual Receptor Groups

People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land

2.7.51 The sensitivity of the people using the local PRoW network and Access Land for informal recreation is **high** because appreciation of the surrounding environment is a primary concern. However, those users of the South West

Coast Path National Trail, as it crosses the North Devon Coast NL are considered to have a **very high** sensitivity to change.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor

2.7.52 Within 1 km of the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor there are a number of PRoW including the South West Coast Path National Trail and the Tarka Trail promoted path. The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses a public footpath to the east of Shamland, to the south of Rickards Down and the most southerly part of an Other Route with Public Access, to the southwest of Ashridge. No other PRoW lie within the Order Limits.

2.7.53 People using all PRoW are of a **high** sensitivity, while those people using the South West Coast Path within the North Devon Coast NL are of a **very high** sensitivity.

Converter Site, HVAC Cable Corridors

2.7.54 The closest public rights of way (PRoW) to the Converter Site, that lie within the ZTV are:

- Eastern section of Newton Tracey Footpath 56, to the east of Bartridge (1.3 km to the northeast of the Converter Site) (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.26, representative viewpoint 26).
- Southern section of Alverdiscott Footpath 1, to the east of Webbery Barton (490 m to the north of the Converter Site).
- Alverdiscott Footpath 2, to the southeast of Alverdiscott (2.3 km to the east of the Converter Site).
- Southern section of Alverdiscott Bridleway 5, to the north of Bulworthy (960 m to the northeast of the Converter Site).
- 'Other route with public access', northwest of Huntshaw Water (1 km to the southeast of the Converter Site) (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.31, representative viewpoint 31).
- Higher section of Huntshaw Footpath 4, to the south of Huntshaw Water (1.6 km to the southeast of the Converter Site (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.37, representative viewpoint 37).

Dynamic Receptors

2.7.55 People within vehicles using roads are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to change. However, people in vehicles crossing the NL are deemed to have **medium** sensitivity to the construction works associated with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, and cyclists and people walking along minor roads within the NL are considered to have a **high** sensitivity as people within the NL are deemed to be more aware of their surroundings. On roads in non-designated landscapes, cyclists have a **medium** sensitivity as they are not enclosed within a vehicle and are raised above level that people within standard vehicles and are travelling more slowly (in general). People walking along minor roads have varied sensitivities to the Proposed Development, depending on which element

of the Proposed Development they are looking at and the context of the view, the sensitivity of these receptors would usually be **medium,** but could be **high**.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor

2.7.56 People using the road network around and crossing the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor or Landfall within MLWS would only be affected during the construction phase. Any maintenance work following completion of the construction would not result in significant effects and so the effects of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during the operation and maintenance and the decommissioning phases are not assessed in this LSVIA.

Converter Site

2.7.57 As attention tends to be focused on the road or within the vehicle itself, people travelling in motor vehicles, through the landscape around the Converter Site, are considered to have **low** sensitivity to the development proposals. Cyclists have a slightly raised sensitivity to the proposals, namely **medium**, as they are not enclosed within a vehicle, are raised above the level that people within standard vehicles and are travelling more slowly (in general).

2.7.58 People using the roads within the North Devon Coast NL would not experience significant effects from the development of the Converter Site, due to distance, as well as intervening topography and vegetation. These facts, combined with the **medium** sensitivity of the receptors, would not result in significant effects and so these people are not taken forward when assessing the effects of the Converter Site on visual receptors located within the North Devon Coast NL.

2.7.59 Pedestrians using the roads local to Converter Site, as part of the PRoW network have a **medium** to **high** sensitivity to the Proposed Development, dependent on context.

2.7.60 Barring the minor road that runs between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Cross/Webbery Barton which forms the western boundary of the Converter Site, there are few roads that are close to the Converter Site. The closest roads are the following.

- Minor road from Gammaton Moor to Webbery Cross adjacent to the western boundary of the Converter Site (representative viewpoint 33, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.33). The northern section of this road does not lie within the ZTV.
- Minor road from Webbery Cross to Alverdiscott to the northeast of the Converter Site (representative viewpoint 35, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.35). Only the eastern section (furthest from the Converter Site) of this road is elevated enough to gain views of the converter stations. The western end of the road would have views of the earth bunds and mitigation planting.
- Minor road from Alverdiscott to Haddacott Cross to the east of the Converter Site (the northern part of this route is the B3232). The majority of this route lies within the ZTV (representative viewpoint 29, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.29).
- Minor road from Haddacott Cross to Gammaton Moor, to the southeast of the Converter Site (representative viewpoint 28, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3:

Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.3.28). Only the eastern section of this road (furthest from the converter stations) lies within the ZTV.

2.7.61 These roads form a rough square around the Converter Site and are the closest publicly accessible routes (roads or PRoW) to the converter stations. People using these minor roads as part of the PRoW network have a **high** sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

2.7.62 It is unlikely that people using the roads further from the Converter Site would be significantly affected, due to distance, as well as intervening topography and vegetation (e.g., representative viewpoint 21, representative viewpoint 22, representative viewpoint 30, representative viewpoint 40 and representative viewpoint 44, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.21, 2.3.22, 2.3.30, 2.3.40 and 2.3.44). For this reason, people using these more distant roads are not taken forward to the assessment stage.

People at work

2.7.63 People at their places of work are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the Proposed Development because the focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor

2.7.64 Most working people that have views towards the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and area of the HVDC Cable Corridor at Landfall within MLWS are involved in the agricultural sector. People at their places of work are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the Proposed Development because the focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.

Converter Site

2.7.65 Most working people that have views towards the Converter Site are involved in the agricultural sector. Those with close views of converter stations are national grid employees and those people working on the adjacent solar farm. These people are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the Proposed Development.

Private Views

2.7.66 In the planning system no individual has the right to a view. The Landscape Institute has provided guidance on this matter in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (LI TGN 2/19) (Landscape Institute, 2019).

2.7.67 Views of the Proposed Development would neither overwhelm existing properties within the study area, nor render these properties so "*unattractive a place to live that planning permission should be refused*" (Inspector Kingaby, Burnthouse Farm Wind Farm, APP/D0515/A/10/2123739, Inspector's Report, paragraph 119) (also at paragraph A1.6 of LI TGN 2/19). Inspector Kingaby noted that "*There needs to be a degree of harm over and above identified substantial effect to take a case into the category of refusal in the public interest. Changing the outlook from a property is not sufficient*" (Inspector's Report, paragraph 120) (also at paragraph A1.7, LI TGN 2/19).

2.7.68 LI TGN 2/19 does not provide a definition of 'over and above substantial', but notes that descriptors could be 'overwhelming/overbearing' for tall structures, or

'overly intrusive' for a development overlooking a garden or principal room (paragraph 2.2). Paragraph 4.19 of the technical guidance note also suggests descriptors such as 'blocking the only available view from a property', or 'overwhelming views in all directions'; and 'unpleasantly encroaching' or being 'inescapably dominant from the property'.

2.7.69 The Inspector, in the Langham Wind Farm decision, noted that *"The planning system controls development in the public interest, and not in the private interest. The preservation of open views is a private interest"* (Langham Wind Farm Appeal Decision APP/D2510/A/10/2130539) (also at LI TGN 2/19, paragraph A1.11).

2.7.70 The distance to the closest residential properties within the ZTV of the Converter Site are set out below:

- Higher Kingdon – approximately 315 m west of the Converter Site (not within the ZTV);
- Moorland Cottage – approximately 415 m southwest of the Converter Site (not within the ZTV);
- Webbery Barton (closest occupied building) – approximately 435 m north of the Converter Site (not within the ZTV);
- Rice Mill Cottage – approximately 505 m northeast of the Converter Site (not within the ZTV); and
- Lower Kingdon – approximately 610 m south of the Converter Site (within ZTV, but potentially screened by woodland).

2.7.71 As such, no residential properties have the potential to experience a degree of harm over and above substantial (as set out in **paragraph 2.7.66**) to make considering private views a public interest matter. Consequently, private views are not considered further in this LSVIA.

Representative Viewpoints

2.7.72 A full description of each viewpoint is included with the baseline photography at Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. Some viewpoints, where there is little to no potential for receptors in the vicinity to experience significant effects (due to factors, which may include the location and siting of the Proposed Development, the screening of intervening vegetation, built structures or landform) have not been taken forward to the assessment stage. However, they have been included in the visual baseline, for completeness or to demonstrate a point.

2.7.73 **Table 2.17** identifies the representative viewpoints identified for assessment. Those not taken forward to assessment have been noted.

Table 2.17: Representative viewpoints identified as part of the LSVIA

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
Representative viewpoints towards the Landfall		
1 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.1a and 2.3.1b	View southwest from the South West Coast Path at Cornborough Cliff 265 m from the Landfall	People walking along the South West Coast Path

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
2 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.2a and 2.3.1b	View east from beach between Abbotsham Cliff and Cornborough Cliff 20 m from the Landfall	People accessing the beach
3 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.3a and 2.3.3b	View southeast from beach/South West Coast Path, north of Abbotsham Court 20 m from the Landfall	People accessing the beach
4 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.4a and 2.3.4b	View west-northwest from beach, between Abbotsham Cliffs and Cornborough Cliffs 55 m from the Landfall	People accessing the beach
5 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.5a and 28.3.5b	View northeast to the Landfall site from the South West Coast Path, north of Abbotsham Court 65 m from the Landfall	People walking along the South West Coast Path
6 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.6a and 28.3.6b	View northwest from field gate on minor road east of Abbotsham Court, Rickard's Down 685 m from the Landfall	People using the minor road
Representative viewpoints towards the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor		
7 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.7a and 2.3.7b	View south from junction of PRoW Abbotsham Footpath 5, with minor road to the north of Rickard's Down 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the public footpath and people using the minor road
8 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.8a and 2.3.8b	View south from PRoW Abbotsham Footpath 6, west of Pusehill 620 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the public footpath
9 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.9a and 2.3.9b	View south from PRoW Abbotsham Footpath 2, at junction with Other Route with Public Access, to the south of Rickard's Down 20 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the public footpath and Other Route with Public Access
10 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.10a and 2.3.10b	View west from minor road south of Bowood at Abbotsham Cross 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the minor road
11 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.11a and 2.4.11b	View northeast from PRoW Alwington Footpath 3 routed along a private access road to the north of Winscott Barton 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the public footpath

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
12 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.12a and 2.3.12b	View northeast from the junction of PRoW Alwington Bridleway 12, with a minor road, east of Winscott Barton 15 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the public bridleway and the minor road
13 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.13a and 2.3.13b	View east from minor road to the west of Littleham Cross 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the minor road
14 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.14a and 2.3.14b	View northwest from minor road south of Ashridge 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the minor road
15 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.15a and 2.3.15b	View southeast from car park and picnic area, opposite Seven Oaks Nature Reserve, River Torridge 330 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the car park and picnic area
16 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.16a and 2.3.16b	View east-southeast from junction of A388 with minor road to Littleham, River Torridge 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the A388 and the minor road
17 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.17a and 2.3.17b	View northwest from the Tarka Trail on bridge over the River Torridge, north of Pillmouth 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the Tarka Trail
18 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.18a and 2.3.18b	View north from the Tarka Trail on bridge over the River Torridge, north of Pillmouth 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the Tarka Trail
19 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.19a and 2.3.19b	View west from the Tarka Trail, on the eastern boundary of the Seven Oaks Nature Reserve 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the Tarka Trail
20 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.20a and 2.3.20b	View south from minor road, close to Woodville Farm 0 m from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using the minor road
Representative viewpoints towards the Converter Site		
21 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.21a to 2.3.21d Not taken forward – no potential for significant effects, due to distance.	View south from minor road between Fullingcott Cross and Huish Moor, north of the A39 4.5 km from the Converter Site	People using the minor road

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
22 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.22a to 2.3.22d Not taken forward – no potential for significant effects, due to distance and vegetation.	View southwest from minor road to the west of Fire Beacon Cross 5.3 km from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
23 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.23a to 2.3.23d	View south from PRoW Newton Tracey Footpath 4 to the south of Horwood 1.5 km from the Converter Site	People using the public footpath
24 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.24a to 2.3.24d	View southwest from PRoW Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross 2.8 km from the Converter Site	People using the public footpath
25 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.25a to 2.3.25d Viewpoint not taken forward to assessment as no potential for significant effects, due to intervening vegetation.	View southwest from Other Route with Public Access to the south of Higher Lovacott 2.4 km from the Converter Site	People using the Other Route with Public Access
26 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.26a to 2.3.26d	View west-southwest from PRoW Newton Tracey 56 to the east of Bartridge 2.1 km from the Converter Site	People using the PRoW
27 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.27a to 2.3.27d	View west from junction of minor road with B3232 at Alverdiscott 1.7 km from the Converter Site	People using the B3232 and minor road
28 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.28a to 2.3.28d Viewpoint not taken forward to assessment as no potential for significant effects, due to intervening vegetation.	View northwest from minor road to the west of Brownscomb Farm 790 m from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
29 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.29a to 2.3.29d	View west-northwest from minor road to the south of Alverdiscott 1.6 km from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
30 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.30a to 2.3.30d	View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End 3.4 m from the Converter Site	People using the B3232 and minor road

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
31 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.31a to 2.3.31d	View north-northwest from Other Route with Public Access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water 940 m from the Converter Site	People using the Other Route with Public Access
32 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.32a to 2.3.32d	View northwest from PRoW Footpath 1 to the east of Huntshaw 2.3 km from the Converter Site	People using the public footpath
33 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.33a to 2.3.33d	View north-northeast from minor road to the north of Gammaton Moor 325 m from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
34 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.34a to 2.3.34d	View south from minor road between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Barton 8 m from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
35 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.35a to 2.3.35d	View south from minor road to the east of Webbery Cross 460 m from the Converter Site	People using the minor road
36 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.36a to 2.3.36d	View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott 3.2 km from the Converter Site	People using the public footpath and minor road
37 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.37a to 223.37d	View north-northwest from PRoW Huntshaw Footpath 4 south of Huntshaw Water 1.7 k m from the Converter Site	People using the public footpath
38 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.38a to 8.3.38d	View north-northwest from field gate on Other Route with Public Access to the west of Delve's Grave 3.3 km from the Converter Site	People using the Other Route with Public Access
39 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.39a to 2.3.39d Viewpoint not taken forward to assessment as no potential for significant effects, due to distance from Converter Site.	View southwest from Codden Beacon, Codden Hill 9.0 km from the Converter Site	People using public footpath and accessing the beacon and monument
40 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.40a to 2.3.40d	View east from minor road at Rickard's Down, within the North Devon Coast NL. 7.5 km from the Converter Site	People using minor road
41	View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh 5.6 km from the Converter Site	People using the A388

Representative viewpoint reference	Description	Receptor
Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.41a to 2.3.41b		
42 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.42a to 2.3.42b	View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road 2.6 km from the Converter Site	People using minor road
43 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.43a to 2.3.43b	View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh 1.8 km from the Converter Site	People using track
44 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.44a to 2.3.44b Viewpoint not taken forward to assessment as no potential for significant effects, due to distance from Converter Site and intervening topography.	View south from public footpath, east of Limekiln Lane 9.9 km from the Converter Site	People using footpath
45 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.45a to 2.3.45b Viewpoint not taken forward to assessment as no potential for significant effects, due to distance from Converter Site and intervening topography.	View south from Eastcombe Lane, Heanton Punchardon 9.8 km from the Converter Site	People using minor road
46 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.46a to 2.3.46b	View southwest from minor road to the southwest of Harracott 5.5 km from the Converter Site	People using minor road
47 Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figures 2.3.47a to 2.3.47b	View southwest from minor road, to the east of Newton Tracey 3 km from the Converter Site	People using minor road

Future Baseline Conditions

Future Landscape and Seascape Character and Visual Baseline

2.7.74 Landscape and adjacent seascapes are constantly evolving. Evolution is an intrinsic attribute of landscapes which are in constant flux. The forces driving landscape and seascape change are both human and natural, predominantly the former within the LSVIA study area. Building and infrastructure development, intensive agriculture and minerals exploitation is changing the

character of both urban and rural landscapes. Climate change, driven by human activity, has the potential to alter vegetation patterns and landscape character in the longer term, although to what extent and over what timeframe is a matter of conjecture.

2.7.75 Volume 4, Chapter 1: Climate Change of the ES, presents an assessment of predicted changes in the climate relating to the LSVIA study area between 2040 and 2069 as well as 2070 and 2099 including those resulting from extreme weather events of heat, cold, rainfall, drought and wind. It is predicted that mean temperatures will increase, winter precipitation will increase; and summer precipitation will decrease. Overall, the frequency of hot days, dry spells and heavy rainfall is predicted to increase.

2.7.76 The current landscape and seascape character baseline situation is described in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES. The climate change predictions recorded in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Climate Change of the ES, are unlikely to be sufficient to lead to an appreciable change in the baseline vegetation and character within the LSVIA study area, although the types of crops grown might change and the areas grazed may decrease, i.e., a change in farming practices. The underlying landscape and seascape characteristics are predicted to remain broadly constant for the period assessed in Volume 4, Chapter 1: Climate Change of the ES. Consequently, excluding building/infrastructure development, the future landscape and seascape character baseline, and the related visual baseline, would be essentially the same as the current baseline situation summarised above in this LSVIA and presented in more detail in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Seascape and Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

2.7.77 Regarding future building/infrastructure development, it is not possible to accurately predict future change. The CEA, detailed in **section 2.13** of this chapter, includes existing energy infrastructure (the cumulative baseline) and proposed energy infrastructure. It also identifies other relevant existing infrastructure projects (part of the cumulative baseline) and proposed major development projects for the LSVIA study area for the immediate future. In the light of the climate emergency and related government policy/legislation, an intensification of energy-related development within the LSVIA study area is likely in the future.

2.8 Mitigation Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development

2.8.1 For the purposes of the EIA process, the term *'measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development'* is used to include the following types of mitigation measures (adapted from IEMA, 2016). These measures are set out in Volume 1, Appendix 3.1: Commitments Register of the ES.

- Embedded mitigation. This includes the following:
  - Primary (inherent) mitigation - measures included as part of the Proposed Development design. IEMA describes these as *"modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase that are an inherent part of the project and do not require additional action to be taken"*. This includes modifications arising through the iterative design process. These measures would be secured through the consent itself through the description of the project and the

parameters secured in the DCO and/or marine licences. For example, a reduction in footprint or height.

  - Tertiary (inexorable) mitigation. IEMA describes these as "*actions that would occur with or without input from the EIA feeding into the design process. These include actions that will be undertaken to meet other existing legislative requirements, or actions that are considered to be standard practices used to manage commonly occurring environmental effects"*. It may be helpful to secure such measures through a Construction Environmental Management Plan or similar.

- Secondary (foreseeable) mitigation. IEMA describes these as "*actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome"*. These include measures required to reduce the significance of environmental effects (such as lighting limits) and may be secured through environmental management plans.

2.8.2 In addition, where relevant, measures have been identified that may result in enhancement of environmental conditions. Such measures are clearly identified within Volume 1, Appendix 3.1: Commitments Register of the ES. The measures relevant to this chapter are summarised in **Table 2.18**.

2.8.3 Embedded measures that would form part of the final design (and/or are established legislative requirements/good practice) have been taken into account as part of the initial assessment presented in **section 2.10** to **2.12** below (i.e., the initial determination of impact magnitude and significance of effects assumes implementation of these measures). This ensures that the measures to which the Applicant is committed are taken into account in the assessment of effects.

2.8.4 Where an assessment identifies likely significant adverse effects, further or secondary mitigation measures may be applied. These are measures that could further prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset these effects. They are defined by IEMA as actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome and may be imposed as part of the planning consent, or through inclusion in the ES (referred to as secondary mitigation measures in IEMA, 2016). For further or secondary measures both pre-mitigation and residual effects are presented.

Table 2.18: Mitigation measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development

Commitment Number	Measure Adopted	How the Measure Will be Secured
Embedded Measures		
ONS03	The Onshore HVDC Cables and HVAC Cables will be completely buried underground for the entire length. Joint bays will be completely buried, with the land above reinstated. A maintenance cover will be provided on the surface for link boxes for access during the operation and maintenance phase.	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (Management plans)
ONS01	The site selection and route refinement process for the Proposed Development has considered the locations of statutory and non-statutory designated sites, recreational resources and special category land, which	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (Management plans)

Commitment Number	Measure Adopted	How the Measure Will be Secured
	have been directly avoided, where reasonably practicable. Where this has not been possible, the design of the Proposed Development includes measures to minimise impacts, such as the use of trenchless construction techniques, for example, at the Landfall and to cross the River Torridge. Where reasonably practicable, protected and unprotected areas of woodland, mature and protected trees (i.e. veteran trees), as well as other ecologically sensitive habitats have and will be avoided.	
ONS15	The design of the proposed Converter Site would include cut and fill earthworks to provide a suitable development platform for the converter stations whilst utilising the local topography to integrate the buildings in the landscape. Additional visual screening in the form of constructed earth bunds and planting would further reduce the landscape and visual impact of the converter stations. The design of the landscaping would be detailed and stakeholders feedback incorporated as far as reasonably practicable.	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (Management plans)
ONS17	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10). An LEMP(s) would be developed in accordance with the Outline LEMP. It would include as far as reasonably practicable the following: • A series of pre-commencement ecological surveys, to understand conditions prior to construction. • Requirements and management measures relating to ecology and conservation. • Methodologies required for the removal, reinstatement and enhancement of hedgerows and other habitats. • Methods required to prevent disturbance to or to comply with protected species licensing • Details and role specifications for Ecological Clerks of Works, including duties, responsibilities and reporting structure. • Details regarding the use of native and locally appropriate plant species around the converter stations and in replacement hedgerows along the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. • Identification of areas where it may be possible to achieve advance planting.	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 6 (Implementation and Maintenance of landscaping)

Commitment Number	Measure Adopted	How the Measure Will be Secured
	Where practical, landscape mitigation planting will be established as early as reasonably practicable in the construction phase. • Details of proposed landscape planting at the Converter Site to assist with softening and screening the buildings. • Details of management and maintenance of planting scheme.	
ONS19	The design of the Converter Site would be driven by the Design Principles Document (document reference 7.4), which would include principles to follow in the detailed design stages. This would include the following: • Scale, massing and layout of the converter buildings; • Use of appropriate materials/colours/finishes for the façades of the converter buildings; and • Use of landscape screening and planting in-keeping with local landscape character. • The detailed design of the converter buildings would be developed in consultation with the relevant planning authorities and their feedback incorporated as far as reasonably practicable .	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 4(2) (detailed design approval)
ONS38	Post-construction, the working area would be reinstated to pre-existing condition as far as reasonably practicable, in line with the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (PB13298), Institute of Quarrying (IQ) Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings (IQ, 2021) and British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) Working with Soil Guidance Note on Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction (BSSS, 2022). All haul roads, temporary construction compounds and temporary fencing would be removed, field drainage and/or irrigation would be reinstated in consultation with landowners, and the land would be reinstated to its original condition, as far as reasonably practicable. Where practicable, consideration would be given to early restoration of sections of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor.	DCO Schedule 2, Requirement 7 (Management plans)

2.8.5 The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and Design Principles Document (document reference 7.4) set out the landscape measures, amongst other matters, that will be used to integrate the Proposed Development into the existing landscape and mitigate the landscape and visual effects. A final

LEMP(s) and the Design Principles would be secured as a Requirement of the DCO. In summary the measures include the following.

- Following the landscape management guidelines for the LCT/LCA – broadly to maintain the existing character, conserve the vegetation that is present, increase broadleaved woodlands and restore/maintain hedgerows and hedgebanks – as far as possible.
- Earth-modelling surrounding the Converter Site where space allows.
  - This will involve raising the levels of the land to provide screening of the majority of the largest buildings, particularly focused on viewpoints from the north and west. Also part screening of the lower structures to the east and south, such as the perimeter fence, from the closest receptors.
  - The earth-modelling will also provide higher land on which to plant the woodland proposed for the land surrounding the Converter Site. When finalised, the proposed earth-modelling will not form a prominent skyline feature and will blend in with the topographical features of the existing site context.
- Extend areas of existing woodland in the adjacent farmland, connecting habitats with hedgerows and additional areas of woodland. This will provide further screening of some elements of the Converter Site and link smaller areas of woodland together.
- If possible, restore historic hedgerows where practicable, to restore the structure of the landscape.
- Where the cable is trenched and crosses a hedgerow, the hedgerow would be replanted without tree species/with shallow-rooted species. If hedgerow trees cannot be avoided and are removed, they will be replaced in the replanted hedgerow, as close to their original location as possible.
- Where the cable is trenched and crosses a Devon hedgebank, the hedgebank will be replaced once the cables have been installed.
- Create wildflower meadows in areas that cannot be used for woodland creation.
- Use of locally native seed/plants grown from locally native seed.
- Develop a long-term LEMP(s) based on the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).
- Working with the architects, determine the most appropriate colour treatment to be set out within the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4).

2.8.6 At winter Year 1 (the first planting season after the construction of the Proposed Development) the planting proposed in **Table 2.18** and adopted as part of the Proposed Development would not have had time to fully mitigate impacts of the constructed infrastructure. Any advance planting, away from the main construction areas (e.g., on the earth-modelling in the northern fields, as well as any strengthening and enhancing of field boundaries) could take place before construction is complete and would have had some time to establish by Year 1. However, the assessment has been undertaken on the basis that no advance planting has been implemented. Any earth-modelling, closer to the Converter Site would have an immediate effect of softening the impact of any built structures. By Year 15 the planting undertaken after the completion of the

Converter Site and any ancillary structures (e.g., access roads) will have had time to establish. The impact of such structures will be reduced further as a result of the softening effect of the maturing vegetation.

2.8.7 It is anticipated that closer to decommissioning a restoration plan would be agreed. This would most likely include the retention of established woodland planted as part of the mitigation proposals.

2.9 Key Parameters for Assessment

Maximum Design Scenario

2.9.1 The maximum design scenarios identified in **Table 2.19** have been selected as those having the potential to result in the greatest effect on an identified receptor or receptor group. These scenarios have been selected from the information provided in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the ES. Effects of greater adverse significance are not predicted to arise should any other development scenario, based on details within the Project Design Envelope (e.g. different infrastructure layout), to that assessed here be taken forward in the final design. Therefore, this comprises a conservative assessment of a worst-case scenario.

Table 2.19: Maximum design scenario considered for the assessment of potential impacts

Potential Impact	Phase[1]			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor					
The LSVIA considers the likely significant impacts of the Proposed Development on landscape and seascape character as well as views and visual amenity within the LSVIA study area, resulting from its construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning	✓	×	×	**Construction phase: Landfall/Offshore Cable Corridor** • Mermaid's Pool to Rowden Gut crossed by horizontal directional drill (HDD) (or other trenchless crossing technique). • Landfall HDD compound (1 no. 10,000 m^2). • The maximum number of transition joint bays would be two. • Duration of Landfall installation would be 18 months initially, with a further six months following a gap in works. **Construction phase of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor** • Secondary construction compound (A39 compound) (1 no., 48,000 m^2 for 36 months). • HDD compounds (12 no., 10,000 m^2 for 36 months/12 months per HDD run concurrently, includes 1 no. HDD compounds at Landfall). • Length of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (14.5 km) • Maximum number of HVDC Cables (4 no.). • Maximum number of fibre-optic cables (6 no.) • Maximum number of cable trenches (2 no.) • Joint bays (34 no.): Width 20 m; length 5 m; depth 1.4 m. Area of joint bay below ground 100 m^2. Nominal distance between joint bays 800 to 1,100 m. • Link boxes (34 no.): Width 1.5 m; length 1.5 m; depth 1.4 m. Nominal distance between link boxes 800 to 1,100 m. Manhole covers to access link boxes. **Operation and Maintenance phase of the Landfall** • Link boxes would include manhole covers. **Operation and Maintenance phase of HVDC Cable Corridor** • Link boxes would include manhole covers.	Greatest number of structures and maximum length of cables resulting in greatest extent of impact on the following landscape and seascape character areas/designated landscapes: • North Devon Biosphere Reserve; • North Devon Coast NL; • NCA 149: The Culm; • North Devon SCA; • County Landscape Character Areas, and • North Devon and Torridge District LCTs. Greatest number of structures and maximum length of cables resulting in greatest extent of impact on views and visual amenity.

Potential Impact	Phase[1]			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
				• Above ground markers at road crossings etc.	
				Decommissioning phase of the Landfall • Cable ducts will remain *in situ*.	
				Decommissioning phase of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor • Cable ducts will remain *in situ*.	
Onshore Converter Stations (Bipole 1 and Bipole 2) and HVAC Cable Corridor					
The LSVIA considers the likely significant impacts of the Proposed Development on landscape character as well as views and visual amenity within the 10 km buffer study area from the converter stations resulting from their construction, operations and maintenance and decommissioning	✓	✓	✓	**Construction phase at Converter Site** • Main construction compound (Gammaton Road) area (63,000 m^2, for 72 months). • Converter Site compound area (20,000 m^2, for 72 months) includes working and laydown area (excludes permanent converter stations footprints). • Duration of construction, 72 months. • Lighting: During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, task specific lighting would be used to reduce the illumination of areas beyond the construction areas. In addition, to prevent light spill, light shield guards would be used.	Greatest number of structures and maximum length of cables resulting in greatest extent of impact on the following landscape character areas/designated landscapes: • North Devon Biosphere Reserve, • North Devon Coast NL, • NCA 149: The Culm, • County Landscape Character Areas, and • North Devon and Torridge District LCTs, Greatest number of structures and maximum length of cables resulting in greatest extent of impact on views and visual amenity.
				Construction phase of HVAC Cables • Length of HVAC Cable Corridors (1.2 km) • Number of HVAC Cables (12 no.) • Number of cable trenches (4 no.) • Temporary construction corridor width (65 m, 32.5 m for each bipole)	
				Operation and Maintenance phase of Converter Site • Number of converter stations (2 no.) • Height of valve hall and reactor building (26 m) from the ground floor level of the platforms • Platforms set at maximum 127.00m AOD	

Potential Impact	Phase[1]			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
				• Limit of deviation for location of valve hall and reactor building set as per Converter Site Parameter Plan (document ref: 2.7) • Combined footprint of converter platforms, including all buildings (130,000 m^2) • Height of lightning protection (30 m) from the ground floor level of the buildings • Each converter station would comprise of – control building; – harmonic filter; – AC switch yard; – transformers; – valve hall and reactor building; and – DC switch yard. • Permanent footprint of Converter Site (combined) (395,000 m^2), including converter buildings, landscape bunding, planting and drainage. • Site Access: The Converter Site access would be created from the minor road running north south between Webbery Cross and Gammaton Cross. • The Proposed Development would also include a replacement NGET access road that would run along the north of the Converter Site boundary. • There would be access for traffic required during normal operation, as the proposed Converter Site are likely to be operated 24/7 by staff on-site through shifts. The Converter Site is anticipated to provide approximately 30 full time-equivalent jobs, with up to 15 staff on-site at any one time in the day, reducing to approximately five overnight. • Security fencing: To *Securing critical national infrastructure: an introduction to UK capability* (UK Defence and Security Exports and Department for Business and Trade, 2023) and Guidance set out by the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA, 2024). Additionally, both converter stations	

Potential Impact	Phase[1]			Maximum Design Scenario	Justification
	C	O	D		
				would be separated via a second layer of security fencing as complete electrical separation of each bipole would be required. • Lighting: The security fence would be monitored with security cameras and lighting. Operational lighting would be designed to avoid illumination of areas beyond the operational site. Operational outdoor lighting at the Converter Site boundaries would normally be restricted to motion-activated security lighting. • Operational access for the Converter Site will be via the site access control building to ensure site security.	
				Operation and Maintenance phase of HVAC Cables • Permanent cable corridor width (30 m, 15 m for each bipole)	
				Decommissioning phase of Converter Site • Lighting: During the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, task-specific lighting would be used to reduce the illumination of areas beyond the construction areas. In addition, to prevent light spill, light shield guards would be used.	
				Decommissioning phase of HVAC Cables • Cable ducts will remain *in situ*.	

[1] C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

Highways Improvements and Site Access

2.9.2 The access strategy for the Proposed Development comprises both temporary and permanent alterations to roads. During construction, traffic would be routed to one of five main temporary compounds accessed directly from the highway each of which will require new or improved junctions. Compound junctions have been designed to accommodate access for regular construction HGVs as well as Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs).

2.9.3 Arrivals at compounds will be directed along off-road haul routes to the work site thereby relieving construction traffic from Devon lanes. This also applies to the Converter Site where arrivals at the Gammaton Road compound (see below) will be directed to a smaller compound at the Converter Site via an off-road route.

2.9.4 The Converter Site also requires a permanent access which will be subject to detailed design. The access road will be designed permit two-way movement of HGV deliveries to the site. This access will be retained post-construction as an operational access for the converter stations, with access gates and a control access building in place to control access to the Converter Site. During operation, contingency is required for the possible replacement of large components delivered as AILs such as a transformer. Therefore, both the Converter Site access junction and the roads approaching it from the south will be designed to facilitate this.

2.9.5 The following improvements are proposed on both the public highway and on private land as part of the Proposed Development, noting that the improvements are subject to further detailed design. As such all potential improvements are included below and may be refined through detailed design.

- Cornborough Sewage Treatment Works access road: expanded junction and widened private track to provide access to the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor north of Kenwith Stream HDD and the Landfall HDD compound.
- A39 West: A compound access will be created off the unnamed road to Abbotsham approximately 120 m west of the A39 Abbotsham Cross roundabout. This access will be used as the main logistics base for the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor as well as the HDD under the A39 and the haul road leading to the south side of Kenwith Stream HDD.
- A39 East: A site access will be created on the unnamed road towards Littleham approximately 165 m south of Clovelly Road. This access will be used for all HVDC works west of West Ashridge HDD.
- A386: this includes the improvement of an existing junction along the A386 with an unnamed road towards Littleham to provide access to the River Torridge horizontal directional drilling (HDD) compound and the haul road along the onshore HVDC cable route between the River Torridge and West Ashridge HDDs.
- Gammaton Road Compound: a new access will be created approximately 70 m east of Tennacott Lane. Gammaton Road compound will be used to serve the Converter Site as well as HVDC cable construction east of the River Torridge HDD.
- Road improvement works at Gammaton Moor, including the following.

  - Temporary symmetrical widening of Gammaton Road (south side) between Manteo Way and the Gammaton Road compound access enable full two-way movement of construction vehicles.
  - Permanent widening pinch points along Gammaton Road in selective locations (south side only) to facilitate the movement of AILs during operation.
  - Reserved rights to install a temporary junction west of Gammaton Moor Crossroads and a section of private temporary track connecting Gammaton Road with the unnamed road to the Converter Site. The private track would only be used by AILs destined for the Converter Site and as such will be gated and locked during use. The land would be fully restored after use.
  - Permanent asymmetric widening of the unnamed road north of Gammaton Crossroads towards the Converter Site access to enable full two-way running during operation.
- Temporary alterations to the highway verge and street furniture to allow the passage of AILs as follows.
  - Transformer AIL route: between Appledore Newquay Dock and the Gammaton Road compound including oversail of private land on Hubbastone Road and Wooda Road and removal of street furniture on the A386 Churchill Road and Manteo Way.
  - Cable drum AIL routes.
    - Route 1 towards the Cornborough STW access point.
    - Route 2 towards the A39 West compound.
    - Route 2a towards the A39 East compound.
    - Route 3 towards the A386 compound.
    - Route 4 towards the Gammaton Road compound.

2.9.6 The proposed improvements to the local highway network have been considered within the EIA process and associated AIL movements have been assessed in Volume 2, Chapter 5: Traffic and Transport of the ES, in accordance with established methodology and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

2.9.7 The proposed surface access improvements are presented in Volume 1, Figure 3.6: Highways Improvements of the ES.

2.10 Assessment of Construction Effects

2.10.1 The impacts of the construction of the Proposed Development have been assessed. The potential impacts arising from the construction phase of the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 2.19,** along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed. Mitigation that forms part of the Proposed Development has been detailed in **Table 2.18**.

2.10.2 A description of the potential effect on receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Assessment of Construction Effects - Landscape and Seascape Character

2.10.3 The effects of the construction of the Proposed Development on the special features/special qualities of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve and the North Devon Coast NL are considered below. The Landfall and a short section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor cross the buffer zone of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, which is contiguous with the boundary of the North Devon Coast National Landscape in this location. The Converter Site, highways improvements and the majority of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor lie inside the Biosphere Transition Zone (described at **paragraphs 2.7.5** and **2.7.6**, above) but not within the North Devon Coast National Landscape. None of the Proposed Development lies within the core area of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve.

North Devon Biosphere Reserve (Non-statutory Designation)

2.10.4 The special features of the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve, relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows";*
- *"Dramatic coastal landscapes of North Devon Coast National Landscape"*;
- *"Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens"; and*
- *"High level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area".*

Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Highways Improvements and Converter Site

2.10.5 The construction work at the Landfall and along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor passes through the North Devon Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone and Transition Zone. The highways improvements lie partly in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve Buffer Zone, but within the Transition Zone for the most part. The Converter Site lies within the Transition Zone.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.6 The special features of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve are of high susceptibility and high value. The overall sensitivity of the special features is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.7 The direct impacts of the construction at the Landfall, along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, the highways improvements and at the Converter Site on the special features within the Buffer Zone and Transition Zone of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve varies.

- *"Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows".* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor does not cross any Culm grasslands and the Converter Site is not located on Culm grassland. There would be **no change** on this aspect of the special feature. In general, surface trenching would be used to cross through hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks. During the construction phase there would be a direct **medium** impact locally from the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, the construction compounds, the highways improvements and at the Converter Site.
- *"Dramatic coastal landscapes of North Devon Coast NL".* The construction works at the Converter Site would not have any impact on this special feature. There would be a temporary visual impact as the construction works at the Landfall take place from a barge located in the sea and the works at the landward side, at the transition joint bays and construction compounds, would also be visible. The impacts on views of the landscape would be of small geographical extent, direct, medium-term and temporary. The impact would be **small**. There would be no direct effects on the coastline, as the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross it using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The impact on the coastal landscape itself would be **small**.
- *"Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens"*. Littleham Wood, which is the closest example, being wet and having some lichens, would not be affected, as the cables would be routed around the wood. All other examples of such woodlands are similarly avoided. The magnitude of impact on this special feature would be **no change**.
- *"High level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area".* There would be a temporary impact on tranquillity as the construction works at the Landfall take place from the barge located in the sea and the works at the landward side, at the transition joint bays and construction compounds would also be visible. The direct impact on tranquillity of the wider Biosphere Transition Zone would be of medium geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on tranquillity would be **medium**. There will be some work undertaken in hours of darkness, as the working hours sought, are from 7am to 7pm throughout the year. There will also be certain tasks that will require 24 hour continuous work, such as an HDD and potentially lights on the marine vessels, the impact on nocturnal darkness during the construction phase would vary between **negligible** and **medium**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.8 The significance of effects for the four special features relevant to this assessment are as follows.

- *"Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows".* The magnitude of impact to the Culm grasslands would be no change and the sensitivity of the receptors would be high, therefore the significance of effects is **none**. The magnitude of impact to the hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks would be medium and the sensitivity of the receptors would be high therefore a **moderate adverse**, which is locally significant, but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve.
- *"Dramatic coastal landscapes of North Devon Coast NL":* The magnitude of the impact on the views of the coastal landscape would be small and the

sensitivity would be high therefore the significance of the temporary effect on this aspect of the special feature is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant. The impact on the fabric of the coastal landscape itself would be no change, the temporary effect on this high sensitivity receptor is judged to be **none**.

- *"Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens".* There would be no change to a high sensitivity receptor therefore the significance of effects would be **none**.
- *"High level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area".* The temporary impact on tranquillity, a high sensitivity resource is medium, the temporary effect is judged to be **major adverse**, which is locally significant, but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve. The impact magnitude on nocturnal darkness would be negligible to medium. It is judged that this high sensitivity landscape resource would experience a temporary **negligible adverse** effect locally which is not significant, with occasional **moderate adverse** and significant local effects during 24-hour operations.

Overall effects during construction for North Devon Biosphere Reserve

2.10.9 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **negligible to medium**.

2.10.10 The temporary, direct effects on the immediate character of the North Devon Biosphere would be **moderate adverse**, which is significant during the day and locally **major adverse** at night for short-term, task-related periods of time (24-hour tasks). The introduction of construction features would be incongruous to the overall character of the area. These effects would be medium-term and local in geographic extent.

2.10.11 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve would be **negligible adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.12 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) and LEMP (document reference 7.10).

North Devon Coast National Landscape

2.10.13 The special qualities, of the North Devon Coast NL, relevant to this assessment, are:

- *"Diversity of scenery contained within a small area, including some of the finest cliff scenery in the country (as mentioned at designation)";*
- *"Panoramic seascape, with seaward views to Lundy within the Atlantic Ocean, across the Bristol Channel to Wales and along the coastline. Views are of a landscape and seascape devoid of human influence";*
- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas";*

- *"Wild coastal scenery. In the north, hogsback cliffs of varying heights; in the south high, rugged cliffs, dramatic rock formations, exposed headlands, wavecut platforms and rocky coves";*
- *"A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness where the coast road is located away from the coastline"; and*
- *"Dark night skies".*

Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Highways Improvements

2.10.14 The construction work at the Landfall and a short section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor west of the A39 would pass through the North Devon Coast NL. A small area of highways improvements also lies within the NL. The Converter Site lies 6.4 km to the east of the North Devon Coast NL and the majority of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor lies east of the A39 and therefore is also outwith the NL. As such, the construction works would not significantly affect its setting or the special qualities listed in **paragraph 2.10.7**.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.15 The special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL are of high susceptibility and high value. The overall sensitivity of the special qualities is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.16 The direct impacts of the construction of the Landfall and part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of compounds) on the special qualities of the North Devon Coast NL varies.

- *"Diversity of scenery contained within a small area, including some of the finest cliff scenery in the country (as mentioned at designation)":* No fabric of the coastal landscape would be impacted, as the coastal area would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be a temporary impact on coastal views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from a barge located in the sea. The direct impact on coastal views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on diversity of scenery would be **negligible**.
- *"Panoramic seascape, with seaward views to Lundy within the Atlantic Ocean, across the Bristol Channel to Wales and along the coastline. Views are of a landscape and seascape devoid of human influence":* There would be a temporary impact on seaward views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from a barge located in the sea. The direct impact on coastal views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on panoramic seaward views would be **negligible**.
- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas":* There would be a temporary impact of views from elevated land towards the Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and a short section of highways improvements within the North Devon Coast NL. The direct impact on inland views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on the views of the landscape would be **small**.

- *"Wild coastal scenery. In the north, hogsback cliffs of varying heights; in the south high, rugged cliffs, dramatic rock formations, exposed headlands, wavecut platforms and rocky coves":* No fabric of the coast would be impacted, as the coastal area would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be a temporary impact on coastal views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from the barge located in the sea. The direct impact on coastal views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on wild coastal scenery would be **negligible**.
- *"A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness where the coast road is located away from the coastline":* There would be a temporary impact on tranquillity as the construction works at the Landfall take place from a barge located in the sea and the works at the landward side, at the transition joint bays and construction compounds would also be visible. The direct impact on tranquillity would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on tranquillity would be **small**
- *"Dark night skies":* There will be some work undertaken in hours of darkness, as the working hours sought, are from 7am to 7pm throughout the year. There will also be certain tasks that will require 24-hour continuous work, such as an HDD and potentially lights on the marine vessels, the impact on nocturnal darkness during the construction phase would vary between **negligible** and **medium**. However, for the task-related 24-hour operations the impact at night would be locally **large**, but short-term.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.17 The significance of effects for the special qualities relevant to this assessment are as follows.

- *"Diversity of scenery contained within a small area, including some of the finest cliff scenery in the country (as mentioned at designation)":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a negligible magnitude of impact. The temporary effect would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Panoramic seascape, with seaward views to Lundy within the Atlantic Ocean, across the Bristol Channel to Wales and along the coastline. Views are of a landscape and seascape devoid of human influence":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a negligible magnitude of impact. The temporary effect would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a small impact. The temporary effect would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Wild coastal scenery. In the north, hogsback cliffs of varying heights; in the south high, rugged cliffs, dramatic rock formations, exposed headlands, wavecut platforms and rocky coves":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a negligible impact. The temporary effect would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness where the coast road is located away from the coastline":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a small impact. The temporary effect would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

- *"Dark night skies":* This high sensitivity resource would experience negligible to medium impact during the day, but for the 24-hour task-related operations at night, would be large. The temporary effect would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant to **moderate adverse**, which would be significant, during daylight hours, with the short-term, task-related 24-hour operations, such as the HDD having a **major adverse** effect at night.

Overall effects during construction for North Devon Coast National Landscape

2.10.18 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **negligible** to **medium**.

2.10.19 The temporary, direct effects on the immediate character of the North Devon Coast NL would be **negligible** to **minor adverse** during the day (and not significant) due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. Temporary direct effects up to **major adverse** (significant) may be experienced during the hours of darkness, during the 24-hour operations T

2.10.20 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the North Devon Coast NL would be **minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the NL.

Future Monitoring

2.10.21 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) and Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

National Character Area

Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Highways Improvements and Converter Site

2.10.22 The Proposed Development is located wholly within NCA 149: The Culm (Volume, 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.2.2). The key characteristics are set out within the same Appendix. The NCA's key characteristics relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Rolling, open plateaux"…"wide views across a remote landscape";*
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea, and where associated with estates";*
- *"mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks"; and*
- *"spectacular coastline of high cliffs and estuarine features, nationally important geological features, and narrow wooded combes".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.23 The key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the Devon hedgebanks and the coastline of high cliffs etc., which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.24 The direct impacts of the Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, highways improvements and Converter Site on the key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm varies.

- *"Rolling, open plateaux"…"wide views across a remote landscape":* The Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, highways improvements and the Converter Site would be located in this area of the NCA. There would be a temporary impact of views from elevated land towards the Converter Site and the eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of compounds). The direct impact on views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on the views of the landscape would be **small**.
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea":* The construction works at the Landfall, along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and at the Converter Site would not remove woodlands, as woodlands would be avoided, or crossed using trenchless techniques. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.
- *"Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be surface trenching because of the need for a continuous haul road in any event. Where hedgerows are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they would be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The surface trenching method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Spectacular coastline of high cliffs and estuarine features, nationally important geological features, and narrow wooded combes":* The area of the Landfall and western part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor contain some of these key characteristics. There would be no impact on the landscape elements themselves at the coastline because the beach will be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD and woodland areas would be avoided too. Views of the construction works within this landscape would be local in extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact is **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.25 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm, are as follows.

- *"Rolling, open plateaux"…"wide views across a remote landscape":* There would be a small impact on this medium sensitivity landscape resource. The temporary effects are judged to be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea":* There would be no change to this medium sensitivity landscape receptor. The significance of effects is **none**.
- *"Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks":* There is a medium impact experienced by the hedgebanks, which are high sensitivity landscape receptors. The temporary effects are judged to be **moderate adverse**, which are locally significant, but more widely not significant.
- *"Spectacular coastline of high cliffs and estuarine features, nationally important geological features, and narrow wooded combes":* There would be a small impact experienced by this high sensitivity landscape resource. The temporary effects are judged to be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.

Overall effects during construction for NCA 149: The Culm

2.10.26 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium** to **high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **small to medium**.

2.10.27 The temporary, direct effects on the immediate character of the NCA 149: The Culm would be **minor to moderate**, which are not significant to significant during the day and potentially at night. The introduction of construction features would be incongruous to the overall character of the area. However, these effects would be medium-term .

2.10.28 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the NCA 149: The Culm would be **negligible adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the NCA.

Future Monitoring

2.10.29 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) and LEMP (document reference 7.10).

County Landscape Character Areas

Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Highways Improvements and Converter Site

2.10.30 The Proposed Development is located within Devon LCA Bideford Bay Coast, Torridge Valley and High Culm Ridges (Volume, 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report, Figure 2.2.3). The key characteristics for the LCAs are set out within the same Appendix.

2.10.31 The Landfall and western part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the proposed highways improvements lie within the Bideford Bay Coast LCA. The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross through all three LCAs. The extent

of works in the Torridge Valley LCA is mainly concerned with the River Torridge HDD. The Converter Site and Gammaton Road compound are located in the High Culm Ridges LCA.

2.10.32 A summary of the overall significance of effect during construction is provided in each character assessment with respects to direct impacts on landscape character of the Proposed Development and the wider indirect impacts on the wider character area.

Bideford Bay Coast LCA

2.10.33 The key characteristics of the Bideford Bay Coast LCA relevant to this assessment are:

- *"a relatively sheltered bay, with gentler, more rounded coastal scenery than elsewhere along the coast";*
- *"extensive coastal oak woodlands, containing important lichens, ferns and ground flora within the sheltered combes; bluebells a dominant feature in spring";*
- *"southern and eastern areas dominated by agriculture with rolling, irregularly-shaped pastoral and arable fields extending to the cliff tops";*
- *"fields divided by hedgerows and banks with wind-sculpted hedgerow trees; field boundaries less frequent in the north-east around Abbotsham";*
- *"semi-natural habitats include road verges and species-rich hedgerows and hedgebanks";*
- *"historic railway linking Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore (1904-1917) through the Abbotsham cliff area, today forming part of the coastal path out of Westward Ho!";*
- *"sunken rural lanes with exceptionally high hedgebanks connecting villages, contrasting with the A39 which runs through the area";*
- *"attractive landscape with pleasing compositions of woodland, farmland and coastal scenery"; and*
- *"open seascapes, including views of Lundy Island and across Bideford Bay to the Taw-Torridge estuary".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.34 The key characteristics of Bideford Bay Coast LCA are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the species-rich Devon hedgebanks and extensive oak woodlands, as well as the coastline of high cliffs and the South West Coast Path which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.35 Landfall, the western part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor as far east as Hallsannery and some highways improvements are located in this LCA. The direct impacts of on the relevant key characteristics of the Bideford Bay Coast LCA varies:

- *"A relatively sheltered bay, with gentler, more rounded coastal scenery than elsewhere along the coast":* The construction work at the Landfall and the construction of the transition joint bays would be visible in a localised area of the coastal scene. There would be a temporary impact on coastal views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from the barge located in the sea. The direct impact on coastal views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact magnitude on coastal scenery would be **small**.
- *"Extensive coastal oak woodlands, containing important lichens, ferns and ground flora within the sheltered combes; bluebells a dominant feature in spring":* Littleham Wood, which is the closest example of coastal oak woodland, is not affected, as the cables will be routed around the wood. All other examples of such woodlands are avoided. The magnitude of impact on this special feature would be **no change**.
- *"Southern and eastern areas dominated by agriculture with rolling, irregularly shaped, pastoral and arable fields extending to the cliff tops":* The field pattern would not be changed during the construction phase. However, the field boundaries would be temporarily altered to allow trenched crossings. The direct impact on field patterns would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **small** magnitude.
- *"Fields divided by hedgerows and banks with wind-sculpted hedgerow trees; field boundaries less frequent in the north-east around Abbotsham":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they would be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Semi-natural habitats include road verges and species-rich hedgerows and hedgebanks":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they would be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Historic railway linking Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore (1904-1917) through the Abbotsham cliff area, today forming part of the coastal path out of Westward Ho!":* The route of the historic railway, now part of the South West Coast Path would not be affected during the construction works, as it would not be diverted or closed. The impact is therefore **negligible**.
- *"Sunken rural lanes with exceptionally high hedgebanks connecting villages, contrasting with the A39 which runs through the area":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgebank. Where a trenched method is used, the

direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.

- *"Attractive landscape with pleasing compositions of woodland, farmland and coastal scenery":* The construction works at the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would temporarily form part of the view. This impact would be local in geographic extent and medium-term. The impact would be **negligible**.
- *"Open seascapes, including views of Lundy Island and across Bideford Bay to the Taw-Torridge estuary":* The construction works at the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would not block the views of the open seascape or of the Torridge estuary. However, the works would temporarily form part of the view. This impact would be local in geographic extent and medium-term. The impact would be **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.36 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of the Bideford Bay Coast LCA, are as follows:

- *"A relatively sheltered bay, with gentler, more rounded coastal scenery than elsewhere along the coast":* This high sensitivity landscape characteristic would experience a small impact due to the construction works. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse** and not significant.
- *"Extensive coastal oak woodlands, containing important lichens, ferns and ground flora within the sheltered combes; bluebells a dominant feature in spring":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change. The effect would be **none**.
- *"Southern and eastern areas dominated by agriculture with rolling, irregularly-shaped pastoral and arable fields extending to the cliff tops":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Fields divided by hedgerows and banks with wind-sculpted hedgerow trees; field boundaries less frequent in the north-east around Abbotsham":* The field pattern is of medium sensitivity, the hedgebanks are of high sensitivity. The hedgebanks, where they would be crossed by trenched techniques would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse** and not significant, as only a very small proportion of the hedgerows within the LCA are affected.
- *"Semi-natural habitats include road verges and species-rich hedgerows and hedgebanks":* The hedgebanks are of high sensitivity, where they would be crossed by trenched techniques would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse** and significant, as while trenched techniques employed would minimise the disturbance to this landscape feature, the duration of the impact is medium-term.
- *"Historic railway linking Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore (1904-1917) through the Abbotsham cliff area, today forming part of the coastal path out of Westward Ho!":* The route of the historic railway, now part of the South West Coast Path, a characteristic of high sensitivity would not be affected during the construction works, as it would not be diverted or closed. The

impact is negligible. The significance of effect is **negligible adverse** and not significant.

- *"Sunken rural lanes with exceptionally high hedgebanks connecting villages, contrasting with the A39 which runs through the area":* Where a trenched method is used, there would be a **medium** impact on these high sensitivity features. The temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse** and significant, due to the direct nature on the feature.
- *"Attractive landscape with pleasing compositions of woodland, farmland and coastal scenery":* This medium sensitivity landscape characteristic would experience a negligible impact. The localised, temporary effect would be **negligible adverse,** which is not significant.
- *"Open seascapes, including views of Lundy Island and across Bideford Bay to the Taw-Torridge estuary":* The impact on this high sensitivity characteristic would be small. The localised temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant, as the views to Lundy and across Bideford Bay are not impeded, but the construction works would form part of wider views..

Overall effects during construction for Bideford Bay Coast LCA

2.10.37 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium to high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **negligible to medium**.

2.10.38 The direct effects on the immediate character of the coastal landscape would be **moderate adverse** and significant, during the day and night due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.39 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the **Bideford Bay Coast LCA** would be **minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.40 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) and LEMP (document reference 7.10).

Torridge Valley LCA

2.10.41 The key characteristics of the Torridge Valley LCA relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Main River Torridge deep and fast flowing, with a convoluted course and tightly meandering channel, with mud flats exposed at low tide";*
- *"Small tributary valley south of Bideford dominated by Jennetts Reservoir";*
- *"Valley sides well-clothed in deciduous woodland which dominates skylines; some conifer plantations, particularly in the middle and upper reaches of the main valley";*
- *"Valley floor generally used for pastoral agriculture, with a mixture of pastoral and arable agriculture on higher land";*

- *"Fields generally semi-regular in shape comprising a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and modern enclosures based on earlier medieval fields; mainly enclosed by hedgerows or hedgebanks, but some loss of field boundaries in arable areas";*
- *"Numerous historic features associated with the river, including weirs, mills, bridges, disused canal and railway line (now the 'Tarka Trail')"; and*
- *"Major roads and transport routes (e.g., A386 and the former Okehampton-Bideford railway line) generally follow the main valley floor, while upper reaches and tributary valleys have winding hedge-banked lanes with narrow stone bridges".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.42 The key characteristics of the Torridge Valley LCA are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the River Torridge and associated mud flats, the Tarka Trail, deciduous woodland, Devon hedgebanks and hedge-banked lanes which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.43 A short section of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses this LCA, for the most part in HDD. However, some surface trenching and two HDD compounds will be evident within this LCA as will a permanent alteration to the Littleham Road junction on the A386. The direct impacts on the relevant key characteristics of the Torridge Valley LCA varies:

- *"Main River Torridge deep and fast flowing, with a convoluted course and tightly meandering channel, with mud flats exposed at low tide":* There would be **no change** to this key characteristic, as the river would be crossed in a trenchless crossing, such as HDD.
- *"Small tributary valley south of Bideford dominated by Jennetts Reservoir":* There would be **no change** to this key characteristic, as the valley would be crossed using a trenchless crossing, such as HDD.
- *"Valley sides well-clothed in deciduous woodland which dominates skylines; some conifer plantations, particularly in the middle and upper reaches of the main valley":* All woodland would be avoided, due to routeing, or would be crossed using trenchless crossing, such as HDD. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.
- *"Valley floor generally used for pastoral agriculture, with a mixture of pastoral and arable agriculture on higher land":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and two HDD compounds would be located within fields above the valley floor and are considered in the characteristic below. However, the night-time effects from the 24 hour HDD, under the River Torridge on the character area would indirectly impact on this pastoral character. The impact on this key characteristic would be localised in geographical extent, small-scale and temporary. The direct impact would be **small**, the indirect night-time impact would be **large**, although it is task-specific and temporary
- *"Fields generally semi-regular in shape comprising a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and modern enclosures based on earlier medieval fields;*

mainly enclosed by hedgerows or hedgebanks, but some loss of field boundaries in arable areas": The field pattern would not be affected. However, where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched, which would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude. However, the construction compounds either side of the River Torridge will contain plant for trenchless crossing. This and the movement within them will be visible on the sloping fields. The bunds of topsoil will be placed to the side of the compounds closest to the river and will mitigate visibility of lower plant and movement of vehicles, thus mitigating to some extent the impact on the wider character of the area. However, the night-time effects from the 24 hour HDD, under the River Torridge on the character area would directly impact on these fields and the local change in this characteristic will be **large**. For the impact of the permanent road realignment at the Littleham Road junction with the A386, see the 'Major roads and transport routes...' below).

- *"Numerous historic features associated with the river, including weirs, mills, bridges, disused canal and railway line (now the 'Tarka Trail')":* There would be **no change** to the historic features associated with the river. The Tarka Trail would remain open throughout the construction phase.
- *"Major roads and transport routes (e.g., A386 and the former Okehampton-Bideford railway line) generally follow the main valley floor, while upper reaches and tributary valleys have winding hedge-banked lanes with narrow stone bridges":* The major roads and transport routes would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. The impact on roads crossed by trenchless techniques will be temporary and negligible. However, the Littleham Road junction with the A386 will be altered to provide a permanent safety improvement and temporary access to the HDD compound. Removal of part of the hedgebank and some mature trees at the Littleham Road junction improvements would be of local geographical extent, long term and permanent, with an overall impact of **large** magnitude. Where minor roads and lanes with high hedgebanks are crossed using trenched methods, there would be a temporary, direct impact of **medium** magnitude on these features.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.44 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of the Torridge Valley LCA, are as follows:

- *"Main River Torridge deep and fast flowing, with a convoluted course and tightly meandering channel, with mud flats exposed at low tide":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change during the construction phase. The significance of effect would be **none.**
- *"Small tributary valley south of Bideford dominated by Jennetts Reservoir":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience no change during the construction phase. The significance of effect would be **none**.
- *"Valley sides well-clothed with deciduous woodland which dominates skylines; some conifer plantations, particularly in the middle and upper reaches of the main valley":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience

no change during the construction phase. The significance of effect would be **none**.

- *"Valley floor generally used for pastoral agriculture, with a mixture of pastoral and arable agriculture on higher land":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small direct impact and a large indirect impact during the 24-hour HDD. The localised, temporary effect would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant and short-term temporary **major adverse** effect at night, for the duration of the HDD.
- *"Fields generally semi-regular in shape comprising a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and modern enclosures based on earlier medieval fields; mainly enclosed by hedgerows or hedgebanks, but some loss of field boundaries in arable areas":* The fields are a medium sensitivity receptor, while the hedgebanks are a high sensitivity receptor. The hedgebanks would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect on 'enclosures' would be **moderate adverse**, which is significant. There would be a localised large impact from the two construction compounds on 'fields', either side of the River Torridge on this characteristic. The localised temporary effect on this aspect of the characteristic would be **major adverse**, which is significant, to **moderate adverse** and not significant on this aspect of the characteristic within the wider character area.
- *"Numerous historic features associated with the river, including weirs, mills, bridges, disused canal and railway line (now the 'Tarka Trail')":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change during the construction phase. The significance of effect would be **none**.
- *"Major roads and transport routes (e.g., A386 and the former Okehampton-Bideford railway line) generally follow the main valley floor, while upper reaches and tributary valleys have winding hedge-banked lanes with narrow stone bridges":* Where a trenched method is used to cross the high-banked lanes, there would be a **medium** impact on these high sensitivity features. The temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse** and significant, due to the direct effect to the feature. The permanent change to the Littleham Road junction with the A386 is a large, impact on a medium sensitivity receptor. The temporary effect on the character of this part of the road would be **major adverse** and significant.

Overall effects during construction for Torridge Valley LCA

2.10.1 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium to high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **small to medium**.

2.10.2 The direct effects on the immediate character of the landscape would be **moderate** during the day and not significant due to the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character and sensitivity of valued landscape features such as Devon Hedgebanks and high-banked lanes. The direct effects during day-time hours would be up to **major adverse** and would vary between not significant (those effects of minor adverse and less) and significant. (those effects of moderate adverse and above) During night-time hours, if night-time working is required, there would be a **major adverse** effect due to the impact on nocturnal darkness. However, these effects would be medium-term , temporary, highly localised in nature and within proximity of the site construction works, barring the night-time effects which would be visible from further away, but contained within the Torridge valley.

2.10.3 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the **Torridge Valley LCA** would be up to **moderate adverse** and not significant. Barring the permanent change to the A386 junction, the effects of which are assessed in the relevant section in the operations and management phase, this is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.4 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) and LEMP (document reference 7.10).

High Culm Ridges LCA

2.10.5 The key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA relevant to this assessment are:

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the Torridge (to the west)";*
- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground";*
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land";*
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land";*
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed";* ***and***
- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea."*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.6 The key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the deciduous woodland, Devon hedgebanks and long views from high ground, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.7 The direct impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (including Gammaton Road compound), highways improvements and Converter Site on the relevant key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA varies:

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the Torridge (to the west)":* The Converter Site would be located to the east and south of a ridge of high ground. The cut and fill techniques and the earth-modelling would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and

temporary, with an overall impact of **large** magnitude on this aspect of the key characteristic. There are two watercourses/ditches that flow west to east outside the Converter Site and join a small stream, that flows west to the River Torridge. However, these watercourses/ditches would not be impacted by the Proposed Development. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.

- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be routed in such a way as to avoid woodlands and orchards or would use trenchless techniques, such as HDD where routeing is not an option. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land":* During construction there would be impacts on the farmland along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. In addition to the Converter Site, impacts would occur where trenched techniques are used to cross through hedgerows, construction compounds are established with haul roads between and where local roads are widened. The impact of the Proposed Development on this key characteristic would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium**. At the Converter Site the impact would be of **large** magnitude.
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land":* The field pattern would not be changed during the construction phase. However, the field boundaries would be temporarily altered to allow trenched crossings. The direct impact on field patterns would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **small** magnitude.
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and haul road crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. Highways improvements would set-back the existing hedge line but not alter the overall field pattern. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea":* There would be a temporary impact of views from elevated land towards the Converter Site and the eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. The direct impact on views would be of local geographic extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on the views of the landscape would be **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.8 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA, are as follows.

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the Torridge (to the west)":* The ridges of the High Culm are a medium sensitivity characteristic. There would be a localised, but large impact on this key

characteristic at the Converter Site. The temporary effect would be **major adverse**, which is significant. The effect on the water courses would be **none.**

- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground":* No woodland or orchards would be removed as a result of the construction works of the Proposed Development. The significance of effect is **none.**
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of compounds) and highways improvements would have a medium impact on this medium sensitivity receptor, with an effect of **moderate adverse** and not significant. At the Converter Site the temporary, localised impact is large, the effect is judged to be **major adverse**, which is significant.
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land":* The impact on this medium sensitivity receptor is small, the localised effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition":* some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed: The Devon hedgebanks are a high sensitivity landscape receptor. Where the hedgebanks are in good condition the impact would be medium, where they are in poor condition the impact would be less. Overall, the localised, temporary effect on this receptor would be **moderate adverse** and not significant.
- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea":* The long views are a high sensitivity key characteristic, the impact of the construction works on long views would be small and localised. The effect on this key characteristic is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Overall effects during construction for High Culm Ridges LCA

2.10.9 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium to high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **small to large**.

2.10.10 The direct effects on the character of the landscape at the Converter Site and its immediate surroundings would be **moderate to major adverse** and significant during the day and night due to the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character and sensitivity. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.11 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the **High Culm Ridges LCA** would be **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.12 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

North Devon Seascape Character Area

Landfall

2.10.13 The Landfall of the Proposed Development is located within SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast (Volume, 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES, Figure 2.2.3). The key characteristics for the SCA are set out within the same Appendix.

SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast

2.10.14 The key characteristics of the SCA 21 Abbotsham Coast relevant to this assessment are:

- *"Undulating coastline with steep cliffs rising to over 90 m in the south west of the SCA, but dropping to a lower and more rounded profile in the north east, backed by undulating coastal farmland";*
- *"Pastoral and arable fields extending to and between the cliff tops in places, including unimproved grasslands";*
- *"Characteristic fine pebble ridge at cliff bases, fronted by a wide rocky foreshore (wave cut platform), with beds trending seawards to form biogenetic reefs"; and*
- *"Gradual transition from a remote, rugged seascape in the south-west to gentler, more undulating and pastoral coastal scenery where the cliffs drop to shore level in places."*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.15 The key characteristics of SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the steep cliffs, the pebble ridge and wave-cut platform and the coastal scenery, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.16 The direct impacts of the Landfall, on the relevant key characteristics of SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast varies.

- *"Undulating coastline with steep cliffs rising to over 90 m in the south west of the SCA, but dropping to a lower and more rounded profile in the north east, backed by undulating coastal farmland":* There would be **no change** to the coastal cliffs or coastline as the coastline would be crossed using a trenchless techniques, such as HDD. However, there would be a direct, localised, medium-term, temporary **small** impact to the coastal farmland, where the construction compounds related to the transition joint bays would be located.

- *"Pastoral and arable fields extending to and between the cliff tops in places, including unimproved grasslands":* There would be a direct, localised, medium-term, temporary **small** impact to the coastal farmland, where the construction compounds related to the transition joint bays would be located.
- *"Characteristic fine pebble ridge at cliff bases, fronted by a wide rocky foreshore (wave cut platform), with beds trending seawards to form biogenetic reefs":* There would be **no change** to the pebble ridge or the rocky foreshore as they would be crossed using a trenchless techniques, such as HDD.
- *"Gradual transition from a remote, rugged seascape in the south-west to gentler, more undulating and pastoral coastal scenery where the cliffs drop to shore level in places":* The key characteristic pastoral coastal scenery would experience a direct, local, medium-term and temporary **small** impact.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.17 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast, are as follows.

- *"Undulating coastline with steep cliffs rising to over 90 m in the south west of the SCA, but dropping to a lower and more rounded profile in the north east, backed by undulating coastal farmland":* The high sensitivity cliffs would experience no change, the significance of effects would be **none**. The medium sensitivity coastal farmland would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effects are judged to be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.
- *"Pastoral and arable fields extending to and between the cliff tops in places, including unimproved grasslands":* This medium sensitivity characteristic would experience a small impact. The localised temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Characteristic fine pebble ridge at cliff bases, fronted by a wide rocky foreshore (wave cut platform), with beds trending seawards to form biogenetic reefs":* The high sensitivity receptor, would experience no change. The significance of effect would be **none.**
- *"Gradual transition from a remote, rugged seascape in the south-west to gentler, more undulating and pastoral coastal scenery where the cliffs drop to shore level in places":* This high sensitivity characteristic would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse,** which is not significant.

Overall effects during construction for SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast

2.10.18 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium to high**, with a magnitude of impact being **small.**

2.10.19 The direct effects on the immediate character of the landscape would be **minor adverse** and not significant during the day and night, due to the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character and sensitivity. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.20 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the SCA 21: Abbotsham Coast would be **minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary

nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.21 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types – Directly Affected

2.10.22 The North Devon District and Torridge District LCT that would be directly affected by the Proposed Development during the construction phases of the proposed development are (from the west/Landfall):

- 4H: Cliffs;
- 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland;
- 3H: Secluded Valleys;
- 4A: Estuaries;
- 3G: River Valley Slopes and Combes;
- 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land; and
- 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland.

LCT 4H: Cliffs

2.10.23 The key characteristics of the LCT 4H: Cliffs relevant to this chapter are:

- *"A largely undeveloped coastline of steep rocky or vegetated cliffs of varying height often punctuated by dramatic features such as waterfalls, rocky coves and features such as stacks and sea arches";*
- *"Distinctive and internationally renowned exposed rock stratifications often clearly visible";*
- *Extensive and dramatic views, reaching out to sea (often to Lundy), along the coastline";*
- *"Occasional minor combes draining to the sea often lined by ancient sessile oak woodland";*
- *"Rough grazing land on sloping cliff tops, with field boundaries of post-and-wire fencing or stone-faced hedgebanks"; and*
- *"A 'wild' and remote landscape with high levels of tranquillity. Access is largely restricted to the South West Coast Path".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.24 The key characteristics of LCT 4H: Cliffs are of high susceptibility and high value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **high**. The exceptions to this are the minor coombes and rough grazing land, which have a medium susceptibility and a medium value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **medium**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.25 The direct impacts of the Landfall, on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 4H: Cliffs varies:

- *"A largely undeveloped coastline of steep rocky or vegetated cliffs of varying height…":* There would be no physical impact on the coastline as the cables would cross the coast using a trenchless crossing technique, such as HDD. However, there would be views of the barge used during the construction works. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **negligible**.
- *"Distinctive and internationally renowned exposed rock stratifications often clearly visible":* There would be **no change** to the coastline as the cables would cross the coast using a trenchless crossing technique, such as HDD.
- *"Extensive and dramatic views, reaching out to sea (often to Lundy), along the coastline":* The views out to sea would not be compromised. However, some views may include the barge used during the construction works. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **small**.
- *"Occasional minor combes draining to the sea often lined by ancient sessile oak woodland":* No woodland would be affected by the construction works. The transition joint bays and construction at the Landfall would take place in a small coombe. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **small**.
- *"Rough grazing land on sloping cliff tops, with field boundaries of post-and-wire fencing or stone-faced hedgebanks":* The transition joint bays and construction at the Landfall would take place in a rough-grazed pasture. There are no hedgebanks affected in this location. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **small**.
- *"A 'wild' and remote landscape with high levels of tranquillity. Access is largely restricted to the South West Coast Path":* The part of this LCT, situated within the LSVIA study area is not particularly wild or remote. There would be a temporary impact on tranquillity as the construction works at the Landfall take place from the barge located in the sea and the works at the landward side, at the transition joint bay construction compounds would also be visible. The direct impact on tranquillity would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on tranquillity would be **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.26 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 4H: Cliffs, are as follows:

- *"A largely undeveloped coastline of steep rocky or vegetated cliffs of varying height…":* This high sensitivity characteristic would experience a negligible impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

- *"Distinctive and internationally renowned exposed rock stratifications often clearly visible":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change. The significance of effect is **none**.
- *"Extensive and dramatic views, reaching out to sea (often to Lundy), along the coastline":* This high sensitivity characteristic would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, and not significant.
- *"Occasional minor combes draining to the sea often lined by ancient sessile oak woodland":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Rough grazing land on sloping cliff tops, with field boundaries of post-and-wire fencing or stone-faced hedgebanks":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"A 'wild' and remote landscape with high levels of tranquillity. Access is largely restricted to the South West Coast Path":* This part of the LCT is not wild or remote. However, tranquillity is a high sensitivity characteristic and would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect on tranquillity is judged to be **moderate adverse**, but not significant.

Overall effects during construction for LCT 4H: Cliffs

2.10.27 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium to high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **negligible to small**.

2.10.28 The direct effects on the immediate character of the coastal landscape would be **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant during the day and night due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.29 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the LCT 4H: Cliffs would be **minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.30 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland

2.10.31 The key characteristics of the LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Strongly rolling landscape with prominent ridges and hilltops, influenced by the close proximity of the sea";*
- *"Pervading maritime influence with long coastal views, including to coastal settlements and to the north-west peninsula of the north Devon coastline";*

- *"Linear bands of broadleaved woodland, occasional small mixed woods, ornamental parklands and blocks of conifer plantation combined with a strong network of hedges resulting in a well-treed appearance";*
- *"Strong pattern of regular medium-large fields of post-medieval and modern origin, interspersed with significant areas of smaller curving or medieval strip fields (e.g. around Rickard's Down)";*
- *"Fields bounded by Devon hedges of mixed species with flower-rich banks and some sections of stone facing. The use of hawthorn, hazel, elm and/or beech is locally characteristic. Patches of gorse reinforce a sense of exposure";*
- *"Predominantly pastoral land use, with occasional arable fields and patches of rough grazing land"; and*
- *"Settlement and farms linked by a network of rural roads enclosed by high hedgebanks. The main A39 cuts through the area".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.32 The key characteristics of LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the long coastal views, broadleaved woodland and Devon hedgebanks, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.33 The direct impacts of the Landfall, the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (part), compounds and highways improvements on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland varies:

- *"Strongly rolling landscape with prominent ridges and hilltops, influenced by the close proximity of the sea":* The Landfall, the eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, compounds and some of the highways improvements pass through or are located in this landscape. The transition joint bays and the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be buried but there would be construction compounds, haul roads and highways improvements within this LCT in the interim. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **medium**.
- *"Pervading maritime influence with long coastal views, to coastal settlements and to the north-west peninsula of the North Devon coastline":* The long coastal views would not be obstructed in any way. However, the construction works along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor might be visible from some inland locations. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **negligible**.
- *"Linear bands of broadleaved woodland, occasional small mixed woods, ornamental parklands and blocks of conifer plantation combined with a strong network of hedges resulting in a well-treed appearance":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has either been routed around woodland or would cross underneath, using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.

- *"Strong pattern of regular medium-large fields of post-medieval and modern origin, interspersed with significant areas of smaller curving or medieval strip fields (e.g. around Rickard's Down)":* There would be no alteration to field boundaries. However, during the construction works the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **small**.
- *"Fields bounded by Devon hedges of mixed species with flower-rich banks and some sections of stone facing. The use of hawthorn, hazel, elm and/or beech is locally characteristic. Patches of gorse reinforce a sense of exposure":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Predominantly pastoral land use, with occasional arable fields and patches of rough grazing land":* During the construction phase, some fields would have the cable route or construction compounds located within them. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **small**.
- *"Settlement and farms linked by a network of rural roads enclosed by high hedgebanks. The main A39 cuts through the area":* The A39 would be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD and would not be affected. Where lanes with high hedgebanks are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD, sunken lanes may be one such feature. If a trenched method is used it would require temporary removal of part of the hedgebank. Where a trenched method is used, the direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.34 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland, are as follows:

- *"Strongly rolling landscape with prominent ridges and hilltops, influenced by the close proximity of the sea":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Pervading maritime influence with long coastal views, including westwards towards Clovelly and eastwards to development at Bideford, Westward Ho! and the north-west peninsula (including Baggy Point)":* This high sensitivity characteristic would experience a negligible impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Linear bands of broadleaved woodland, occasional small mixed woods and blocks of conifer plantation combined with a strong network of hedges resulting in a well-treed appearance":* The broadleaved woodlands are high

sensitivity receptors and conifer plantations medium sensitivity receptors. However, there would be no change to woodlands. The significance of effect is **none**.

- *"Strong pattern of regular medium-large fields of post-medieval and modern origin, interspersed with significant areas of smaller curving or medieval strip fields (e.g. around Rickard's Down)":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Fields bounded by mixed species Devon hedges with flower-rich banks and some sections of stone facing. The use of hawthorn, hazel, elm and/or beech is locally characteristic. Patches of gorse reinforce a sense of exposure":* The Devon hedgebanks are a high sensitivity receptor, that would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, but not significant.
- *"Predominantly pastoral land use, with occasional arable fields and patches of rough grazing land":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Settlement and farms linked by a network of rural roads enclosed by high hedgebanks. The main A39 cuts through the area":* The A39 is not affected. The hedgebanks are a high sensitivity receptor that would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, but not significant.

Overall effects during construction for LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland

2.10.35 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium** to **high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **negligible** to **medium**.

2.10.36 The direct effects on the immediate character of the coastal landscape would range from **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant during the day and night due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.37 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland would be **moderate adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.38 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys

2.10.39 The key characteristics of the LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Steep-sided, incised valleys with fast-flowing streams and rivers carving through the landscape, crowned by rounded hill summits";*
- *"Includes the main tributary valleys of the River Torridge";*
- *"Dense tree cover cloaking valley sides, including ancient semi-natural oak woodlands with a colourful ground flora, beech-dominated broadleaved woodlands, and conifer blocks. Patches of wet woodland tracing river/stream courses";*
- *"Mixture of field sizes and shapes – often smaller, irregular medieval enclosures on lower slopes, with upper slopes merging into larger post-medieval and modern fields, often retaining earlier curving boundaries";*
- *"Species-rich Devon hedges on wildflower-rich banks, with bank-side ferns and frequent hedgerow trees associated with lower valley locations";*
- *"Steep valley sides dominated by pasture grazed by sheep and cattle, with patches of rough grazing land on upper slopes and rushy meadows fringing watercourses"; and*
- *"High levels of peace and tranquillity frequently defined by sounds of rushing water echoing out from the valley bottoms, though locally impacted by main roads in some valleys".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.40 The key characteristics of LCT 3H: Secluded valleys are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the steep-sided valleys, the ancient semi natural woodland/broadleaved woodland, rushy meadows, Devon hedgebanks and tranquillity, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.41 The direct impacts of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (part) on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys varies:

- *"Steep-sided, incised valleys with fast-flowing streams and rivers carving through the landscape, crowned by rounded hill summits":* The steep sided valleys would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be **no change** to these key characteristics.
- *"Includes the main tributary valleys of the Torridge:* The tributary valleys would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be **no change** to these key characteristics.
- *"Dense tree cover cloaking valley sides, including ancient semi-natural oak woodlands with a colourful ground flora, beech-dominated broadleaved woodlands, and conifer blocks. Patches of wet woodland tracing river/stream courses":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has been routed to avoid areas of woodland. Where this is not possible trenchless techniques, such as HDD, would be used to go under the woodland. The permanent junction improvement at Littleham Road/A386 Bideford Road will involve the removal of a short length of hedgerow and some mature trees. However, the realigned road will have landscape mitigation (replacement hedgerows and trees) embedded in its design. During the construction period there would be

a **large** impact locally, in the location of the junction improvements but a **negligible** impact in the wider LCT to these key characteristics.

- *"Mixture of field sizes and shapes – often smaller, irregular medieval enclosures on lower slopes, with upper slopes merging into larger post-medieval and modern fields, often retaining earlier curving boundaries":* There would be no alteration to field boundaries. However, during the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them. The field in which the which the realigned Littleham Road will be located is host to the compound in which the western side of the HDD crossing under the River Torridge will be located. The direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be locally **large**, but **small** in the wider LCT.
- *"Species-rich Devon hedges on wildflower-rich banks, with bank-side ferns and frequent hedgerow trees associated with lower valley locations":* Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Steep valley sides dominated by pasture grazed by sheep and cattle, with patches of rough grazing land on upper slopes and rushy meadows fringing watercourses":* During the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the compound housing the western side of the HDD crossing of the River Torridge. The direct impacts on the field hosting the HDD compound would be **large**, but local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on these characteristics within the wider LCT would be **small**.
- *"High levels of peace and tranquillity frequently defined by sounds of rushing water echoing out from the valley bottoms, though locally impacted by main roads in some valleys":* Along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, there would be a reduction in tranquillity, however, as it only crosses a small part of this LCT, the direct impact would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic would be **medium**. At the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge, there would be a localised **large** impact on this characteristic, both during the day and, for the 24-hour task-related operations such as the HDD, at night.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.42 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys, are as follows.

- *"Steep-sided, incised valleys with fast-flowing streams and rivers carving through the landscape, crowned by rounded hill summits":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change. The significance of effects is **none**.
- *"Includes the main tributary valleys of the Torridge":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change. The significance of effects is **none**.

- *"Dense tree cover cloaking valley sides, including ancient semi-natural oak woodlands with a colourful ground flora, beech-dominated broadleaved woodlands, and conifer blocks. Patches of wet woodland tracing river/stream courses":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience large impacts locally, with negligible impacts on the wider landscape. The significance of effects is **major adverse**, at the HDD compound west of the River Torridge, which is significant with a **minor adverse** and not significant effect on the wider LCT.
- *"Mixture of field sizes and shapes – often smaller, irregular medieval enclosures on lower slopes, with upper slopes merging into larger post-medieval and modern fields, often retaining earlier curving boundaries":* This medium sensitivity receptor would experience a locally large impact but small impact in the wider landscape. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **major adverse**, in the area local to the HDD compound, which is significant to **minor adverse** and not significant in the wider LCT.
- *"Species-rich Devon hedges on wildflower-rich banks, with bank-side ferns and frequent hedgerow trees associated with lower valley locations":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate averse**, but not significant.
- *"Steep valley sides dominated by pasture grazed by sheep and cattle, with patches of rough grazing land on upper slopes and rushy meadows fringing watercourses":* This is a medium sensitivity receptor which would experience a large impact locally and a small impact for the wider LCT. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **major adverse**, in the location of the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge, which is significant, with the wider LVT experiencing a **minor adverse** effect which is not significant.
- *"High levels of peace and tranquillity frequently defined by sounds of rushing water echoing out from the valley bottoms, though locally impacted by main roads in some valleys":* This high sensitivity characteristic would experience a medium impact. The localised, temporary effect at the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge is judged to be **major adverse** (at day and night) while the wider LCT is judged to be **moderate adverse**, and not significant.

Overall effects during construction for LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys

2.10.43 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium** to **high**, with a magnitude of impact ranging from **small** to **large** (locally)

2.10.44 The direct effects on the character of the landscape of and immediately adjacent to the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge would be **major adverse** and significant, while the wider LCT would experience **minor to moderate adverse** effects that are not significant, due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.45 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the LCT 3H: Secluded Valleys would be **moderate adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the construction activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.46 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

LCT 4A: Estuaries

2.10.47 The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross this LCT in a trenchless crossing and so would not affect any of its key characteristics.

LCT 3G: River Valley Slopes and Combes

2.10.48 The Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross this LCT in a trenchless crossing and so would not affect any of its key characteristics.

LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land

2.10.49 The key characteristics of the LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform";*
- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides";*
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms";*
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences"; and*
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.50 The key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the tributary valleys, the broadleaved and wet woodland, Devon hedgebanks and rushy meadows, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.51 The direct impacts of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (part), highways improvements and the Converter Site, on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land varies:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform":* The Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross these tributaries using

trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be **no change** to these key characteristics from the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. At the Converter Site, the elevated land would experience a **large** direct, localised, medium-term and temporary impact during the construction phase.

- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides":* There would be **no change** to these key characteristics from the Proposed Development, as the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Converter Site would be routed/located to avoid these features. Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor cannot avoid valleys or woodland, it would cross them using trenchless techniques, such as HDD.
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms":* There would be no alteration to field boundaries, due to the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. However, during the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them. Highways improvements may result in roadside hedgerows being set-back from their existing positions. The direct impact on this characteristic from the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be local in geographical extent, short-term and temporary. The impact on this key characteristic from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be **small**. Gammaton compound will be located in such a field and there would be a localised **large** impact on the characteristic of the field. The Converter Site would be located in larger fields, of more recent enclosure. The direct impacts would be local in geographical extent, short-term and temporary. The impact of the construction of the Converter Site on these fields would be **large**.
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences":* Where the onshore HVDC and HVAC Cables cross hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank. Highways improvements would result in the permanent relocation of existing roadside vegetation further back, which would have a locally l**arge** impact on this characteristic. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, medium-term and temporary, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude. The construction at the Converter Site would not require the removal of hedgebanks.
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland":* During the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them. There is one area of rushy/wet meadow close to the Converter Site, which would be crossed using a trenched crossing. The direct impact on the rushy/wet meadow and associated mature wet oak woodland field

boundaries from the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary and **medium**. The Converter Site would be located in larger fields, of more recent enclosure. The direct impacts would be local in geographical extent, medium-term and temporary. The impact of the construction of the Converter Site on the farmed characteristic would be **large**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.52 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land, are as follows:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform":* This high sensitivity receptor would experience no change from the construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. The significance of effects is **none**. The construction of the Converter Site would have a large effect on the elevated land. The temporary direct effects would be **major adverse**, which is significant.
- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides":* There would be no change to this high sensitivity receptor. The significance of effect would be **none**.
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms":* The construction of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor on this medium sensitivity characteristic would have a small impact. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse** and not significant. The Gammaton construction compound and the construction works at the Converter Site on this characteristic would have a large impact. These localised, temporary effects are judged to be **major adverse**, and significant.
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences":* Where the HVDC and HVAC Cables cross field boundaries of high sensitivity, the impact would be medium. The localised, temporary effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, but not significant. Where the highways improvements are planned there would be a locally large impact, and the effect is judged to be **major adverse**.
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland":* The HVDC and HVAC Cables would have a medium impact on the high sensitivity rushy/wet meadow with its associated mature species-rich (wet oak) field boundaries. The localised, temporary effect would be **moderate adverse** and significant. The Gammaton construction compound and the construction works at the Converter Site would have a large impact on this medium sensitivity receptor. The localised, temporary significance of effects would be **major adverse** and significant.

Overall effects during construction for LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land

2.10.53 Overall, the sensitivity of the receptor ranges from **medium** to **high** and the magnitude of the impact ranges from **small** to **large**. The direct effect on the character of the landscape at the Converter Site and immediate surroundings as a result of the construction activities would be of **minor adverse** and not significant to **major adverse** locally, at Gammaton construction compound and at the converter site, this is significant during the day and at night, when 24-hour task-related operations may need to be undertaken at the Converter Site, which is significant.

2.10.54 The indirect effect on the wider landscape surrounding the converter stations would be of **minor adverse** significance during the day and at night, which is not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.10.55 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7.).

LCT 3A Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes

2.10.56 This LCT lies within the Order Limits, and it abuts the northern field of the Converter Site. While it does not host the Converter Site or the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, it may be affected by the utility diversions within it, to the south of the minor road from Webbery Cross/ to Stony Cross and by highway improvements to the north of East the Water

2.10.57 The key characteristics that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation";*
- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns";*
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel";*
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape"; and*
- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.58 The key characteristics of LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the

key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the broadleaved copses and wet woodland, Devon hedgebanks, Culm grassland and damp meadows, as well as the views of the church towers, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**. The infrastructure (main roads and electrical infrastructure) have a low susceptibility and low value, the sensitivity of which is **low**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.59 The direct impacts of utility diversions on the key characteristics varies:

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation":* There may be highways improvements that would have a temporary, **small** localised impact on the boundaries of the fields within this character area. The impact on the wider character area of changes to these characteristics would be **negligible**, as utilities would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements. and the changes to the field boundaries resulting from the highways improvements would very localised within this large LCT.
- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns":* There would be **no change** to these elements and character, as the utilities would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements.
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…":* There would be **no change** to these elements and character, as the utilities would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements.
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape":* There would be **small** temporary impact to these elements and character, as the utilities would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements. The realignment works might have a **small**, temporary impact on the characteristic peace and tranquillity that exist in the landscape to the north of the Converter Site.
- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…":* The utility diversions might have a localised, medium-term and reversible temporary **small** impact on views of church towers.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.60 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics are:

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous*

plantation": This key characteristic has a mix of medium and high sensitivity resources and receptors. There would be small localised changes adjacent to this characteristic and negligible impacts on the wider LCT. The significance of effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, but not significant locally and **negligible adverse** on the wider LCT.

- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns":* The sensitivity of the landscape characteristics are medium. However, as there would be no impact, the significance of effect is judged to be **none**.
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…":* The sensitivity of these resources is high. However, as there would be no impact, the effect is judged to be **none**.
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape":* The utility diversions have a small impact on a high sensitivity receptor, which is judged to have a temporary **moderate adverse** effect, which is not significant.
- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…":* The utility diversions have a small impact on a high sensitivity receptor, which is judged to have a temporary **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant.

Overall effects during realignment works for LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes

2.10.61 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is from **low to high**, with a magnitude of impact being up to **small.**

2.10.62 The direct effects on the immediate character of the landscape receptor would be **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant during the day and night due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.63 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the realignment of the infrastructure works of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes would be **negligible to minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the utility diversions and highway improvements over the wider extent of the LCT.

Future Monitoring

2.10.64 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Grassland

2.10.65 This LCT lies adjacent to the LCT that the Converter Site is located within (LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land) approximately 325 m from the Proposed Development. No development is proposed within LCT 1F, however, it is taken forward to the assessment stage, as it lies within the Order Limits. The relevant perceptual key characteristics to consider are:

- *"Pastoral character including rough cattle/sheep grazing on expanses of Culm grassland and heath. More intensive farming, including occasional arable fields, poultry units and localised pony paddocks on the fringes of the 'moors'";*
- *"Wind turbines visually influence parts of the landscape, notably a large wind farm in north Devon and several small wind farm developments in Torridge";*
- *"Golf courses, fishing lakes, caravan parks, equestrian centres, disused airfields, industrial land uses and main roads dilute perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness locally"; and*
- *"Elevation affording long views across the landscape and beyond - e.g. to the contrasting lush green fields of the surrounding farmland and the high moorland landscapes of Dartmoor and Exmoor".*

2.10.66 This is an extensive LCT that covers various parts of North Devon. One section lies to the south east of the Converter Site, which is located at its most north westerly point.

2.10.67 The perceptual qualities that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- long views from elevated land, e.g., to Exmoor and Dartmoor; and
- high levels of tranquillity and remoteness.

2.10.68 Although it is also noted that the perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness are diluted by modern development and recreational land uses.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.69 Long views, tranquillity and remoteness are high value perceptual qualities, of high susceptibility. The sensitivity of these qualities is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.70 The indirect impacts on these qualities varies:

- *"Long views":* The Proposed Development lies to the west of the majority of this LCT and does not lie between the LCT and views of Exmoor and Dartmoor. However, the construction works may feature at the periphery of some long views. The indirect impact of this temporary localised, medium-term, reversible effect would be **small**.
- *"Tranquillity and remoteness":* The part of the LCT that lies within the ZTV of the Converter Site is not remote, the construction works may affect some aspects of tranquillity. The indirect impact of this temporary localised, medium-term, reversible effect would be **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.10.71 The significance of indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the perceptual qualities

- *"Long views":* There would be a small impact on this high sensitivity receptor. The temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant
- *"Tranquillity and remoteness":* There would be a small impact on this high sensitivity receptor. The temporary effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Overall effects during construction for LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Grassland

2.10.72 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **high**, with a magnitude of impact being **small.**

2.10.73 The direct effects on the perceptual aspects of the landscape receptor would be **moderate adverse** and not significant during the day and night due to a temporary impact on the landscape and the introduction of construction features incongruous to the overall rural character. However, these effects would be medium-term and temporary.

2.10.74 The overall day and night-time indirect effect of the realignment works of the Proposed Development on the wider character of the LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Grassland would be **minor adverse** and not significant. This is due to the temporary nature of the impact and the minimal influence of the realignment activities over the wider extent of the character area.

Future Monitoring

2.10.75 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7).

North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types - Indirectly Affected

2.10.76 None of the North Devon District and Torridge District LCT indirectly affected by the construction of the Proposed Development, have been taken forward to the assessment stage, as there is no potential for these LCTs to experience significant effects.

Night-time Effects on Landscape and Seascape Receptors - overview

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.10.77 As the location of the Proposed Development is in an area of medium to darker skies the sensitivity of the landscape and seascape to artificial lighting is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.10.78 During construction, core working hours would be restricted to Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm and Saturday 7am to 1pm. However, there would be some continuous working hours (i.e. HDD works) requiring night-time working. These night-time works would be short-term and temporary. The Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) includes details regarding construction lighting measures. Construction site lighting would only operate when required and would be designed, positioned and directed to avoid unnecessary illumination of adjacent properties, sensitive ecological receptors and users of public footpaths. Where necessary, light shield guards would be used to prevent light spill. The impact of the temporary lighting is generally **negligible** to **medium**. However, during the 24-hour task-related operations there will be temporary, short-term **large** impacts

Significance of the Effect

2.10.79 The impact on nocturnal darkness generally would be negligible to medium. However, locally it will be large at the HDD compounds in the event that 24-hour task-related operations are required. It is judged that generally this high sensitivity landscape resource would experience **minor adverse** effects, which are not significant. However, during the task-related 24-hour operations there will be localised, temporary **major adverse** effects, which are significant.

Future Monitoring

2.10.80 Other than compliance with the Outline On-CEMP (document reference 7.7) no monitoring is proposed during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

Assessment of Construction Effects on Views and Visual Amenity

Visual Receptor Groups

Viewpoints and Representative Viewpoints

2.10.81 Viewpoints 1 to 6 in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES are focussed on the Landfall. Viewpoints 7 to 20, in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES are focussed on the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and construction compounds.

2.10.82 It is assumed that the proposed road realignment and highway improvement works during the construction phase are likely to result in localised, temporary adverse effects. Road realignments to the north, for example, near the A386 for HGV vehicular movement near Hallsannery, may require removal of trees and vegetation in order to accommodate the appropriate vehicular access and abnormal loads.

2.10.83 It is understood that at the time of the submission of the ES, no veteran trees would be removed, or ancient woodlands be adversely affected, subject to a further arboricultural survey.

2.10.84 Other highways improvements such as road widening may require an amount of hedgerow or hedgebank removal in order to improve access at specific junctions. However, the replanting and reinstatement of such features would occur early on at the construction phase. As such, the impacts of highway improvements would be limited as the reinstated vegetation would establish over the duration of the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, for the purposes of assessment within this Chapter, highway improvements and road realignments within the scheme will not be assessed independently.

2.10.85 Representative viewpoints 21 to 47, in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES are towards the Converter Site. Descriptions from all viewpoint locations are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

2.10.86 The photography taken at the Landfall and along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has informed the overarching assessment of the effects experienced by visual receptor groups during the construction phase.

2.10.87 No visualisations are undertaken for constructions works due to the transitory and dynamic nature of those works, including plant.

Visual Receptor Groups

People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and highways improvements – Construction Effects

2.10.88 Within 1 km of the proposed Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the construction compounds there are a number of PRoW including the South West Coast Path National Trail (locally designated as Abbotsham footpath 7), Abbotsham footpath 4 and the Tarka Trail (including a section covered by the National Cycle Route 27) promoted path. Such paths would remain open during construction as the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would cross these paths using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor also crosses the following PRoW at surface:

- Abbotsham 5 a footpath to the west of East Langdon Farm;
- Abbotsham 2, a footpath to the east of Shamland near Kenwith stream;
- Alwington 3 a PRoW coinciding with an access track to Winscott Barton; and
- The most southerly part of a 'Other Route with Public Access', to the east of Ashridge.

2.10.89 Abbotsham footpath 5 would be the subject of a short diversion around the HDD compound at Kenwith Stream (south side). The other PRoW crossings are likely to be surface trenched with traffic management giving priority to PRoW users. One other PRoW – Abbotsham footpath 4 is crossed by the Onshore Infrastructure Area at the Landfall but in HDD together with the South West Coast Path.

2.10.90 No other PRoW lie within the Onshore Infrastructure Area. People using all PRoW are of a **high** sensitivity, while those people using the South West Coast Path within the North Devon Coast NL are of a **very high** sensitivity. Those people accessing the beach and those people accessing the sea from the

beach, within 1 km of the Landfall are also considered to have a **very high** sensitivity, due to the location within the NL.

2.10.91 As the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be underground, the effects experienced by visual receptors would be temporary. However, while construction is ongoing, people using the PRoW network within 1 km are likely to have some views of the construction works and associated construction compounds. The largest impacts would be where people have views of the construction compounds containing the plant used in the major crossing points, i.e. people using the South West Coast Path, Abbotsham footpath 4 (Landfall), Abbotsham footpath 5 (Kenwith Stream), the Tarka Trail and possibly Bideford bridleway 9 (River Torridge). The construction activities will be of medium term in duration. Those people using the wider PRoW network would experience a **negligible** to **small** direct impact. People using the four PRoW where managed crossings would be put in place would experience a **medium** to **large** direct impact. The people using the South West Coast Path would experience a constricted and short sequential view of the construction works, which is considered to be a **medium** direct impact. People using the Tarka Trail would have a longer sequential view and they would experience a **large** direct visual impact of the two HDD compounds either side of the river that will be set up to complete the River Torridge crossing. People accessing the beach and the sea at the Landfall would experience a **large** direct visual effect.

2.10.92 The temporary effects of the construction works experienced by those people using the PRoW network within the 1 km study area of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and associated construction compounds varies. Those people using the non-National Trail/promoted path routes not crossed by the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would experience temporary localised effects varying from **negligible** to **moderate adverse** and not significant. Those people using the four PRoW (Footpath Abbotsham 2 & 5, Alwington 3, and the Other Route with Public Access east of Ashridge) where there would be a diversion/managed crossing would have a temporary **moderate to major adverse** effect, which are significant. People using the South West Coast Path, Abbotsham Footpath 4 and the Tarka Trail would experience temporary **major adverse** effects, which are significant. People using the beach and accessing the sea via the beach would also experience a temporary **major adverse** and significant effect, as the Landfall HDD compounds would be a feature in the views. However, the effects would be significant within a very localised area and temporary in nature, diminishing with distance.

Converter Site and HVAC Cables – Construction Effects

2.10.93 People using the PRoW network are considered to have a **high** sensitivity, unless on a designated route. The impact on people using the PRoW network during construction would be **negligible** to **small**, due primarily to distance from the Converter Site and the associated Converter Site compound. The temporary effects of the construction works experienced by people using the PRoW network would be **negligible** to **moderate adverse** and not significant.

Dynamic receptors

2.10.94 Recreational sailors within 1 km of the Landfall are considered to have a **high** sensitivity, as although their concentration is primarily on sailing, they would be within 1 km of the North Devon Coast NL and an undeveloped section of coast.

2.10.95 People within vehicles using roads are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to change. However, people in vehicles crossing the NL are deemed to have **medium** sensitivity to the construction works associated with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and associated construction compounds, and cyclists and people walking along minor roads within the North Devon Coast NL are considered to have a **high** sensitivity as people within the NL are deemed to be more aware of their surroundings. On roads in non-designated landscapes, cyclists have a **medium** sensitivity as they are not enclosed within a vehicle and are raised above level that people within standard vehicles and are travelling more slowly. People walking along minor roads have varied sensitivities to the Proposed Development, depending on which element of the project they are looking at and the context of the view, the sensitivity of these receptors would usually be **medium**.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor – Construction Effects

2.10.96 Recreational sailors would experience a **medium** impact due to the construction works at the Landfall, decreasing with distance from the Landfall. These sailors would experience temporary **moderate adverse** effect, which would be significant, but only close to the Landfall, it would decrease with distance.

2.10.97 Road users in vehicles would experience **negligible** to **medium** impacts, depending on distance from the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and associated Landfall HDD compounds, as well as intervening buildings, hedgebanks or vegetation. The construction phase of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Landfall HDD compounds would have a **small** to **medium** impact on cyclists and people walking along the roads.

2.10.98 Road users in vehicles within the North Devon Coast NL would experience temporary **negligible** to **moderate adverse** effects, which would not be significant. Cyclists and people walking along the minor roads within the NL would experience a range of temporary **minor adverse** (not significant) to **moderate adverse** (significant) effects. The range of effects is due to the transient nature of views experienced by receptors whereby effects would diminish with increasing distance and proximity from the Cable Corridor and construction activities as well as the construction compounds.

2.10.99 People using roads outside the North Devon Coast NL would experience the same impacts as those within the North Devon Coast NL, but due to their situation in a non-designated and less sensitive landscape the effects are lower. For people in vehicles the temporary effects would be **negligible** to **minor adverse** and not significant. The temporary effects experienced by cyclists and people walking along minor roads would be **minor** to **moderate adverse**, but not significant.

2.10.100 Those people using the road network around and crossing the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would only be affected during the construction phase.

Converter Site and HVAC – Cables Construction Effects

2.10.101 People in vehicles using the roads within the North Devon Coast NL would experience a **negligible** impact from the construction works at the Converter Site and Converter Site compound, due to distance, as well as intervening topography and vegetation. These facts, combined with the **medium** sensitivity of the receptors, would result in a temporary **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant. Cyclists and people walking along minor roads within the North

Devon Coast NL are considered to have a **high** sensitivity as these visual receptors are deemed to be more aware of their surroundings. These people would also experience a **negligible** to **small** impact, resulting in temporary **negligible** to **minor adverse** effects, which are not significant. As the impact experienced by these receptors would be less at operation and decommissioning, these visual receptors are not taken further in this LSVIA.

2.10.102 In areas outside designated landscapes road users in vehicles have a **low** sensitivity to the construction of the Proposed Development at the Converter Site and the Converter Site compound. Cyclists and pedestrians using the roads local to Converter Site, as a right of way also have a **medium** sensitivity to the Proposed Development, dependent on context. With the exception of the minor road that runs between Gammaton Cross and Webbery Cross which forms the western boundary of the Converter Site and Converter Site compound, there are few roads that are close to the Converter Site. People in vehicles, those on bicycles, as well as people walking along the Gammaton Cross to Webbery Cross road would experience a localised **large** visual impact when close to the Converter Site and the associated Converter Site compound. People in vehicles would experience a temporary **moderate adverse** effect, which is not significant. Cyclists and walkers using the minor road would experience a localised temporary **major adverse** effect, which is significant.

2.10.103 It is unlikely that people using the roads further from the proposed Converter Site would be significantly affected, due to distance, as well as intervening topography and vegetation (e.g., representative viewpoint 21, representative viewpoint 22, representative viewpoint 30, representative viewpoint 40 and representative viewpoint 44, Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report, Figures 2.3.21, 2.3.22, 2.3.30, 2.3.40 and 2.3.44). For this reason, people using such roads are not taken further in this LSVIA.

People at work

2.10.104 People at their places of work are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the Proposed Development because the focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.

Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor – Construction Effects

2.10.105 Most working people that have views towards the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, Landfall and construction compounds are involved in the agricultural or fishing sector. The impact of the construction works along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would vary from **negligible to large**, depending primarily on distance from the construction operations and the type of works being undertaken. The temporary effects would vary between **negligible** to **moderate adverse** and not significant.

Converter Site and HVAC Cables – Construction Effects

2.10.106 Most working people that have views towards the Converter Site are involved in the agricultural sector. Those with close views of proposed Converter Site are National Grid employees and those people working on the adjacent solar farm. The impact of the construction works at the Converter Site is **large**, reducing with distance from the site of the works. The temporary effects would be minor to **moderate adverse** and significant, due to the proximity of people working around the Converter Site and associated construction compound.

Representative Viewpoints

2.10.107 The locations of the agreed representative viewpoints, shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.5a to 2.5e, are geographically diverse and/or from sensitive viewpoints. The full descriptions from all the viewpoint locations are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES.

Converter Site Study Area

Representative Viewpoint 23: View south from public right of way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey Footpath 4 to the south of Horwood

2.10.108 This open, southerly view is across a sloping field, with farmland divided by mature hedgerows with some containing trees. Woodland is associated with the valleys, also with isolated houses, farms and hamlets. Woodland also forms part of the skyline. Pylons carrying the overhead power lines are also visible features on the skyline. The people using this PRoW have a **high** sensitivity. During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **large**. The temporary effect of construction activities experience by people at this location would be **major adverse**, which is significant.

Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey Footpath 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross

2.10.109 This is an open view in a south-westerly direction across farmland divided by mature hedgerows The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. Woodland is associated with the valleys, but also the tops of the hills, as well as groups of trees around isolated houses, farms and hamlets/villages across an undulating landscape. Trees are also associated with other landscape features, such as ponds. Pylons, carrying overhead power lines are seen on the skyline.

2.10.110 During the construction phase, the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **small,** as construction activity would take place in the frame of already existing surrounding infrastructure in the form of Pylons and overhead power lines. The temporary effect experienced by the people at this location would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 26: View west-southwest from public right of way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey Footpath 56 to the east of Bartridge

2.10.111 This is an open view across undulating farmland from the PRoW. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. The fields in the view have a mix of boundary types. Woodland is associated with the valleys and tops of the hills, the latter forming the skyline in parts of the view. There are areas of woodland/groups of trees around isolated houses, farms and hamlets/villages.

Villages are seen on the skyline. Pylons carrying overhead power lines are also seen on the horizon.

2.10.112 During the construction phase, the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **small**, as construction activity would take place in the frame of already existing surrounding infrastructure in the form of Pylons and overhead power lines. The temporary effect experienced by the people at this location would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 27: View west from junction of minor road with B3232, at Alverdiscott

2.10.113 This view is of undulating farmland, through a field gate and constrained by tall hedgerows either side. The panels of the solar farm to the south of the Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the hill slopes to the south of the Converter Site. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **large**. The temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **moderate** to **major adverse**, which is significant.

Representative Viewpoint 29: View west-northwest from minor road to the south of Alverdiscott

2.10.114 This view is across a large pasture field through a field gate, framed by hedgerows either side. The solar panels belonging to of the solar farm to the south of the Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the hill slopes to the south of the Converter Site. A solar farm is glimpsed behind mature woodland and woodland belts to the north of Alverdiscott Substation. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **medium,** as construction activities would be of medium scale and geographical extent in the view and at a medium range from the receptor. Therefore, the temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **minor adverse** and not significant for road users, and **moderate adverse** for cyclists and people walking, which is also not significant. This is due to views being glimpsed and oblique from the receptors at this location, as well as the distance from the Converter Site.

Representative Viewpoint 30: View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End

2.10.115 This is an elevated, directed view through a field gate with tall hedgerows on either side. The view is across gently undulating farmland, bounded by hedgerows. In the foreground 11 kV lines and telegraph poles cross the field. Two small wind turbines are seen in the mid ground. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). In the distance the solar farms and the

Alverdiscott Substation are visible, as well as a further wind turbine and high voltage overhead cables and pylons.

2.10.116 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact would be **medium**, as construction activities will be in the background of the view at a distance from the receptors. The temporary effect experience by people at this location would be **minor to moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 31: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water

2.10.117 This view is over a field gate close to the junction of this track with the minor road from Brownscombe Farm to Huntshaw Water. The track is bounded on either side with tall hedgerows. Other than a view over another field gate and partly obscured by a barn, views are very restricted from this route. The view is of undulating farmland, bounded by mature hedgerows. The woodland tends to follow the valleys, but the view includes woodland on the skyline/hill tops. Pylons carrying the high voltage power lines are also visible on the skyline, as well as in the middle distance. The solar farm, adjacent to the Alverdiscott Substation is also visible in this view. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking).

2.10.118 During the construction phase, the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline in the background of the view. The impact of the construction work would be **medium,** as the construction activities would encompass a small field of view be of medium geographical extent and scale. The temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **minor adverse** and not significant for road users. This would be due to views for road users being transient in nature and glimpsed through gaps in vegetation and field gates. The temporary effect experienced by people cycling and walking along the minor road would be **moderate adverse**, and significant, as the receptors will be moving along the minor road with a focus on the surrounding landscape.

Representative Viewpoint 32: View northwest from public right of way Footpath 1 to the east of Huntshaw

2.10.119 This is an elevated, wide and open view, across a gently undulating, farmland from a PRoW. The people using this PRoW have a **high** sensitivity. The field boundaries are generally mature hedgerows, some with mature trees. Areas of woodland, some of it coniferous forestry planting, tends to follow the valleys and often is found around small hamlets. Isolated farmsteads, with barns and associated farming paraphernalia are visible. The solar farm adjacent to the Alverdiscott Substation is visible, as is the top of the electrical infrastructure of the Alverdiscott Substation itself. Pylons carrying overhead power lines are visible both within the landscape and on the skyline.

2.10.120 During the construction phase, the plant used to construct the Converter Site, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline. The impact of the construction work would be **small** to **medium,** as the construction activities would be at a distance from the

receptors and across a narrow field of view. Therefore, the temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **minor** to **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 33: View north-northeast from minor road, to the North of Gammaton Moor

2.10.121 This view is over a field gate from a minor road, which, apart from the field entrances has views restricted by the hedgerows on either side of the road. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). The view is elevated and is composed of sloping farmland with solar panels in the fore and middle ground of the view. Fields are bounded, for the most part, by hedgerows and tree belts, areas of woodland are visible in the landscape.

2.10.122 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible from this field gate. The impact of the construction work would be **large**. The temporary effect experienced by people in vehicles and cycling and walking along at this location would be **moderate** to **major adverse**, and significant. This would be largely due to the proximal nature of the converter site in the view to the receptor and the scale of contrast of the construction activities in the view.

Representative Viewpoint 34: View south from minor road between Gammaton Cross and Webbery Cross

2.10.123 This is a view through a field entrance from a minor road that is generally bounded by hedgebanks or hedgerows. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). The majority of the view is cut short by the rising landform, with glimpses of the far distant landscape seen in the centre of the view. A mature woodland belt is seen to the north (left of the view). Pylons carrying high voltage power lines are seen in the distance, on the skyline. The rear of solar panels of the solar farm adjacent to Alverdiscott Substation can be seen in the middle distance beneath the pylons.

2.10.124 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible from this field gate. The impact of the construction work would be **large**, at close range and across a large extent and scale of the available view. The temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **moderate** to **major** adverse and significant, as the proposed changes in the view will be at a variance to its baseline character.

Representative Viewpoint 35: View south from minor road to the east of Webbery Cross

2.10.125 This view is over a hedgerow on the southern side of the minor road to the east of Webbery Cross. The minor road has tall hedgebanks/hedges on either side. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). The southerly view is of small to medium sized fields, divided by hedges of varying heights and composition on rising land. The trees at the entrance and along the track to the

Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the skyline. The closest field has been divided into paddocks, with wooden fencing. A track to stables leads from the drive to the stables. A bin store is located at the junction of the driveway with the minor road. A 33kV pole-mounted transformer is seen within the closest field, with the overhead lines to/from it visible. Pylons carrying high voltage overhead lines are visible on the skyline.

2.10.126 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible in the background of the view, over the intervening field boundary hedgerow. The scale of change would be large and across a large extent, as the construction activities would occupy a large proportion of the view and contrast with the existing view. Therefore, the impact of construction would be **large**. Overall, the temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **moderate** to **major adverse**, which is significant. Changes in views during the construction phase will bring uncharacteristic elements to the scene and at variance with the existing view.

Representative Viewpoint 36: View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott

2.10.127 This is a wide, open view from a footpath, crossing an open field, to the south of the A39. The people using this PRoW have a **high** sensitivity. A low voltage line crosses the field on wooden poles. Pylons carrying high voltage overhead power lines are seen crossing the farmland, as well as on the skyline.

2.10.128 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible in the background of the available view. The scale of change and geographical extent within the view would be small, resulting in a **small** impact during the construction phase. This is due to the distance between the Proposed Development and the receptors at this location. Therefore, the temporary effect experienced by people at this location would be **minor adverse** and not significant. Changes in the available views would be in slight variance to the existing view.

Representative Viewpoint 37: View north-northwest from public right of way Huntshaw Footpath 4 south of Huntshaw Water

2.10.129 This is an open view looking across undulating farmland. The people using this PRoW have a **high** sensitivity. Fields are generally divided by hedgerows. Woodland is associated with the valleys and around hamlets and isolated farmsteads and houses. Pylons carrying high voltage lines are visible in the landscape and on the skyline.

2.10.130 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible in the background of the available view. The scale of change and geographical extent within the view would be small, resulting in a **small** impact during the construction phase. This is due to the distance between the Proposed Development from the receptors at this location. The temporary effect experienced by people at this view would be **minor adverse** and not significant, as any changes would be in slight variance to the existing view.

Representative Viewpoint 38: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the west of Delve's Grave

2.10.131 This is a restricted view, over a hedgebank, through a field gate from a route with public access west of Delve's Grave. People using the public right of way are of **high** sensitivity. The view is of a mix of arable fields and pasture. The fields are divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks, with small to medium woodlands within it. Isolated farmsteads and individual houses are also set within the farmed landscape, The Application Site is seen on the skyline, behind the existing solar farm. Wind turbines are visible in the distance to the north-east of the Application Site.

2.10.132 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible in the background of the available view. The scale of change and geographical extent within the view would be small, as the receptors from this location are at a distance from the proposed construction phase of the development. Therefore, this would result in a **small** impact during the construction. The temporary effect experienced by people at this view would be **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant, as any changes would be in slight variance to the existing view and at a distance from the receptor.

Representative Viewpoint 40: View east-southeast from minor road at Rickard's Down, north of Abbotsham, within the North Devon Coast National Landscape

2.10.133 This is a restricted view, along a minor road from within the North Devon Coast NL, channelled by hedgebanks. The view is towards a road junction, with rising farmland beyond. The fields are divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks. The sensitivity of people using this minor road, within the North Devon Coast NL varies. People within vehicles have a **medium** sensitivity, whilst cyclists and pedestrians have a **high** sensitivity. The impact of the construction works on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible to small**, due largely to distance, but also due to the screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks. The temporary of effects of construction experienced by people at this view would be **negligible adverse**, and not significant. Any proposed changes would have no noticeable effect on views and visual amenity from this location.

Representative Viewpoint 41: View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh

2.10.134 This is an open elevated view across predominantly arable farmland from the A388 road corridor north of Monkleigh. People within vehicles are of **low** sensitivity, as their focus is on the direction of travel. The sensitivity of people cycling along this road is **medium**. People walking along this busy road also have a **medium** sensitivity. The boundaries of the fields are hedges/hedgebanks with a few hedgerow trees. Areas of woodland are seen in the substantially hidden valleys. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the horizon. The three wind turbines at Darracott Reservoir are also visible on the skyline. Below the skyline the solar farm adjacent to the Converter Site is visible.

2.10.135 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be largely screened from view by intervening vegetation and distance from the receptors. The impact of the construction works on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible**, due largely to distance, but also due to the screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks. The temporary effect experienced by people at this view would vary between **negligible** and **minor adverse** and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 42: View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road

2.10.136 This is a partial view, through a field gate, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields and lie within the hidden valleys, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation. During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site and the, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible in the background of the available view in the skyline. The scale of change and geographical extent would be small, as the construction activities will take place across a narrow field of view from this location. Therefore, the impact of the construction phase on visual receptors at this location would be **small**. The temporary effect experienced by people from this view would be **negligible to minor adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 43: View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh

2.10.137 This is a contained view along a farm track, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields and lie within the hidden valleys, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. Woodland is also seen on the skyline. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible in the distance, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation. A smaller power line crosses the view in the foreground.

2.10.138 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible in the background of the available view in the skyline. The scale of change and the geographical extent in the view will be small. Though the construction activities would introduce additional features that may change the composition of the view, the construction will be framed by the existing built infrastructure such as the pylons and high voltage overhead power lines. Therefore, the impact of the construction phase on visual receptors at this location would be **small**. The temporary effect experienced by people from this view would be **negligible to minor to adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 46: View southwest from minor road to the southwest of Harracott

2.10.139 This is an open view, over a field gate, across mixed farmland from a public footpath. The sensitivity of people using this public footpath is **high**. Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to Alverdiscott Substation. The power lines are also seen in the mid-ground.

2.10.140 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible in the background of the available view in the skyline. The scale of change and the geographical extent would be negligible to small, as the changes in the composition of the views will be minimal and occupy a very small proportion of the view. Therefore, the impact of the construction phase on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible**. The temporary effect experienced by people from this view would be **negligible adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 47: View southwest from minor road, to the east of Newton Tracey

2.10.141 This is a directed view across mixed farmland towards the Converter Site from a minor road, at the hamlet of Newton Tracey, on rising land, . The sensitivity of people using this minor road vary between **low** (people in vehicles) and **medium** (cyclists and people walking). Woodland also frames and channels the view . The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation. The power lines are also seen in the mid-ground.

2.10.142 During the construction phase the plant used to construct the Converter Site, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible in the background of the available view. The construction activities at this view would be framed by the surrounding built infrastructure such as the pylons and high voltage overhead powerlines. The scale of change and geographical extent would be small, as the changes in the composition of the views would occupy a small proportion of the view. Therefore, the impact of the construction phase on visual receptors at this location would be **small**. The temporary effect experienced by people from this view would be **negligible to minor adverse**, and not significant.

2.11 Assessment of Operational Effects

2.11.1 The impacts of the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development have been assessed with respect to the overall effects during Year 1 and Year 15. The impacts arising from the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 2.19**, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

2.11.2 While the Converter Site would have the most significant impact during the operations and maintenance phase, there are effects in areas away from the Converter Site that although not significant would still be adverse during the initial years of the operations and maintenance phase. In summary these will be

those features that involve replacement planting, such as the restored hedgerows and associated tree planting, as well as any woodland or tree belts. This includes the highways improvements. Restored hedgebanks would have an immediate presence, although any associated planting will take a little longer to establish. Areas that are returned to pasture will be sown with a suitable grass mix and this will, again be quickly restored. Arable land would not be affected, once any topsoil has been replaced.

2.11.3 The realigned junction at the Littleham Road and the A386 Bideford Road will remain in place, as it is a junction improvement. The mitigation planting in this location will, as the other hedgerow and tree planting, take longer to establish. However, more mature trees could be planted in locations that are considered to be particularly sensitive.

2.11.4 The area in which the Converter Site would be located already contains electrical infrastructure, such as the Alverdiscott Substation and the overhead power lines and latterly two solar farms. However, this development is largely 'at grade' and there is intervisibility through and over the existing structures.

2.11.5 The Converter Site would introduce buildings with solid mass. However, they would be cut into the hillside, which would reduce their impact. Bunding/earth-modelling is also proposed to reduce the visible mass of the development. The bunds would be planted simply with large swathes of native woodland to minimise the perception of scale. The Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and associated illustrative landscape strategy plan has been submitted with this application. The final LEMP and landscape proposals, secured by a Requirement to the DCO will be agreed between the Applicant and Torridge District Council

2.11.6 The buildings themselves will be designed by architects to achieve the best outcome possible, given the function of the Converter Site, and in accordance with the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4).

2.11.7 The Converter station would introduce an element of lighting into a largely unlit area, as it would be a manned site 24/7. This would be managed by the operational lighting at the Converter Site being designed in accordance with the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4), as well as the latest guidance and legislation. The operational lighting would be designed to avoid illumination of areas beyond the operational site. This would include directional lighting to minimise overspill into the surrounding landscape.

2.11.8 A description of the potential effect on receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Assessment of Operational and Maintenance Effects on Landscape and Seascape Character

2.11.9 Once the construction at the Landfall and the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and HVAC Cables have been completed, the cables and the transition joint bays and joint bays would be buried. There would be manhole covers to access the link boxes and markers at field edges noting the route of the cables. All buried infrastructure would have a final layer of topsoil over other protective layers of fill. Hedgerows and hedgebanks would be restored, using suitable species and trees planted as close to the original position as possible. As the planting becomes established little trace of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and HVAC Cables would remain. The potential effects on those characteristics

and character areas directly affected by the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and HVAC Cables during the operation and maintenance phase are not likely to be significant and so are not assessed further in this chapter.

2.11.10 The assessment of the Proposed Development during the operational and maintenance phase is focussed on the impacts of the Proposed Development at and around the Converter Site, as this is where the long-term effects are considered to be significant.

2.11.11 The impacts of the of the Proposed Development, during operation have been assessed. The potential impacts arising from the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 2.19**, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed. Mitigation that would form part of Proposed Development has been detailed in **Table 2.18**.

2.11.12 A description of the potential effect on receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Designated Landscapes and Seascapes

North Devon Biosphere Reserve (Non-Statutory Designation)

2.11.13 The area within the Order Limits at the Converter Site and most of the highways improvements and the permanent realignment of the Littleham Road/A386 Bideford Road junction, lie within the Transition Zone of the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve. Special features of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, relevant to the operation and maintenance is chapter are:

- *"characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows";*
- *"special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens"; and*
- *"high level of tranquillity and nocturnal darkness in the area".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.14 The special features of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve are of high susceptibility and high value. The overall sensitivity of the special features is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.15 The direct impacts of the Converter Site and associated buildings on the special features within the Buffer Zone and Transition Zone of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve varies:

- *"Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows":* The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor does not cross any Culm grasslands and the Converter Site is not located on Culm grassland. There would be **no change** on this aspect of the special feature, as there is no Culm grassland within the Converter Site, or within the Order Limits at the Converter Site. Similarly, the realigned Littleham Road/A386 junction would not affect any Culm grassland. The Devon hedgerows/hedgebanks within the Order Limits would be reconstructed where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has passed through them, so although in the medium-term there

would be a direct **small** impact this would reduce once these features become established.

- *"Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens":* There is a small oak woodland to the north of the minor road between Gammaton Cross and Webbery Cross which is the closest example of wet woodland with lichens (albeit not wet oak woodland). However, as it is not impacted by the Proposed Development it is not affected. The magnitude of impact on this special feature would be **no change.** The wet woodland extends, in the form of mature, treed hedgerows either side of the wet meadow, to the east of the minor road (southwest of the converter site). Where the cable route crosses the field boundaries would be replanted with shrub species, as the field would be crossed in a trenched crossing. There would be a direct **medium** impact on this feature/characteristic.
- *"High level of tranquillity":* There would be an impact on visual tranquillity from the Converter Site, as the land would change from agricultural fields to an area containing large built forms. The local impact would be **large**-scale, long-term, but reversible. It is anticipated that at the Converter Site a Restoration Plan would include sensitive treatment of the planted earth-modelling which might remain in place at decommissioning. Once the earth-modelling and planting has become established, the direct impact on the visual tranquillity of the wider Biosphere Transition Zone would be **small**.
- *"Nocturnal darkness":* The Converter Site would have some lighting at night for safety and security as they would be manned 24 hours a day (see paragraph 2.11.4). The lighting is described in **Table 2.19**. However, all necessary methods of reducing light pollution would be taken. The earth-modelling would assist with minimising light pollution and when the planting becomes established it would further help to prevent light pollution. The direct, local impact on nocturnal darkness would be **small**, reducing over time as the proposed planting becomes established.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.16 The significance of effects for the four special features relevant to this chapter are as follows:

- *"Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows":* No change to the Culm grasslands, a high sensitivity receptor the significance of effects is **none**. The small impact to the hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks, high sensitivity receptors, would be **moderate adverse**, which is locally significant, but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve.
- *"Special western oak woodlands with a plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens":* No change to a high sensitivity receptor the significance of effects is **none**. Once the earth-modelling has been completed, it would be planted with native woodland species and would add to the broadleaved woodland in the area. It would take many years to replicate the existing wet woodland, but given the proposed planting is a first step.
- *"High level of tranquillity":* At Year 1, the impact on tranquillity, a high sensitivity resource is large, the effect is judged to be **major adverse**, which is locally significant, and **moderate adverse** but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve. Once the earth-modelling has been

completed, the bunding at the Converter Site would be planted with native woodland species and the broadleaved woodland would help to integrate the Converter Site into the area. Therefore, as the woodland becomes established by Year 15 to form a landscape enhancement and beneficial impact, the effect would reduce to **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

- *"Nocturnal darkness":* The impact on nocturnal darkness, a high sensitivity resource is small, the effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, which is locally significant, but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve. As with tranquillity, the earth-modelling and planting would reduce this over time, to **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.11.17 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

North Devon Coast National Landscape

2.11.18 The special qualities, of the North Devon Coast NL, relevant to this section of the chapter, are:

- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.19 This special quality of the North Devon Coast NL is of high susceptibility and high value. The overall sensitivity of this special quality is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.20 The direct impacts of the Converter Site on panoramic views, that might be affected during the operation and maintenance phase is:

- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas":* There would be an impact of views from elevated land within the NL, towards the Converter Site. The direct impact on inland views would be of local geographic extent and long-term. The impact on the views of the landscape would be **negligible**, due to the distance from the Converter Site and the intervening topography and vegetation, as well as the establishment of the vegetation and mitigation planting by Year 15.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.21 The significance of effects for the special quality relevant to this section of the assessment is:

- *"Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas":* This high sensitivity resource would experience a negligible impact. The effect would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.

2.11.22 The overall effect on the relevant special quality of the North Devon Coast NL is judged to be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.11.23 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

Exmoor National Park

2.11.24 As the Exmoor National Park lies approximately 21.5 km from the Converter Site there is no potential for any significant effects during the day-time. However, one special quality has the potential to be affected at night, that is:

- *Dark skies and the Dark Sky Reserve.*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.25 This special quality of Exmoor National Park is of very high susceptibility and very high value. The overall sensitivity of this special quality is **very high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.26 The lighting at the Converter Site is described in paragraph 2.10.78 The direct impacts of the lighting at the Converter Site on the special quality dark skies and the Dark Sky Reserve would be of local geographic extent and long-term. Given the distance from the Converter Site, the intervening topography and vegetation, the landscape mitigation proposed and the application of the best practice lighting guidance, the impact on the dark skies of Exmoor National Park would be **negligible**, as the proposed planting matures.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.27 The significance of effects for the special quality relevant to this section of the assessment is:

- *Dark skies and the Dark Sky Reserve:* This very high sensitivity resource would experience a negligible impact. The effect would be locally **minor adverse**, and not significant.

2.11.28 The overall effect on the relevant special quality of the Exmoor National Park is judged to be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.11.29 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

National Character Area

Converter Stations

2.11.30 The Proposed Development is located wholly within NCA 149: The Culm (Volume, 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape Character Baseline

Technical Report, Figure 2.2.2). The key characteristics are set out within the same Appendix. The NCA's key characteristics relevant to this chapter are:

- *"Rolling, open plateaux…wide views across a remote landscape";*
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea, and where associated with estates"; and*
- *"Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.31 The key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the Devon hedgebanks, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.32 The direct impacts of the Converter Site on the key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm varies:

- *"Rolling, open plateaux…wide views across a remote landscape":* The Converter Site is located in this area of the NCA. There would be an impact of views from elevated land towards the Converter Site. At Year 1, the direct impact on views would be of local geographic extent and long-term. The impact on the views of the wider landscape would be **small**. By Year 15, the impacts would reduce, as the proposed woodland planting becomes established.
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea":* No woodlands are present at the Converter Site. The realignment of the Littleham Road/A386 Bideford Road will necessitate the removal of some mature trees. Replacement planting is proposed as well as some adjacent planting/reinforcement of existing woodland. Initially this would have a negligible impact on this characteristic, but this would reduce as the landscape mitigation becomes established. At the Converter Site there would be a **small** positive impact to this key characteristic, as once the earth-modelling has been completed, it would be planted with native woodland species and would add to the broadleaved woodland in the area.
- *"Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks":* The fields in which the Converter Site are to be located are large, smaller fields having been subsumed to allow for more efficient agriculture. This farmed landscape has also had the track to the Alverdiscott Substation inserted into it. These more recent boundaries are marked by mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees, sometimes associated with ditches. These older hedgerows are not affected by the Converter Site. At the improved Littleham Road/A386 Bideford Road junction, there will be a slight change in the field boundary, however the existing field boundary would remain almost intact, barring the sections that will be removed to allow the section of realigned road to be inserted. The

direct impact on field patterns would be of local geographical extent, with an overall impact of **small** magnitude.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.33 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of NCA 149: The Culm, are as follows:

- *"Rolling, open plateaux…wide views across a remote landscape":* There is a small impact on this medium sensitivity landscape resource. The effects are judged to be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.
- *"Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks. Woodland is more frequent in the shelter of valleys and combes running to the sea":* There would be an addition to this feature. The significance of effects is **minor beneficial**, which is not significant.
- *"Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks":* There is a small impact experienced by the hedgebanks, which are high sensitivity landscape receptors. The effects are judged to be **minor adverse**, which are not significant.

2.11.34 The overall effect on NCA 149: The Culm is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.11.35 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

County Landscape Character Areas

2.11.36 The Converter Site and HVAC Cables are in the High Culm Ridges LCA.

High Culm Ridges LCA

2.11.37 The key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA relevant to *this section of the assessment are:*

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the River Torridge (to the west)";*
- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground";*
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land";*
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land";*
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed"; and*

- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.38 The key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the deciduous woodland, hedgebanks and long views from high ground, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.39 The direct impacts of the Landfall, onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Converter Site on the relevant key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA varies:

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the Torridge (to the west)":* The Converter Site is located to the east and south of a ridge of high ground. The change in the topography at the Converter Site would be of local geographical extent, long-term and permanent, with an overall impact of **large** magnitude on this aspect of the key characteristic. There are two watercourses/ditches that flow west to east outside/on the boundaries of the Converter Site, which join a small stream that flows west to the River Torridge. However, these watercourses/ditches are not impacted by the Proposed Development. There would be **no change** to this key characteristic.
- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground":* The Converter Site would not require the removal of these features, there would be **no change** to the existing features. Woodland planting on the earth-modelling/bunds forms part of the landscape and ecological mitigation. This would have a **small** positive impact.
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land":* The **large** impact of the Converter Site on this characteristic would be local in geographical extent, long-term and permanent.
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land":* The direct impact on field patterns would be of local geographical extent, long-term and permanent, with an overall impact of **small** magnitude, as the fields within which the Converter Site are located are already large (the combination of several smaller fields) and the pattern compromised by the National Grid development.
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed":* The direct impact on these features, during the operation and maintenance phase of the Converter Site would be of local geographical extent, long-term and permanent, with an overall impact of **small** magnitude, as some internal field boundaries may have to be changed.
- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea"*: There would be an impact of views from

elevated land towards the Converter Site. This direct impact on views would be of local geographic extent and long-term. The impact on the views of the landscape would be **small**.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.40 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of the High Culm Ridges LCA, are as follows:

- *"Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the Torridge (to the west"):* The ridges of the High Culm are a medium sensitivity characteristic. There would be a localised, but large impact on this key characteristic at the Converter Site. The effect would be **major adverse**, which is significant. The effect on the tributary streams is **none**.
- *"Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground":* No woodland or orchards are removed as a result of the operation of the Proposed Development. The significance of effect on the existing woodland is **none**. As the proposed mitigation includes woodland planting there is a **minor beneficial** impact on this element of the landscape overall, which is not significant.
- *"Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land":* At the Converter Site the localised impact is large, the effect is judged to be **major adverse**, which is significant.
- *"Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land":* The impact on this medium sensitivity receptor is small, the localised effect is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed":* During the operations and maintenance phase no hedgebanks would be affected, however, some hedgerows might be. Where the hedgerows are in good condition the impact would be medium, where they are in poor condition the impact would less. Overall, the localised, effect on this receptor is judged to **moderate adverse**, but not significant.
- *"Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea":* The long views are a high sensitivity key characteristic, the impact of the Converter Site on long views would be small and localised. The effect on this key characteristic is judged to be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of the effect: Winter Year 1

2.11.41 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium** to **high** and the magnitude of impact ranges from **small** to **large**. At winter Year 1, the proposed landscape mitigation planting would not have matured. Therefore, there would be a **moderate** to **major adverse** impact during the day and night on the immediate character of the site, which is significant.

2.11.42 The indirect effect on the wider landscape surrounding the converter stations during the day and night would be of **minor to moderate adverse**, and not

significant. This is due to the small scale and extent of the Proposed Development in relation to the LCA.

Significance of the effect: Summer Year 15

2.11.43 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, which would provide enhancements to the site conditions and help to integrate the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the direct effects on the immediate character of the site would reduce to **moderate adverse**, and not significant.

2.11.44 The indirect effect on the wider character of the High Culm Ridges LCA would be judged as **minor adverse** and not significant, as the effects would decrease at distance limiting the influence of the Proposed Development to all but a localised area on the key characteristics of the LCA.

Future Monitoring

2.11.45 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types – Directly Affected

2.11.46 The North Devon District and Torridge District LCT that are directly affected by the Proposed Development during the operation phase are (from the west):

- LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land;
- LCT 3A: Upper Farmed Wooded Valley Slopes; and
- LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland.

LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land

2.11.47 The key characteristics of the LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land relevant to this part of the assessment are:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform";*
- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides";*
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms";*
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences"; and*
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.48 The key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the tributary valleys, the broadleaved and wet woodland, Devon hedgebanks and rushy meadows, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.49 The direct impacts of the Proposed Development at the Converter Site, on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land varies:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform"*: At the Converter Site, the elevated land would experience a **large** direct, localised, long-term and permanent impact during the operation and maintenance phase.
- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides":* There would be **no change** to these existing key characteristics from the Proposed Development, as the Converter Site is located to avoid these features. The proposed woodland planting as part of the proposed landscape and ecological mitigation would have a **small** positive impact.
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms":* The Converter Site is located in larger fields, of more recent enclosure. The direct impacts would be local in geographical extent, long-term and permanent. The impact of the Converter Site on these fields would be **large**.
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences"*: The Converter Site will result in the loss of field boundary hedges but not hedgebanks. The direct impact on these features would be of local geographical extent, long-term and permanent, with an overall impact of **medium** magnitude.
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland":* The Converter Site is located in large fields, of recent enclosure. The direct impacts would be local in geographical extent and long-term. The impact of the Converter Site on the farmed characteristic would be **large**.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.50 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land, are as follows:

- *"Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform"*: The operation of the Converter Site would have a large, localised effect on

the elevated land. These direct effects would be **major adverse**, which is significant.

- *"Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides":* There would be no change to this high sensitivity receptor. The significance of effect on the existing features would be **none**. The proposed woodland planting as part of the proposed landscape and ecological mitigation would have a **minor beneficial** effect, which is not significant.
- *"Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms":* Although the Converter Site is located within larger fields/agglomerations of smaller fields, the change from farmland to Converter Site on this characteristic would have a large impact. The localised, effect is judged to be **major adverse**, which is significant.
- *"Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences":* The Converter Site might cross field boundaries but these would be hedgerows and post and wire fences, rather than hedgebanks of high sensitivity. The impact would be medium. The localised, effect is judged to be **moderate adverse**, and significant.
- *"Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en-route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland"*: The Converter Site would have a large impact on this medium sensitivity receptor. The localised, significance of effects would be **moderate adverse**, and significant.

Significance of the effect: Winter Year 1

2.11.51 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **medium** to **high** and the magnitude of impact ranges from **medium** to **large**. At winter Year 1, the proposed landscape mitigation planting will not have matured. Therefore, there would be a **moderate** to **major adverse** impact during the day and night on the immediate character of the site, which is significant.

2.11.52 The indirect effect on the wider landscape surrounding the converter stations during the day and night would be of **minor to moderate adverse**, and not significant. This is due to the small scale and extent of the Proposed Development in relation to the LCT.

Significance of the effect: Summer Year 15

2.11.53 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured and provide enhancements to the site conditions, which would help to integrate the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the direct effects on the immediate character of the site would reduce to **moderate adverse**, and significant.

2.11.54 The indirect effect on the wider character of the LCT:5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land would be judged as **minor adverse** and not significant, as the effects would decrease at distance limiting the influence of the Proposed Development to all but a localised area on the key characteristics of the LCT.

Future Monitoring

2.11.55 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes

2.11.56 This LCT lies within the Order Limits, and it abuts the northern field of the Converter Site. While it does not host the Converter Site, the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor or HVAC Cables, it would be affected by the utility diversions within it, to the south of the minor road from Webbery Cross to Stony Cross.

2.11.57 The key characteristics that have the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation";*
- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns";*
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…";*
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape"; and*
- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…".*

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.58 The key characteristics of LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes are of medium susceptibility and medium value. The overall sensitivity of the key characteristics is **medium**. The exceptions to this are the broadleaved copses and wet woodland, Devon hedges/hedgebanks, Culm grassland and damp meadows, as well as the views of the church towers, which have a high susceptibility and a high value. The overall sensitivity of these key characteristics is **high**. The infrastructure (main roads and electrical infrastructure) which have a low susceptibility and low value, the sensitivity of which is **low**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.59 The direct impacts of the realigned overhead power lines and pylons on the key characteristics varies.

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation":* There would be **no change** to these elements and character, as

the utilities would be diverted, but would not remove existing landscape elements.

- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns":* There would be **no change** to these elements and character, as the pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements.
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…":* There would be **no change** to these elements and character, as the utilities would be diverted, but would not remove existing landscape elements.
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape":* If some existing overhead power lines were undergrounded, it would have a direct, long-term, permanent **negligible** beneficial impact on visual tranquillity in the land to the north of the Converter Site, which is not significant.
- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…":* If some existing overhead power lines were undergrounded, this would have a direct, long-term, permanent **negligible** beneficial impact on views of church towers, which is not significant.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.60 The significance of effects of the Proposed Development on the relevant key characteristics are:

- *"A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation":* This key characteristic has a mix of medium and high sensitivity resources and receptors. As there would be no change to these, the significance of effect is judged to be **none**.
- *"Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns":* The sensitivity of the landscape characteristics are medium. However, as there would be no impact, the significance of effect is judged to be **none**.
- *"Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…"*: The sensitivity of these resources is high. However, as there would be no impact, the effect is judged to be **none**.
- *"Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape"*: If some existing overhead power lines were undergrounded, this could have a positive negligible impact on a high sensitivity receptor, which is judged to have a **negligible beneficial** effect, which is not significant.

- *"Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…":* If some existing overhead power lines were undergrounded, this could have a positive negligible impact on a high sensitivity receptor, which is judged to have a **negligible beneficial** effect, which is not significant.

2.11.61 The overall significance of the effect of the diverted or undergrounded utilities on this large LCT is judged to be **negligible beneficial**.

Significance of the effect: Winter Year 1

2.11.1 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is **low** to **medium** and the magnitude of impact on the characteristics are either **none**, or **negligible beneficial**. At winter Year 1, the proposed landscape mitigation planting will not have matured, but the realignment and undergrounding of the utilities will have been undertaken. Therefore, there would be a neutral impact during the day and night on the immediate character of the site, which is not significant.

2.11.2 The indirect effect on the wider landscape surrounding the converter stations during the day and night would be of **negligible beneficial**, and not significant. This is due to the small scale of the benefits and extent of the Proposed Development in relation to the LCT.

Significance of the effect: Summer Year 15

2.11.3 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured and provide enhancements to the site conditions, which would help to integrate the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the direct effects on the immediate character of the site would be **negligible beneficial** but not significantly so, as the benefits would be localised.

2.11.4 The indirect effect on the wider character of the LCT:5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land would be judged as **negligible beneficial** but not significant, as the beneficial effects would decrease at distance limiting the influence of the Proposed Development to all but a localised area on the key characteristics of the LCT.

Future Monitoring

2.11.5 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland

2.11.6 This LCT lies close to the eastern field of the Converter Site. It is a long LCT that extends to the southeast of the Converter Site, which is located at its most north-westerly point.

2.11.7 The perceptual qualities that have the potential to be indirectly affected by the Proposed Development are: Long views from elevated land, e.g., to Exmoor and Dartmoor; and, high levels of tranquillity and remoteness, although it is also noted that the perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness are diluted by modern development and recreational land uses.

Sensitivity of the Receptor

2.11.8 Long views, tranquillity and remoteness are high value perceptual qualities, of high susceptibility. The sensitivity of these qualities is **high**.

Magnitude of Impact

2.11.9 The indirect impacts on these qualities varies:

- *"Long views"*: The Proposed Development lies to the west of the majority of this LCT and does not lie between the LCT and views of Exmoor and Dartmoor. However, the Converter Site and diverted utilities may feature at the periphery of some long views. The indirect impact of this localised, long-term, permanent effect would, on balance, be **negligible**.
- *"Tranquillity and remoteness"*: Even though the part of the LCT that lies within the ZTV of the Converter Site is not remote, the operation may affect some aspects of tranquillity. The indirect impact of this localised, medium-term, reversible effect would, on balance, be **negligible**.

Significance of the Effect

2.11.10 The significance of indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the perceptual qualities

- *"Long views"*: There would be a negligible impact on this high sensitivity receptor. The effect is judged to be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.
- *"Tranquillity and remoteness"*: There would be a negligible impact on this high sensitivity receptor. The effect is judged to be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of the effect: Winter Year 1

2.11.11 Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape receptor is high and the magnitude of impact as negligible. At winter Year 1, the proposed landscape mitigation planting will not have matured. Therefore, there would be **minor adverse** effect during the day and night on the immediate character of the site, which is not significant.

2.11.12 The indirect effect on the wider landscape surrounding the converter stations during the day and night would be of **negligible adverse**, and not significant. This is due to limited wider influence of Proposed Development on the perceptual characteristics in relation to the LCT.

Significance of the effect: Summer Year 15

2.11.13 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured and provide enhancements to the site conditions, which would help to integrate the Proposed Development within the surrounding landscape. Therefore, the direct effects on the immediate character of the site would reduce to **negligible adverse**, and not significant.

2.11.14 The indirect effect on the wider character of the LCT:1F Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland would be judged as **negligible adverse** and not significant, as the effects would be barely perceptible on the key characteristics of the LCT.

Future Monitoring

2.11.15 No future monitoring is proposed, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10).

North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types - Indirectly Affected

2.11.16 None of the North Devon District and Torridge District LCT will be indirectly affected by the operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development Therefore, the North Devon District and Torridge District LCT areas have not been taken forward to the assessment stage, as there is no potential for these LCTs to experience significant effects.

Assessment of Effects on Views and Visual Amenity During the Operation and Maintenance Phase

2.11.17 As the location of the Converter Site and the proposed mitigation has not been finalised, only a limited number of visualisations have been produced for the ES. These have been selected from the list of representative viewpoints in **Table 2.17** of this chapter. The viewpoints represent a geographical spread of sensitive receptors. The visualisations from these representative viewpoints have been taken forward to assessment and submitted with the ES to illustrate the worst-case scenario in terms of visual effects from the selected views. The assessment of effects on views and visual amenity have been conducted with respect to Year 1 and Year 15 of operation of the Proposed Development.

2.11.18 The impacts of the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development have been assessed. The potential impacts arising from the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 2.19**, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

2.11.19 A description of the potential effect on visual receptors caused by each identified impact is given below.

Visual Receptor Groups

People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land

2.11.20 The sensitivity of the people using the local PRoW network and Access Land for informal recreation is **high** because appreciation of the surrounding environment is a primary concern. However, those users of the South West Coast Path National Trail, as it crosses the North Devon Coast National Landscape (NL) are considered to have a **very high** sensitivity to change.

Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor – Operational Effects

2.11.21 During the operation and maintenance phase the impacts would be **negligible**, as the cables would be underground (trenched or trenchless) and the construction compounds and the elements crossed using trenched techniques

would be restored to farmland. The effects would vary from **negligible** to **minor adverse**, reducing over time and not significant.

Converter Site and HVAC Cables – Operational Effects

2.11.22 People using the PRoW network are considered to have a **high** sensitivity, unless on a designated route. The impact on people using the PRoW network during the operation of the infrastructure at the Converter Site would be **negligible** to **small**, due primarily to distance from the Converter Site. The effects experienced by people using the PRoW network would be **negligible** to **moderate adverse** and not significant.

Dynamic Receptors

2.11.23 People within vehicles using roads are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to change. However, people in vehicles crossing the NL are deemed to have **medium** sensitivity to the Proposed Development during the operation phase, while cyclists and people walking along minor roads within the NL are considered to have a **high** sensitivity as people within the NL are deemed to be more aware of their surroundings. On roads in non-designated landscapes, cyclists have a **medium** sensitivity. People walking along minor roads have varied sensitivities to the Proposed Development, depending on the context of the view, the sensitivity of these receptors would usually be **medium**.

Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor – Operational Effects

2.11.24 Those people using the road network around and crossing the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would only be affected during the construction phase. Any maintenance work following completion of the construction would not result in significant effects and so the effects of the cable corridor during the operation and maintenance and the decommissioning phases are not assessed in this LSVIA.

Converter Stations and HVAC Cables – Operational Effects

2.11.25 As the impact experienced by people travelling along minor roads within the NL, these receptors would be less at operation and decommissioning than at construction, these visual receptors are not taken further in this LSVIA.

2.11.26 In areas outside designated landscapes road users in vehicles have a **low** sensitivity to the construction of the Proposed Development at the Converter Site. Cyclists and pedestrians using the roads local to the Converter Sites, as a right of way, also have a **medium** sensitivity to the Proposed Development, dependent on context. Barring the minor road that runs between Gammaton Cross and Webbery Cross which forms the western boundary of the Converter Site, there are few roads that are close to the Converter Site. People in vehicles, those on bicycles, as well as people walking along the Gammaton Cross to Webbery Cross road would experience a localised **medium** visual impact when close to the Converter Site. People in vehicles would experience a **minor adverse** effect, which is not significant. Cyclists and walkers using the minor road would experience a localised **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant.

2.11.27 These effects would reduce over time as the proposed landscape mitigation becomes established. The effects would reduce to a level that is not significant.

People at Work

2.11.28 People at their places of work are considered to have a **low** sensitivity to the Proposed Development because the focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings.

Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor – Operational Effects

2.11.29 Those people working in and around the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would only be affected during the construction phase. Any maintenance work following completion of the construction would not result in significant effects and so the effects of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during the operation and maintenance phase are not assessed in this LSVIA.

Converter Stations and HVAC Cables – Operational Effects

2.11.30 Most working people that have views towards the Converter Site are involved in the agricultural sector. Those with close views of the Proposed Development would be people working at the Converter Site, National Grid employees and those people working on the adjacent solar farm. The impact of the Proposed Development once constructed would be **medium**, reducing with distance from the site of the works. The visual effects experienced by these receptors would be **minor adverse** and not significant. The effects would reduce over time, as the proposed planting becomes established.

Representative Viewpoints

2.11.31 Visualisations of the Converter Site have been undertaken for all representative viewpoints with a view towards the site, to inform the LSVIA. The visualisations have also assisted in developing the landscape mitigation proposals.

2.11.32 The locations of the chosen representative viewpoints, shown in Volume 4, Figure 2.5a to 2.5e of the ES, are geographically diverse and/or from sensitive viewpoints. Descriptions from all the viewpoint locations are in Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report of the ES. Visualisations from the selected representative viewpoints are submitted in Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES.

Representative Viewpoint 23: View south from Public Right of Way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey Footpath 4 to the South of Horwood (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.9 to 2.5.12)

2.11.33 This open, southerly view is across a sloping field, with farmland divided by mature hedgerows with some containing trees. Woodland is associated with the valleys, also with isolated houses, farms and hamlets. Woodland also forms part of the skyline. Pylons carrying the overhead power lines are also visible features on the skyline. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.34 At year one, the mitigation planting will not yet have matured. The Converter Site would be screened by proposed earth-modelling from this viewpoint. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established, would form a new part of the skyline (Figure 2.5.10, Representative viewpoint 23: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The scale of change would be **small**, as the Proposed Development would occupy a small proportion of the views and be at a distance from the receptors in the background of the view, without contrasting with other features in the view. The long term and reversible effects experienced by people using the public right of way would therefore be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.35 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening the Proposed Development. The mitigation planting would largely integrate with the surrounding landscape once it matures, reflecting the overall visual character of the view (Figure 2.5.12, Representative viewpoint 23: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). Therefore, the impact of the Proposed Development would reduce to **negligible**, as there would be little overall change to the composition of the view and would not contrast with other features. The long term and reversible effects experienced by people walking along the public right of way would therefore be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.13 to 2.5.16)

2.11.36 This is an open view in a south-westerly direction across farmland divided by mature hedgerows. The foreground of the view consists of a large scale, open pasture field, leading toward the midground, bound by a field boundary hedgerow and occasional trees to the right of the view. The background of the view comprises layers of agricultural fields across undulating farmland bound by field boundary hedgerows. In the background of the view there are numerous pylons and high voltage overhead powerlines skyline in the view. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.37 During Year 1 the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened (Figure 2.5.14, Representative viewpoint 24: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). However, the mitigation itself would break the skyline before the proposed planting becomes established which would form part of the new skyline. The scale of change and geographical extent would be small, as the Proposed Development would only occupy a small proportion of the view and across a narrow range and be at a distance from the receptor. The impact would therefore be **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people using the public right of way would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.38 During Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured. The proposed mitigation planting would screen a majority of the Proposed Development. Limited, and glimpsed, distance views of the tops of the converter stations would be available in the background of the view, however, would be framed in the context of the surrounding infrastructure (Figure 2.5.16, Representative viewpoint 24: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact would therefore reduce to **negligible**. The long term and reversible effects experienced by people along the public right of way would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 26: View west-southwest from public right of way Horwood, Lovacott and Newton Tracey 56 to the east of Bartridge (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.21 to 2.5.24)

2.11.39 This is an open view across undulating farmland from the public right of way. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. The fields in the view have a mix of boundary types. Woodland is associated with the valleys and tops of the hills, the latter forming the skyline in parts of the view. There are areas of woodland/groups of trees around isolated houses, farms and hamlets/villages. Villages are seen on the skyline. Pylons carrying overhead power lines are also seen on the horizon.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.40 During year one the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened (Figure 2.5.22, Representative viewpoint 26: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form part of the new skyline. The scale of change in and extent in the view would be small, as the Proposed Development would be at a distance from the receptors and across a narrow field of view. Therefore, the impact would be **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people using the public right of way would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.41 At Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. The majority of the Proposed Development would be screened with only partial glimpsed views of the tops of the converter stations available in the background of the view. Therefore, the scale of change in the view would be negligible. There would be a limited change in view across a narrow extent and at a distance from the receptors, with the mitigation planting helping to integrate the Proposed Development in the overall character of the view (Figure 2.5.24, Representative viewpoint 26: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the proposed mitigation measures would reduce to **negligible**, as the Proposed Development would not contrast with the existing features in the view and would appear inferior in size relative to other features available in the view. The long

term and reversible effect experienced by people using the public right of way would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 27: View West from Junction of Minor Road with B3232, at Alverdiscott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.25 to 2.5.28)

2.11.42 This view is of undulating farmland, through a field gate and constrained by tall hedgerows either side. The panels of the solar farm to the south of the Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the hill slopes to the south of the Converter Site. Overhead power lines and telegraph poles are visible across the midground of the view. The background of the view is comprised a mosaic of medium to large scale mixed use agricultural fields bound by hedgerows and hedgerow trees across an undulating landscape. In the background of the view, steel pylons and high voltage overhead powerlines span the view near Alverdiscott Substation. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low.** The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along the minor road is **medium**.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.43 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not yet have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline in places and would form a new part of the skyline, as would the upper parts of the converter hall buildings. Figure 2.5.26, Representative viewpoint 27: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The scale of change and geographical extent in the view would be medium, as the Proposed Development would contrast with other features in the view and be at medium range from the receptors. Therefore, the impact would be **medium**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced people in vehicles along the minor road would therefore be **minor adverse**, and not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by

people walking and cycling along the minor road would therefore be **moderate adverse**, which is also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.44 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured. The tops of the converter stations would be partially visible in the background of the view, above the mitigation planting measures. The scale of change and extent would reduce to small, as the Proposed Development would appear in context with the surrounding existing development of the solar farm and integrate within the visual character of the view. Therefore, the impact would be **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people in vehicles along the minor road would be **negligible to minor adverse,** which is not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 29: View West-Northwest from Minor Road, to the South of Alverdiscott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.33 to 2.5.36)

2.11.45 This view is across a large pasture field through a field gate, framed by hedgerows either side. The solar panels belonging to of the solar farm to the south of the Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the hill slopes to the south of the Converter Site. A solar farm is glimpsed behind mature woodland and woodland belts to the north of Alverdiscott Substation. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low.** The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along the minor road is **medium**.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.46 At Year 1, the mitigation will not have matured and therefore provide no screening effect. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that would not be screened. (Figure 2.5.34, Representative viewpoint 29: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The scale of change in the view would be medium, and across a medium extent as the Proposed Development would be viewed at a medium range and contrast in the skyline of the view introducing new built form and features in the background. Therefore, the impact would be **medium**. The long term and reversible significance of effect for people travelling in vehicles would be **minor adverse** and not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect for people walking and cycling along the road would be **moderate adverse**, which is also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.47 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening a majority of the Proposed Development. The mitigation planting measures would form part of the new skyline as it establishes and integrates within the surrounding landscape. The upper portions of the Converter Site would be visible in the

views (Figure 2.5.36, Representative viewpoint 29: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the Proposed Development would therefore be **small**, as the visibility of the features within the Converter Site would be of a small scale and extent and not contrast with the existing solar farm and infrastructure in the view. The long term and reversible significance of effect for people travelling in vehicles from the minor road would be **minor adverse**, and not significant. The significance of effect for people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor** and **moderate adverse**, which is also not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 30: View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.37 to 2.5.40)

2.11.48 This is an elevated, directed view through a field gate with tall hedgerows on either side. The view is across gently undulating farmland, bounded by hedgerows. In the foreground 11 kV lines and telegraph poles cross the field. Two small wind turbines are seen in the mid ground. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low.** The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along the minor road is **medium.** In the distance the solar farms and the Alverdiscott Substation are visible, as well as a further wind turbine and high voltage overhead cables and pylons.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.49 In Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will have not yet matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened (Figure 2.5.38, Representative viewpoint 30: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1).The impact of the Proposed Development on the receptors at this location would be **small**, as the development would be in the background of the view and at a distance, and not contrast with the existing scene and infrastructure. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people travelling within vehicles along the minor road at this location would be **negligible to minor adverse,** which is not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, which is also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.50 At Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured, screening a majority of the Proposed Development. Partial views of the tops of the Converter Site would be visible above the mitigation planting, which would form part of the new skyline in the view. The scale of change and extent within the view would be small, as the Converter Site would be at a distance from the receptors and across a narrow field of view (Figure 2.5.40, Representative viewpoint 30: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). Therefore, the impact would remain **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people travelling within vehicles along the minor road would reduce to **negligible adverse** and not significant. The changes in view would have a limited effect on the visual amenity and character of the views in context with the existing development. The long term and reversible significance of

effect for cyclists and people walking would be **minor adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 31: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.41 to 2.5.44)

2.11.51 This view is over a field gate close to the junction of this track with the minor road from Brownscombe Farm to Huntshaw Water. The track is bounded on either side with tall hedgerows. Other than a view over another field gate and partly obscured by a barn, views are very restricted from this route. The view is of undulating farmland, bounded by mature hedgerows. The woodland tends to follow the valleys, but the view includes woodland on the skyline/hill tops. Pylons carrying the high voltage power lines are also visible on the skyline, as well as in the middle distance. The solar farm, adjacent to the Alverdiscott Substation is also visible in this view. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low** and the sensitivity of cyclists and people walking is **medium.**

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.52 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not yet have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by the existing woodland and intervening vegetation and the earth-modelling which forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened (Figure 2.5.42, Representative viewpoint 31: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). Partial views of the tops of the Converter Stations would be available in the view, however, these would be seen as a small element in the view. The Proposed Development and associated earth modelling would form part of the new skyline in the background, however, would largely integrate with the surrounding character when viewed in relation to the existing infrastructure and built form in the view. The impact of the Converter Site in Year 1 would therefore be **small.** The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people in vehicles would therefore be **negligible to minor adverse**, which is not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would therefore be **minor adverse**, which is also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.53 At Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. The proposed mitigation planting would form part of the new skyline, with partial views of the upper portions of the converter stations in the background of the views. The Proposed Development would occupy a narrow field of the available view and be of a small scale and extent. The Proposed Development would not contrast against the existing scene and infrastructure present in the view, as the mitigation planting would help to further integrate the Converter Site within the surrounding visual character (Figure 2.5.44, Representative viewpoint 31: Proposed Illustrative summer Year 15). Therefore, the impact would remain small. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people travelling in vehicles at this location would be **negligible adverse**, which is not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect

experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, which is also not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 32: View Northwest from Public Right of Way Footpath 1, to the East of Huntshaw (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.45 to 2.5.48)

2.11.54 This is an elevated, wide and open view, across a gently undulating, farmland from a public right of way. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. The field boundaries are generally mature hedgerows, some with mature trees. Areas of woodland, some of it is coniferous forestry planting, tends to follow the valleys and often is found around small hamlets. Isolated farmsteads, with barns and associated farming paraphernalia are visible. The solar farm adjacent to the Alverdiscott Substation is visible, as is the top of the electrical infrastructure of the Alverdiscott Substation itself. Pylons carrying overhead power lines are visible both within the landscape and on the skyline.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.55 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have reached maturity and therefore provide no screening effect. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline (Figure 2.5.46, Representative viewpoint 32: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The scale of change of the Proposed Development in the view would be small, as the Converter Site would occupy a small proportion of the view and be at a distance from the receptor. Therefore, the impact would be **small**. The Proposed Development would contrast slightly with other features in the view and integrate to a degree within the existing composition and built form. The long term and reversible significance of effects for people using the public footpath at this location would be **minor to moderate adverse**, and not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.56 At Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. The mitigation planting would help to screen a majority of the Proposed Development, however, will form part of the new skyline in the background of the view. The tops of the Converter Stations would be visible above the mitigation planting, however, would be framed in context with the surrounding solar development and infrastructure. The scale of change and extent would be small, as the Proposed Development would be at a distance from the receptor and encompass a small proportion of the view and be largely integrated with the surrounding character of the view (Figure 2.5.48, Representative viewpoint 32: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact would therefore be **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people using the public footpath at this location would be **minor adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 33: View North-Northeast from Minor Road, to the North of Gammaton Moor (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.49 to 2.5.52)

2.11.57 This view is over a field gate from a minor road, which, apart from the field entrances has views restricted by the hedgerows on either side of the road. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road would be **low**. The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along this minor road would be **medium**. The view is elevated and is composed of sloping farmland with solar panels in the fore and middle ground of the view. Fields are bounded, for the most part, by hedgerows and tree belts, areas of woodland are visible in the landscape. Solar panels from the intervening development are visible in the midground as a notable feature in the view.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.58 At Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured. During operational phase parts of the upper regions of the Converter Site, as well as the proposed earth-modelling mitigation would be visible from this field gate (Figure 2.5.50, Representative viewpoint 33: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1) The impact of the Proposed Development in Year 1 would be **medium**, as the Converter Stations and earth modelling would be prominent and or obstruct the existing view and alter the overall composition. Therefore, the significance of effect for road users from this view during the day and night would be **minor** adverse. The significance of cyclists and walkers would be **moderate adverse** and not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.59 By the summer of Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting measures will have matured. The impact would reduce to **small**, as the Proposed Development would be largely integrated with the surrounding landscape. The proposed landscape planting would contrast slightly by limiting views toward the background, however, would integrate within the existing view and composition (Figure 2.5.52, Representative viewpoint 33: Proposed illustrative Year 15). Therefore, the long term and reversible effect experienced by road users at this location during the day and night would be **negligible adverse.** The significance of effect for cyclists and walkers would be **minor adverse** and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 34: View south from minor road between Gammaton Cross and Webbery Cross (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.53 to 2.5.56)

2.11.60 This is a view through a field entrance from a minor road that is generally bounded by hedgebanks or hedgerows. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road would be **low**. The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along this minor road would be **medium**. The majority of the view is cut short by the rising landform, with glimpses of the far distant landscape seen in the centre of the view. A mature woodland belt is seen to the north (left of the view). Pylons carrying high voltage power lines are seen in the distance, on the

skyline. The rear of solar panels of the solar farm adjacent to Alverdiscott Substation can be seen in the middle distance beneath the pylons.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.61 At Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured. The earth-modelling mitigation and partial views from the tops of the Converter Site would be visible from this field gate, across a large extent and scale, blocking views toward the background (Figure 2.5.54, Representative viewpoint 34: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). Therefore, the impact would be **large**. The significance of effect for road users from this view during the day and night would be **moderate adverse** and not significant. The significance of effect of cyclists and walkers would be **major adverse**, which is significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.62 During Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. The impact of the Proposed Development would remain **large** as the views toward the surrounding landscape would be obstructed and encompass a large field of view. (Figure 2.5.56, Representative viewpoint 34: Proposed illustrative Year 15). Though the mitigation planting would introduce new landscape features that would be beneficial in screening the Proposed Development from view, the changes would be such that the additional features would alter the character of the view. Therefore, on balance the significance of effect for road users from this view during the day and night would be **minor adverse** and not significant. The significance of effect for cyclists and walkers would be **moderate adverse** which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 35: View south from minor road to the east of Webbery Cross (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.57 to 2.5.60)

2.11.63 This view is over a hedgerow on the southern side of the minor road to the east of Webbery Cross. The minor road has tall hedgebanks/hedges on either side. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road would be **low**. The sensitivity of cyclists and people walking along this minor road would be **medium**. The southerly view is of small to medium sized fields, divided by hedges of varying heights and composition on rising land. The trees at the entrance and along the track to the Alverdiscott Substation are visible on the skyline. The closest field has been divided into paddocks, with wooden fencing. A trach to stables leads from the drive to the stables. A 33 kV pole-mounted transformer is seen within the closest field, with the overhead lines to/from it visible. Pylons carrying high voltage overhead lines are visible on the skyline.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.64 In Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured. During the operational phase the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible in the background of the view, over the intervening field boundary hedgerow. The scale of change would be medium across a medium extent of the view, as the earth-modelling would occupy a large proportion of the view and contrast with the existing view (Figure 2.4.58, Representative viewpoint 35: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The resulting impact would therefore be **medium**.

The significance of effect for road users from this view during the day and night would be **minor adverse** and not significant. The significance of effect of cyclists and walkers would be **moderate adverse**, and not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

During Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. Once the mitigation planting matures, the impact would be **small,** as the combined effect of the maturity of the existing intervening boundary vegetation and mitigation planting would reduce the overall scale of the proposed development in the view (Figure 2.5.60, Representative viewpoint 35: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The long-term and reversible significance of effect of experienced by people in vehicles using the road would be **negligible to minor** adverse and not significant. The long-term and reversible significance of effect experience by walkers and cyclists would be **minor adverse** and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 36: View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.61 to 2.5.64)

2.11.65 This is a wide, open view from a footpath, crossing an open field, to the south of the A39. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. A low voltage line crosses the field on wooden poles. Pylons carrying high voltage overhead power lines are seen crossing the farmland, as well as on the skyline.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.66 During Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be predominantly screened by proposed earth-modelling with only partial views of the tops of the converter stations. (Figure 2.5.62, Representative viewpoint 36: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline, however, would be at a distance from the receptor in the view. The scale of change and geographical extent within the view would therefore be small, resulting in a **small** impact during the operational phase in Year 1. The significance of effect for people using the public footpath would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.67 In Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, forming part of the new skyline in the background of the view (Figure 2.5.64, Representative viewpoint 36: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the mitigation planting once it matures would also be **small**, as although it may break the skyline in the views, it would largely integrate with the overall composition and only visible across a narrow field of view. Therefore, the long term and reversible significance of effect for people using the public footpath at this view would be **minor adverse** and not significant. Changes in the available views would be in slight variance to the existing view.

Representative Viewpoint 37: View north-northwest from public right of way Huntshaw Footpath 4 south of Huntshaw Water (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.65 to 2.5.68)

2.11.68 This is an open view looking across undulating farmland. The people using this public right of way have a **high** sensitivity. Fields are generally divided by hedgerows. Woodland is associated with the valleys and around hamlets and isolated farmsteads and houses. Pylons carrying high voltage lines are visible in the landscape and on the skyline.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.69 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be predominantly screened in part by proposed earth-modelling and intervening existing landform, vegetation and infrastructure (Figure 2.5.66, Representative viewpoint 37: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The scale of change and geographical extent within the view would be small, resulting in a **small** impact, as the Proposed Development occupies small proportion of the available views. The significance of effect for people using the public footpath would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.70 At Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have matured, screening the majority of the converter stations in the view (Figure 2.5.68, Representative viewpoint 37: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the converter stations would change **negligible**, as though it partially forms the new skyline, the composition and the character of the view would not be altered, with the Proposed Development of limited size and scale compared to other features in the view. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people using the public footpath at this view would be **minor adverse** and not significant. Any changes to the views, although partially discernible, would have a barely noticeable effect on visual amenity.

Representative Viewpoint 38: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the west of Delve's Grave (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.69 to 2.5.72)

2.11.71 This is a restricted view, over a hedgebank, through a field gate from a route with public access west of Delve's Grave. People using the PRoW are of **high** sensitivity. The view is of a mix of arable fields and pasture. The fields are divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks, with small to medium woodlands within it. Isolated farmsteads and individual houses are also set within the farmed landscape, The Converter Site is seen on the skyline, behind the existing solar farm. Wind turbines are visible in the distance to the north-east of the Converter Site.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.72 At Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured. During the operation phase the Converter Site would be predominantly screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline (Figure 2.5.70, Representative viewpoint 38: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The scale of change and geographical extent in the view would be small, due to the distance between the receptor and the Proposed Development, encompassing a small portion of the view in the background. Therefore, the impact would be **small**. The significance of effect for people using the public footpath would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.73 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured. The upper regions of the Converter Site would be partially visible in the background of the views, with the proposed earth modelling and mitigation planting forming part of the new skyline. However, the scale of change in the view would be small, as the Proposed Development would be viewed at a distance from the receptors and in the context of the existing intervening built form and infrastructure, and not alter the character of the view (Figure 2.5.72, Representative viewpoint 38: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). Therefore, the impact of the Proposed Development would be **small**. Therefore, the significance of effect for people using the public footpath would be long-term, reversible and **minor adverse**, which is not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 40: View East Southeast from Minor Road at Rickard's Down, North of Abbotsham, Within the North Devon Coast National Landscape (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.77 to 2.5.80)

2.11.74 This is a restricted view, along a minor road from within the North Devon Coast NL, channelled by hedgebanks. The view is towards a road junction, with rising farmland beyond. The fields are divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks. The sensitivity of people using this minor road, within the North Devon Coast NL varies. People within vehicles using the minor road have a **medium** sensitivity. Cyclists and pedestrians along the minor road have a **high** sensitivity.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.75 At Year 1 the mitigation planting will have not yet matured. The Converter Site and proposed earth-modelling would be almost entirely screened by the intervening vegetation and topography. The mitigation earth modelling itself partially breaks the skyline in the background of the views however, it would occupy a very small proportion of the view and appear inferior in size relative to other features (Figure 2.5.78, Representative viewpoint 40: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The impact of the of the Proposed Development on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible**. This would be due largely to the screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks, as well as the distance from the receptor. The long term and reversible significance of effect for people in vehicles would be **minor adverse** which is not significant. The

significance of effect for cyclists and walkers along the minor road would be long term and reversible and a **minor adverse** level of effects, which is also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.76 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured. The Proposed Development would be entirely screened from views at this location, with only very limited and glimpsed views of the top of the mitigation planting in the distance (Figure 2.5.80, Representative viewpoint 40: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the Proposed Development on the view would therefore remain **negligible**. The long term and reversible significance of effect for people within vehicles on the minor road would be **negligible adverse** and not significant. The long term and reversible effect for cyclists and pedestrians along the minor road would be **negligible adverse**, which is also not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 41: View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.81 to 2.5.84)

2.11.77 This is an open elevated view across predominantly arable farmland from the A388 road corridor north of Monkleigh. People within vehicles are of **low** sensitivity, as their focus is on the direction of travel. The boundaries of the fields are hedges/hedgebanks with a few hedgerow trees. Areas of woodland are seen in the substantially hidden valleys. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the horizon. The three wind turbines at Darracott Reservoir are also visible on the skyline. Below the skyline the solar farm adjacent to the Converter Site is visible.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.78 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not yet have matured. The Converter Site would be entirely screened in part by intervening vegetation and changed in topography (Figure 2.5.82, Representative viewpoint 41: Proposed illustrative winter Year 1). The impact would be **negligible**, as the proposed development would be at a large distance from the receptor and of a very small scale within the view. The long term and reversible significance of effect for road users at this location would therefore be **negligible adverse**, and not significant. The Proposed Development would be barely discernible in the available view.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.79 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening the Proposed Development entirely. The mitigation planting would appear in only a very small proportion of the views and inferior in size relative to other features in the view and the receptor (Figure 2.5.84, Representative viewpoint 41: Proposed illustrative summer Year 15). The impact of the operational phase at Year 15 on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible**, due largely to distance, but also due to the combination of the screening effects of topography intervening vegetation, and the proposed mitigation planting. The long-term and reversible effect experienced by people using the road at this view would remain **negligible adverse** and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 42: View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline, Figure 2.3.42)

2.11.80 This is a partial view, through a field gate, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low**. The sensitivity of people walking and cycling along the minor road is **medium.** Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields and lie within the hidden valleys, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation (Figure 2.3.42, Representative viewpoint 42).

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.81 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which would also form a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form part of the new skyline. The scale of change and geographical extent would be small, as the Proposed Development would appear across a narrow field of view from this location. Therefore, the impact on visual receptors at this location would be **small**. The long-term and reversible effect experienced by people travelling in vehicles from this view would be **negligible** to **minor adverse**, and not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, and also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.82 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening the majority of the Proposed Development. The scale of change and extent would reduce to negligible, as the mitigation planting would help to integrate the Proposed Development in the surrounding visual character and be in a narrow field and extent of the view. The impact would therefore be **negligible**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **negligible to minor adverse**, which is also not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 43: View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline, Figure 2.3.43)

2.11.83 This is a contained view along a farm track, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low**. The sensitivity of people walking and cycling along the minor road is **medium.** Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields and lie within the hidden valleys, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. Woodland is also seen on the skyline The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible in the distance, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation. A

smaller power line crosses the view in the foreground (Figure 2.3.43, Representative viewpoint 43).

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.84 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which would also form a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form part of the new skyline. The impact of the Proposed Development would be **medium**. Though the Proposed Development would introduce additional features that may change the composition of the view, it would be framed by the existing built infrastructure such as the pylons and high voltage overhead power lines.

2.11.85 The long term and reversible effect experienced by people in vehicles would be **minor adverse,** and not significant. The long term and reversible effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **moderate adverse**, and not significant, as the introduction of the Proposed Development would be at variance with the overall rural character of the view and at medium range from the receptors.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.86 At Year 15 the proposed mitigation planting will have matured. Therefore, the impact would reduce to **small**, as the screening effect provided by the mitigation planting would help to reduce the overall scale and effect of the Proposed Development in the view. There would be potential limited views of the tops of the converter stations, however the features would be viewed in context with the surrounding infrastructure and the consistency of the view. The scale of change and the geographical extent in the view would be small. Therefore, the long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people in vehicles along the minor road would be **negligible**, and not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, and not significant. The mitigation planting would help to integrate the Proposed Development with the surrounding landscape character of the view.

Representative Viewpoint 46: View southwest from minor road to the southwest of Harracott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline, Figure 2.3.46)

2.11.87 This is an open view, over a field gate, across mixed farmland from a public footpath. The sensitivity of people using this public footpath is **high**. Blocks of woodland intersperse the fields, with farmsteads and small hamlets also visible in the view. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to Alverdiscott Substation. The power lines are also seen in the mid-ground (Figure 2.4.46, Representative viewpoint 46).

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.88 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which would also form a

backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form part of the new skyline. The scale of change and the geographical extent would be negligible to small, as the changes in the composition of the views would be minimal and occupy a very small proportion of the view and at a distance from the receptors. Therefore, the impact of the operational phase on visual receptors at this location would be **negligible**. The long-term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people using the public footpath from this view would be **to minor adverse**, and not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.89 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening a majority of the Proposed Development. The mitigation planting would help to integrate the Converter Site with the surrounding visual character, with limited, glimpsed views of the tops of the converter stations in the background of the views. The impact would therefore be **negligible**, as the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible and not contrast with the view, and at a distance from the receptor and be of a very small scale and extent. Therefore, the long term and reversible effect experienced by people using the public footpath would be **negligible adverse**, and not significant.

Representative Viewpoint 47: View southwest from minor road, to the east of Newton Tracey (Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline, Figure 2.3.47)

2.11.90 This is a directed view towards the Converter Site from a minor road, at the hamlet of Newton Tracey, on rising land, across mixed farmland. The sensitivity of people in vehicles using this minor road is **low**. The sensitivity of people walking and cycling along the minor road is **medium**. Within the view, woodland also directs the view and is visible between fields. The telecommunications mast at Huntshaw Cross is visible on the skyline, as are the pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation. The power lines are also seen in the mid-ground (Figure 2.4.47, Representative viewpoint 47).

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Winter Year 1

2.11.91 At Year 1, the mitigation planting will not have matured. The Converter Site would be screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which would also form a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself partially breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form part of the new skyline. The existing intervening woodland screening would also aid in help screen the Proposed Development in the view. The Proposed Development at this view would be framed by the surrounding built infrastructure such as the pylons and high voltage overhead powerlines. Therefore, the scale of change and geographical extent would be small, as the changes in the composition of the views would occupy a small proportion of the view. The resulting impact would be **small**. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people in vehicles along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, which is not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **minor adverse**, and also not significant.

Significance of Effect Operational Phase: Summer Year 15

2.11.92 At Year 15, the mitigation planting will have matured, screening a majority of the Proposed Development. The mitigation planting would help to integrate the Converter Site with the surrounding visual character, with limited, glimpsed views of the tops of the converter stations in the background of the views. The impact would therefore be **negligible**, as the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible and not contrast with the view, and at a distance from the receptor and be of a very small scale and extent. Therefore, the long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people travelling in vehicles along the minor road would be **negligible adverse**, and not significant. The long term and reversible significance of effect experienced by people walking and cycling along the minor road would be **negligible adverse**, which is also not significant.

Night-time Effects During the Operation and Maintenance Phase

2.11.93 As detailed design of the Converter Site and the proposed landscape mitigation has not been finalised, a detailed lighting strategy has not been produced for ES. As such, only a high-level overview has been possible at this stage.

2.11.94 As the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would not be lit once constructed the only source of artificial lighting would be at the Converter Site.

2.11.95 There would be a certain amount of lighting associated with security and safety at the Converter Site. Operational lighting at the Converter Site would be designed in accordance with the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4), as well as the latest guidance and legislation. The operational lighting incorporated within the detailed design post consent would be designed to avoid illumination of areas beyond the operational site. This would include directional lighting to minimise overspill into the surrounding landscape. It is recognised that this is in an area of darker skies and the lighting strategy would follow best practice and the guidance contained within the NPPG (summarised at **paragraphs 2.2.10** to **2.2.12** of this chapter) to minimise light pollution.

2.11.96 The sensitivity of the landscape to artificial lighting is **high**. The direct localised impact on nocturnal darkness would be **medium**, reducing over time as the proposed planting becomes established. There would be a **moderate adverse** effect, which is significant, reducing over time, as the planting within the Converter Site matures.

Further (Secondary) Mitigation and Residual Effect

2.11.97 There is no further mitigation proposed during the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development.

Future Monitoring

2.11.98 Other than compliance with the submitted Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10) and the standard 5-year Defects Liability Clause (replacement of plant stock that is dead or dying), as set out in the Outline LEMP (final LEMP will be a Requirement of the DCO and agreed with Torridge District Council), no

monitoring is proposed during the operation and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development.

2.12 Assessment of Decommissioning Effects

2.12.1 The Proposed Development is not time-limited and consent for decommissioning is not being sought in the DCO. However, for completeness, the potential impacts of decommissioning have been assessed at a very high level. The impacts potentially arising from decommissioning the Proposed Development are listed in **Table 2.19**, along with the maximum design scenario against which each impact has been assessed.

Landscape Character

2.12.2 The effects arising from the decommissioning of the HVDC cables will be negligible adverse and not significant, as the cables will be cut and left in situ. Only temporary access to the transition joint bays and the other joint bays is required The effects of the decommissioning of the HVAC cables and the Converter Station on landscape character would be no worse than that assessed at construction.

Visual Effects

2.12.3 The visual effects arising from the decommissioning of the onshore HVDC cables will be negligible adverse and not significant, as the cables will be cut and left in situ. Only temporary access to the transition joint bays and the other joint bays is required.

2.12.4 Regarding visual effects arising from the decommissioning of the Converter Station and HVAC Cables on users of PRoW and Access Land, the sensitivity of the receptor is **high** and the magnitude is **small**. The Converter Site would be removed at decommissioning and although some of the operations are the same but the reverse of those at construction, the decommissioning would take place within an established landscape, which would screen most activities. The temporary effects of decommissioning would be **moderate adverse**, which is not significant.

2.12.5 The indirect effects on the North Devon Coast National Landscape which is of high sensitivity of the decommissioning of the Converter Station would be of negligible magnitude and therefore **Minor adverse** and not significant.

Future Monitoring

2.12.6 No future monitoring, other than that stipulated in the Outline LEMP is proposed.

2.13 Cumulative Environmental Assessment (CEA)

2.13.1 The CEA takes into account the impact associated with the Proposed Development together with other projects and plans. The projects and plans

selected as relevant to the CEA presented within this chapter are based upon the results of a screening exercise (see Volume 1, Appendix 5.3: CEA Screening Matrix of the ES). Each project has been considered on a case-by-case basis for screening in or out of this chapter's assessment based upon data confidence, effect-receptor pathways and the spatial/temporal scales involved.

2.13.2 The seascape, landscape and visual resources CEA methodology has followed the methodology set out in Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology, of the ES. As part of the assessment, all projects and plans considered alongside the Proposed Development have been allocated into 'tiers' reflecting their current stage within the planning and development process.

- Tier 1
  - Under construction
  - Permitted application
  - Submitted application
  - Those currently operational that were not operational when baseline data were collected, and/or those that are operational but have an ongoing impact
- Tier 2
  - Scoping report has been submitted
- Tier 3
  - Scoping report has not been submitted
  - Identified in the relevant Development Plan
  - Identified in other plans and programmes.

2.13.3 This tiered approach is adopted to provide a clear assessment of the Proposed Development alongside other projects, plans and activities.

2.13.4 The CEA also considers the Proposed Development and the anticipated Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development (which will be implemented by NGET and thus, does not form part of the Proposed Development) together. This is because the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development will be required for the connection of the Proposed Development to the national grid.

2.13.5 The specific projects, plans and activities scoped into the CEA, are outlined in **Table 2.20**. The locations of such projects, plans and activities are presented in on Figure 2.4.1 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape and seascape assessment methodology, of the ES.

2.13.6 The full list of cumulative projects is at Volume 1, Appendix 5.3: CEA Screening Matrix of the ES. Potentially relevant cumulative projects within 10 km Converter Site study area are listed at Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES, Table 1.16 and Figure 2.4.1. Most of the cumulative developments in Table 1.16 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.4: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology of the ES are applications for residential developments (49 out of 53 developments) and only three on the list are electricity infrastructure developments (three solar farms and one substation). Most of the residential development is located in the proximity of existing settlements, such as Fremington and Bickington, 7 km to the north/northeast, Bideford, 2.5 km to the

west and Great Torrington 5 km to the south of the proposed Converter Site. The majority of the cumulative developments are located outside the ZTV. The known residential developments would only generate additional cumulative construction effects, if developed at the same time as the Proposed Development, which there is little potential for, as the residential development would most likely be completed before the construction of the Proposed Development starts.

2.13.7 The cumulative electricity transmission developments, which are excluded from the cumulative assessment due to the distance, where significant effects would be unlikely to occur, the East Yelland substation (5), associated with the White Cross Offshore Wind Farm, which lies approximately 7 km to the north west of the Converter Site and does not fall within the ZTV, and solar farm (11) at Litchardon Cross, which falls within the ZTV approximately 5 km to the north of the Converter Site.

2.13.8 The electrical infrastructure projects scoped into the CEA, are outlined in **Table 2.20** and their locations shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7 of the ES.

Table 2.20: List of cumulative developments considered within the CEA

Project	Status	Distance from Proposed Development (nearest point, km)	Description	Dates of Construction (if available)	Dates of Operation (if available)	Intervisibility between cumulative development and Proposed Development
Tier 1						
1/1266/2022/REMM	Permitted	0.1	Reserved matters application for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 61 no. dwellings and associated works pursuant to application 1/1086/2017/OUTM			• Potential intervisibility between onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and cumulative development • In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
1/1256/2021/REMM	Permitted	0.1	Reserved matters application for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of a proposal for 276 no. dwellings, associated infrastructure and open space pursuant outline planning permission 1/0039/2014/OUTM (Amended Plans)			• Potential overlap in potential intervisibility between onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and cumulative development • In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
1/0410/2022/FULM	Permitted	0.3	Extension of time of planning permission 1/0327/2008/FUL for the erection of 12 new dwellings with parking (Variation of conditions 2, 3, 12 & 13 of Planning			• Potential overlap in ZTV of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor potential intervisibility between onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and cumulative development • In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor

Project	Status	Distance from Proposed Development (nearest point, km)	Description	Dates of Construction (if available)	Dates of Operation (if available)	Intervisibility between cumulative development and Proposed Development
			Approval 1/0233/2012/EXTM (formerly 1/0327/2008/FUL).)			
1/0787/2018/FULM	Permitted	0.4	Proposed new business hub incorporating a conference centre, new offices, a gym, nursery, associated car parking and landscaping			• Potential intervisibility between onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and cumulative development • In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor / within close proximity
1/0110/2023/REMM	Permitted	0.3	Reserved matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for a proposal of 200 dwellings pursuant to outline planning permission 1/0947/2020/OUTM and associated infrastructure (Amended Plans)			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor / within close proximity
1/0523/2021/REMM	Permitted		This proposal is situated within the Development Plan Allocation BID03. The reserved matters application includes 225 homes and associated infrastructure and public open space.			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor / within close proximity

Project	Status	Distance from Proposed Development (nearest point, km)	Description	Dates of Construction (if available)	Dates of Operation (if available)	Intervisibility between cumulative development and Proposed Development
Tier 3						
Policy BID01	N/A	Adjacent to the Onshore Infrastructure Area / Adjacent to the Order Limits	Development Plan Allocation - BID01: Bideford West Urban Extension			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
Policy BID04	N/A	Adjacent to the Onshore Infrastructure Area / Adjacent to the Order Limits	Development Plan Allocation - BID04: Site South of East-the-Water			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
Policy BID09	N/A	Adjacent to the Onshore Infrastructure Area / Adjacent to the Order Limits	Development Plan Allocation - BID09: South of Clovelly Road			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
Policy BID021/1266	N/A	0.2	Development Plan Allocation - BID02: Cleave Wood			• In LCT of onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	N/A	0.2	Extension of Alverdiscott substation in the same field as existing substation			• Adjacent to Converter Station Site

Scope of Cumulative Effects Assessment

2.13.9 The cumulative effects presented and assessed in this section have been based on the Project Design Envelope set out in Volume 1, Chapter 5: Project Description of the ES as well as the information available on other projects and plans. The maximum design scenario as described for the Proposed Development (see **Table 2.19**) has been assessed cumulatively with the project / plans that have been outlined within **Table 2.20** above. The identified cumulative schemes are either Tier 1 or Tier 3 projects, i.e. potential schemes with the most likely significant cumulative effects in conjunction with the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

2.13.10 A description of the significance of cumulative effects upon LSVIA receptors arising from construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning is given below.

Types of Cumulative Landscape and Seascape Effects

2.13.11 The cumulative assessment considers the likely additional effects on landscape, seascape and visual resources and receptors against the baseline conditions current at the time of publication of the ES (November 2024). The cumulative projects assessed within the LVIA study area are shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7 of the ES. This section provides a review of these findings and conclusions, following GLVIA3 guidance on CEA, in particular the following recommendations:

- The 'filling' of an area with either the same or a different type of development, which may substantially alter the landscape or seascape resource, views or visual amenity.
- Incremental change resulting from successive individual developments such that the combined landscape, seascape or visual effect is significant even though the individual effects may not be (GLVIA3, paragraph 7.17).

2.13.12 GLVIA3 identifies the likely potential cumulative landscape/seascape effects as including:

- Effects on the fabric of the landscape/seascape resulting from the removal of, or changes in, individual elements or features of the landscape, and/or the introduction of new elements or features in the landscape/seascape.
- Effects on the aesthetic aspects of the landscape/seascape, e.g., scale, sense of enclosure, sense of naturalness, remoteness or tranquillity.
- Effects on the overall character of the landscape/seascape, resulting from the above, leading to modification of key characteristics and possible creation of new landscape/seascape character.

2.13.13 A description of those landscape and seascape effects that have the potential to be significant in terms of cumulative effects upon landscape and seascape resources and receptors arising from each identified impact is given below.

2.13.14 The aesthetic aspects of landscape and seascape resources are expressed in their overall character, their distinctive characteristics and qualities, and the

value attached to them by people/society. Regarding aesthetic aspects, GLVIA3 states: *"Character is not just about the physical elements and features that make up a landscape, but also embraces the aesthetic, perceptual and experiential aspects of the landscape that make different places distinctive"* (GLVIA3, paragraph 2.19 – a similar statement is made with respect to seascape at paragraph 5.6). When defining them GLVIA3 states: *"…the aesthetic aspects of the landscape – for example its scale, sense of enclosure, diversity, pattern and colour, and/or on its perceptual or experiential attributes, such as a sense of naturalness, remoteness or tranquillity"* (GLVIA3, paragraph 7.25).

2.13.15 GLVIA 3 adds that regarding the assessment of landscape/seascape value: *"Scenic quality may also be relevant and will need to reflect factors such as sense of place and aesthetic and perceptual qualities"* (GLVIA3, paragraph 5.29).

Types of Cumulative Visual Effects

2.13.16 GLVIA3 identifies two types of cumulative visual effects as follows:

- Combined – where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint. The subsets of combined visual effects are:
  - In combination, where two or more developments are or would be within the observer's arc of vision at the same time, without turning their head.
  - In succession, where the observer has to turn their head to see the various developments, both existing and proposed.
- Sequential – where the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the same or different developments. Sequential effects may occur along routes or roads and/or public rights of way. The subsets of sequential effects are:
  - Frequently sequential, where the features appear regularly and with short time lapses between instances (dependant on speed and distance).
  - Occasionally sequential, where longer time lapses between appearances occur, due to speed of the observer and/or longer distances between viewpoints.

Overview

2.13.17 The cumulative impact will be caused by both static and moving (predominantly at the construction phase) elements of the development components of the cumulative projects, in combination with those of the Proposed Development. Together these will potentially affect the characteristics and perceptions of the landscape and visual resource of the LSVIA study area.

2.13.18 A description of the significance of cumulative effects of the Proposed Development, within the LSVIA study area upon landscape, seascape and visual resources and receptors arising from each identified impact is given below.

2.13.19 For a cumulative effect to occur, an additional effect must arise over and above the likely effect of implementing the Proposed Development on its own, measured against baseline conditions.

2.13.20 The assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects is presented in two stages as follows:

- Cumulative Landscape effects (within the respective LCA) resulting from the Proposed Development in conjunction with proposed/permitted developments as listed in **Table 2.20**.
- Cumulative visual effects from nearby receptors arising from the Proposed Development in conjunction with proposed/permitted major developments as listed in **Table 2.20** (Tier 1 and Tier 3 projects identified).

Tier 1 Cumulative Projects

2.13.21 The Tier 1 cumulative projects that are considered in the cumulative assessment are shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7 of the ES and listed in **Table 2.20**, these are:

- 1/1266/2022/REMM - Application Site that forms part of the Torridge District Local Plan BID01 with an allocation for 61 dwellings;
- 1/1256/2021/REMM - The Application Site which forms part of a larger area for outline planning comprising of up to 550 dwellings;
- 1/0523/2021/REMM - Application for 225 dwellings and associated infrastructure and situation within the Torridge District Development Plan Allocation BID03;1/0410/2022/FULM - Semi-developed land which includes the construction of 12no. Dwellings;
- 1/0787/2018/FULM - Application site of 1.1 ha comprising Offices and associated business units; and
- 1/0110/2023/REMM - Application for 200 dwellings and associated infrastructure.

Tier 3 Cumulative Projects

2.13.22 The Tier 3 cumulative projects which are considered for the cumulative assessment are shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7 of the and **Table 2.20**above):

- Policy BID09 – The allocation for the development of 700 dwellings;
- Policy BID01 – An allocation site of approximately 71 ha west of Bideford for mixed use allocation including the requirement of approximately 1050 dwellings;
- Policy BID04 – An allocation site of approximately 34 ha for the allocation of mixed-use development which includes 600 dwellings; and
- Policy BID021/1266 - An allocation site of approximately 13 ha of mixed used development which also comprises 250 dwellings, as part of Policy BID02.
- The NGET Alverdiscott Substation Development is assessed as a known cumulative development because it is required for the Xlinks connection albeit that NGET has not published any details about that scheme to date.

Cumulative study Area

2.13.23 The cumulative assessment of the Proposed Development in combination with the cumulative projects concentrates on the potential effects within 1 km of the Order Limits at the Landfall and along the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, including the construction compounds and at the Converter Site. As it is judged that the potentially most significant cumulative landscape and visual effects for nearby receptors would occur in close proximity to the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor Area, within a 1km buffer zone.

2.13.24 The locations of the cumulative developments are shown on Volume 4, Figure 2.7: Cumulative Projects Considered within LSVIA also showing the North Devon and Torridge LCTs overlayed by the Converter Site ZTV.

2.13.25 Due to the lack of colocation in close proximity to the Proposed Development within the same LCTs from the 1km buffer of the Order Limits of the proposal, the following cumulative developments have been scoped out. They are not likely to have any potential significant direct or indirect cumulative effects within this CEA, and therefore will not be assessed further.

- Tier 1
  - 1/0410/2022/FULM; and
  - 1/0787/2018/FULM.
- Tier 3
  - Policy BID02 (including BID021/1266); and
  - Policy BID03

Cumulative Construction Effects

2.13.26 Due to the temporary nature of the construction works along the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, any likely cumulative significant effects would be medium-term in nature.

2.13.27 The cumulative projects are predominantly large residential developments/ allocations which will have a far greater impact on the landscape character and people's views than the construction of the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Fabric and Character during Construction

2.13.28 Based on the ZTV and fieldwork verification the following landscape resources would be potentially directly affected by cumulative effects:

- LCT 5B Coastal Undulating Farmland.
- LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land; and

2.13.29 The following landscape resources lie within the 1 km cumulative study area, and may be potentially indirectly affected by the cumulative impacts of proposed projects close to the Proposed Development:

- LCT 3A: Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes;
- LCT 7: Main Cities and Towns; and
- LCT 3G: River Valleys Slopes and Combes.

2.13.30 There are unlikely to be any significant cumulative landscape effects to the above LCTs in conjunction with the Proposed Development during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning. Therefore, no further assessment will be taken forward with respects to indirect cumulative landscape effects, due a lack of proximal relationship in terms of landscape character.

2.13.31 Both the Converter Site and the NGET Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development are within the LCT of 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land. Therefore, this development will be assessed cumulatively with the Proposed Development as part of the following CEA.

Direct cumulative effects on LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland

2.13.32 Five CEA mixed used developments (predominantly residential in nature), lie within this character area and within 1 km of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. This includes application site areas at the western edge of the settlement of Bideford south of Abbotsham near the A39 road corridor.

2.13.33 Three Tier 1 CEA developments within the LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland are as follows:

- 1/0110/2023/REMM;
- 1/1266/2022/REMM; and
- 1/1256/2021/REMM.

2.13.34 Two Tier 3 CEA development within the LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland are as follows:

- Policy BID01; and
- Policy BID09

2.13.35 BID01 and BID09 are local plan housing allocations which coincide with the above Tier 1 developments that represent a partial build-out of the total allocated sites.

2.13.36 The five developments would be located beyond the current settled western edge of Bideford and would extend out into the landscape character area. The construction activities of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, which include the construction compound adjacent to the A39, material lay down areas and associated ancillary works will coincide with the larger cumulative developments. Some of the cumulative developments would increase the impact on local character of the LCT in combination with the Proposed Development during the construction phase, potentially creating a more developed context and human influence within the LCT. The movement of heavy machinery, temporary lighting and noise, would be intrusive in a relatively tranquil landscape and temporarily alter how the local area is perceived.

2.13.37 The construction activities associated with the proposed Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor in combination with those construction activities of the CEA developments would create a more noticeable change to the landscape of the Coastal Undulating Farmland, where it abuts the urban areas. The construction activities of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor will be relatively extensive within this LCT, however impacts would be relatively localised in terms of effects and of a medium-term nature. Direct effects would be expected on the local landscape fabric due to the change in land use of the existing agricultural land.

2.13.38 The overall sensitivity of LCT 5B: Coastal Undulating Farmland to the type of the construction impacts anticipated from the Proposed Development proposed is assessed as **medium** to **high** in **section** 2.10 above. The farmland and agricultural characteristics of the LCA has a moderate susceptibility to the proposed developments. The cumulative effect is likely to be of local spatial extent, medium-term in duration, intermittent and reversible in nature. It is therefore predicted that the impact would affect the landscape receptor directly. The magnitude of effect is therefore considered to be **medium** within the immediate local landscape.

2.13.39 Overall, the magnitude of the cumulative impact is **medium**, and the receptor is of **medium to high** sensitivity. The cumulative effect would, therefore, be of **moderate to major adverse** which is significant, albeit locally. The construction phase of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would make a medium contribution to the temporary effect on landscape character.

Direct cumulative effects on LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land

2.13.40 Two mixed use CEA developments have been identified within this character area and within 1km of the Onshore Infrastructure Area. The two Tier 3 CEA developments within the LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land are as follows:

- Policy BID04 ;and
- The Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development.

2.13.41 BID04 is a local plan allocation for an urban extension of East-The-Water, mainly residential in nature. BID04 would be located to the south of the settled edge of East-The-Water, adjacent to the west of the Gammaton construction compound and extending out further west toward the River Torridge into the adjacent LCT.

2.13.42 The NGET Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development would be constructed with the Alverdiscott Substation Site to the east of the Converter Site within the LCT.

2.13.43 The construction activities of the Onshore Infrastructure Area (which includes material lay down areas and associated ancillary works), the plant for constructing the Converter Site, associated earth modelling and the construction of compounds at Gammaton Road and adjacent to the Converter Site could coincide with the cumulative developments. The cumulative developments could add to the impact on local character of the LCT in combination with the Proposed Development during the construction phase, this has the potential to create a more developed context and human influence within the LCT. The movement of heavy machinery, temporary lighting and noise, could be intrusive in a relatively tranquil landscape and temporarily alter how the local area is perceived.

2.13.44 The construction activities within the Onshore Infrastructure Area in combination with the cumulative developments would collectively have a greater change in the areas adjoining settlements currently within the landscape character of the LCT: 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land. The construction activities of the Onshore Infrastructure Area will be limited and separate from the edge of settlements within this LCT and construction works, including the highways improvements, will be localised in geographical extent and the impacts would be medium term, temporary and intermittent in nature.

2.13.45 The overall sensitivity of LCT 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land to the type of the development proposed is assessed as **medium** to **high** in **section** 2.10 above. The farmland and agricultural characteristics of the LCA has a moderate susceptibility to the change. The cumulative effect is likely to be of local spatial extent, medium-term in duration and intermittent. It is therefore predicted that the impact would affect the landscape receptor directly. The magnitude of impact is considered to be **medium** within the immediate local landscape.

2.13.46 Overall, the magnitude of the cumulative impact on this LCT is **medium**, and the receptor is of **high** sensitivity. The cumulative effect would, be **moderate to major adverse** significance, which is significant, albeit locally. The construction phase of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would increase the temporary effect on landscape character.

Cumulative Effects on Views and Visual Amenity at Construction

2.13.47 Based on the ZTV, desk study and fieldwork verification, the visual receptors identified within 1km of the construction phase of the Proposed Development that would be subject to potential significant cumulative visual effects are identified below. Typically, recreational users of public footpaths and residents within their homes are of high sensitivity, as their focus tends to be on the surrounding landscape and visual amenity.

Public Footpath users

2.13.48 People using local footpaths and bridleways within 1 km of the construction phase of the Onshore Infrastructure Area that are likely to experience cumulative visual effects have been identified as below:

- People using public right of way Alwington Footpath 3 north of Winscott Barton, at the most northern portion of the PRoW as it emerges from the small woodland copse near the minor road; and
- People using public footpath Abbotsham 2, along small, elevated portions northwest of the settlement of Abbotsham.

Cumulative visual effects on people using Public Footpath Alwington 3

2.13.49 A small portion of the public footpath of Alwington 3 passes through the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, whereby elevated, partially open views of the surrounding landscape are available at the areas where it meets the minor road to the north. People walking along this PRoW may potentially have combined views of the CEA development of BID09 and the construction activities of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. The CEA development of BID09 is situated on the south facing slopes on land to the south of the A39 road corridor, comprising a large mixed use residential scheme. The CEA development would provide a more developed context for the construction phase of the Proposed Development within the Onshore Infrastructure Area.

2.13.50 If the construction phase of the Proposed Development and the CEA development coincides, receptors would likely be able to experience filtered, glimpsed views of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor construction activities in combination with the CEA development of BID09 in the background of the available view. Such views would appear as discordant elements on the urban

fringe settlements which are linked by the public right of way, however the construction phase of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be low key with in comparison to the larger CEA development.

2.13.51 The cumulative effect is likely to be of local spatial extent, medium-term, intermittent and reversible. It is therefore predicted that the impact would affect the receptor directly. This is due changes in elevation in combination with the relative proximity of receptors from the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the CEA developments, albeit on a very small portion of the PRoW on approach to the north, and across a small extent and scale of the views. The magnitude would decrease with increasing distance between the receptors and the CEA development and Onshore Infrastructure Area during construction as the receptors move further south along the PRoW. Therefore, the magnitude is considered to be **negligible to small.**

2.13.52 People using local footpaths and bridleways in predominantly rural locations for recreational purposes are of high susceptibility to the impacts of the proposed development. The sensitivity of the receptor is therefore, considered to be **high**. The effect would, therefore, be of **minor to moderate adverse** and not significant during the day and at night.

Cumulative visual effects on people using Public Footpath Abbotsham 2

2.13.53 The public footpath of Abbotsham 2 passes across the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and is located northwest of the proposed CEA developments which includes a large mixed use residential scheme on the western edge of the settlement of Bideford.

2.13.54 Cumulative views of the CEA development of BID09 in combination with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of the A39 construction compound) would likely be available along short, elevated sections and gaps through vegetation of the footpath to the west near Rixlade.

2.13.55 If the construction phase of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and the CEA development coincides, people using the public footpath may occasionally be able to gain open, intermittent views across farmland allowing for combined cumulative views of the CEA development together with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor (inclusive of the A39 construction compound).

2.13.56 However, the construction phase within the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be low-key and generally lower lying in comparison with the CEA development, and only experienced by receptors in small portions of the footpath in the west. Such views would appear as discordant elements on the urban fringe settlements which are linked by the public right of way.

2.13.57 Some views may be temporarily prevented where the route is diverted around the north side of the Kenwith Stream HDD compound, thus changing the visual experience for receptors (Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan, Document Reference 7.11, Figure. 1.4).

2.13.58 The cumulative effect is likely to be of local spatial extent, medium-term intermittent and reversible. It is therefore predicted that the impact would affect the receptor directly. The magnitude would decrease with increasing distance between the receptors and the CEA development and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor during construction. Therefore, the magnitude is considered to be **negligible to small**.

2.13.59 People using local footpaths and bridleways in predominantly rural locations for recreational purposes are of high susceptibility to the impacts of the proposed development. The sensitivity of the receptor is therefore, considered to be **high**. The effect would, therefore, be of **minor** to **moderate adverse** during the day and at night, which is not significant.

Cumulative visual effects on residential visual receptors

2.13.60 Due to the intervening vegetation/topography most of the residential receptors within 1 km of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are unlikely to experience additional significant cumulative effects of the Proposed Development in combination with the cumulative developments. Residential properties such as those centred around Bowood Farm north of Abbotsham Cross roundabout, are expected to have filtered views of the construction activities and the construction compound of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, although not in combined views with the permitted and proposed developments. This would be due to the combination of the screening effect of the surrounding hedgebanks, linear tree belts and changes in topography between the residential receptors and the permitted developments.

Operation and Maintenance

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

2.13.61 Based on the ZTV and fieldwork verification, the following landscape resources would be potentially affected by cumulative effects during operation and maintenance:

- LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land; and
- LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland

LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land

2.13.62 The NGET Alverdiscott Connection Development lies adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Converter Site, which would essentially form an extension to the existing NGET Alverdiscott Substation and likely to result in significant cumulative effects during the operational phase of the Converter Site.

2.13.63 The overall sensitivity of the LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land to the type of the development proposed is assessed as **medium to high** in **sections 2.11** and **2.12** of this chapter. The magnitude of impact of the operational phase of the Converter Site in Year 1 was considered to be **medium** to **large** on farmland characteristics, resulting in **moderate to major** adverse and significant direct effect on landscape character. The indirect effects would likely reduce to **minor** to **moderate** adverse and not significant due to the scale of the Proposed Development in relation to the wider LCT.

2.13.64 At Year 15, the operational phase of the Converter Site was assessed as **moderate adverse** and not significant, with the indirect effects reducing to **minor adverse** and not significant. This would be due to the limited influence of the Proposed Development on the wider LCT once the proposed embedded mitigation planting matures.

2.13.65 The CEA at Alverdiscott Substation together with the Proposed Development would extend the developed nature of the existing agricultural land. However,

this clustering approach in terms of land use is considered preferrable to the random scatter of individual developments, which would have a higher-level cumulative effect on the perception of the landscape character of LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land.

2.13.66 Due to the smaller scale and nature of the CEA development the perceived change upon landscape character would be mostly attributable to the proposed Converter Site. Due to the embedded mitigation measures, as described in section 2.7 and illustrated in representative viewpoints 29 and 32 (Figures 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of the ES) the proposed Converter Site would be fully integrated into the local landscape alongside the solar developments.

2.13.67 The magnitude of cumulative impact is considered to be **large**, resulting in **major adverse** additional cumulative effects in Year 1 which is locally significant. The indirect cumulative effects would reduce to **moderate adverse** and not significant, due to the limited influence of the Converter Site and the permitted development and the on the wider character of the LCT.

2.13.68 During Year 15, due to the siting of the permitted development in proximity of other local infrastructure in combination with the embedded mitigation measures around the Converter Site (Volume 4, Figures 2.5 a to 2.5e) would indicate a potential reduction in cumulative effects on the local and wider character of the LCT 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land.

2.13.69 The additional cumulative effects upon the proximal character of LCT 5A in relation to the Converter Site and the CEA development would be perceived as a **small** magnitude of impact resulting in **moderate adverse** and not significant effect direct effect on the landscape character at Year 15. The indirect effects would reduce to **minor adverse** and not significant with respects to the wider character of the LCT due to the limited influence and scale of the Converter Site and CEA development in relation to the LCT.

LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland

2.13.70 The adjacent LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland has the potential to experience limited indirect additional cumulative effects as presented in representative viewpoints 29 and 32 (Figures 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 of Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Landscape Visualisations of ES). However, the CEA development would not affect how the character of LCT 1F would be perceived, as it would appear for the most part in the distance, and in elevated views the Converter Site (including the proposed earth-modelling) would not form a prominent skyline feature and when finalised would blend in with the topographical features of the existing landform. The Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development would appear to slightly extend within sloping landform adjacent to the existing solar farm development, and perceptually have limited further cumulative impacts due to the existing associated infrastructure and human influence. Therefore, the indirect cumulative effects on LCT 1F: Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland of **medium** sensitivity would be perceived as a **negligible** to **small** magnitude of impact resulting in **negligible** to **minor adverse** and not significant additional cumulative effects.

Decommissioning

2.13.71 The Proposed Development is not time-limited and therefore decommissioning is not anticipated. The CEA developments included listed above are also not time-limited being urban extension projects and a NGET substation.

2.13.72 Should the Proposed Development require decommissioning in approximately 50 years' time, it is not possible to anticipate what the cumulative scenario would be. Nevertheless, the effects attributable to the decommissioning impact of the Proposed Development would be similar in scale to the effects during the construction phase, or even lower at the Converter Site, as decommissioning would take place within the recently established wooded environment.

Summary of Cumulative Effects

2.13.73 **Table 2.23** below presents a summary of the cumulative impacts, mitigation measures and residual effects. The cumulative impacts assessed include:

- Cumulative impacts on landscape and visual resources and receptors
- Cumulative impacts on the views and visual amenity of visual receptors (people).

2.13.74 Overall, it is concluded that there would be significant cumulative landscape effects during construction and operation (in Year 1 at the immediate context of the Converter Site) of the Proposed Development alongside the NGET Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development.

2.13.75 The LCT of 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land and 5B: Coastal Undulating Land would be subject to significant local cumulative landscape impacts during construction in the immediate setting of the LCTs. This is due to the siting of the Proposed Development in close proximity to the outlined Tier 1 and Tier 3 CEA developments within their respective character areas.

2.13.76 However, the effects would likely reduce to not significant on the overall wider character of each respective LCT due to the relative proportion and scale of the CEA developments in conjunction with the Proposed Development.

2.13.77 Cumulative construction effects of the Proposed Development in combination with the CEA developments in views would not be significant for visual receptors such as people using footpath Abbotsham 2 and Alwington 3. This would be due to limited views available of one or more of the CEA developments with the Proposed Development, which would be only visible on short, elevated portions of the PRoWs and be intermittent and glimpsed in nature.

2.13.78 During operation, the Converter Site in conjunction with the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development would likely result in **major adverse** and significant effects locally in Year 1 within the LCT of 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land. However, effects would reduce **moderate adverse** and not significant in the context of the wider character of the LCT due to the relative size and scale of the developments with the larger LCT.

2.13.79 At Year 15, the cumulative effects would be **moderate adverse** and not significant on the direct character of the LCT, reducing to **minor adverse** and not significant on the wider character of the LCT of 5A: Inland Elevate Undulating Land. This would be due to the establishment of the embedded

mitigation planting measures and the integration of the developments within the wider character of the LCT.

2.14 Transboundary Effects

2.14.1 A screening of transboundary impacts has been carried out and has identified that there was no potential for significant transboundary effects with regard to LSVIA from the Proposed Development upon the interests of other states.

2.15 Inter-related Effects

2.15.1 Inter-relationships are the impacts and associated effects of different aspects of the Proposed Development on the same receptor. These are as follows.

- Project lifetime effects: Assessment of the scope for effects that occur throughout more than one phase of the Proposed Development (construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning), to interact to potentially create a more significant effect on a receptor than if just assessed in isolation in these three phases.
- Receptor led effects: Assessment of the scope for all relevant effects (including inter-relationships between environmental topics) to interact, spatially and temporally, to create inter-related effects on a receptor.

2.15.2 **Table 2.21** lists the inter-related effects (project lifetime effects) that are predicted to arise during the construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, and also the inter-related effects (receptor-led effects that are predicted to arise for LSVIA receptors).

Table 2.21: Summary of likely significant inter-related effects

Description of Impact	Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
Project Lifetime Effects		
Landscape impacts - potential change to landscape character.	The potential effect is directly in relation to the scale and size of development proposed, the geographic extent of impact, and the distance and context factors in relation to the receptor. The scale of potential effects on landscape character is likely to be high in relation to the converter stations and substation themselves and diminishing with distance from the Converter Site. The scale of effects would also increase through the construction phase due to the nature of the impact and the increased land required for temporary construction compounds, reduce during operation and maintenance (e.g. due to planting proposals), decreasing further through the decommissioning phase. Although this indicates that there is a potential lengthening of the temporal effect, across the project lifetime, the effects on landscape character resources are not anticipated to interact in such a way as to result in combined effects of greater significance than the assessments presented for each individual phase.	No change resulting from inter-related assessment.
Receptor-led Effects		

Description of Impact	Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
There are inter-relationships with receptors for the historic environment, ecology and recreation. Whilst the assessment of effects on character includes land that contains heritage assets, effects on heritage assets and their context and settings are considered within Volume 2, Chapter 2: Historic Environment of the ES. The assessment of effects on character includes land that contains ecological assets effects on flora and fauna within habitats and is considered within Volume 2, Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES. The construction and operation of the Converter Site would change the existing farmland, resulting in some temporary and some long-term loss of features such as hedgerows, ditches and trees which have ecological value. The impacts would result in some localised major adverse effects on landscape character, which is significant. Therefore, the significance of these combined effects on visual receptors would not be of any greater significance than the effects when assessed in isolation. Whilst the assessment of effects on visual receptors includes people using recreational assets, effects on public open space and public rights of way (which are primarily during construction and decommissioning) are considered within Volume 2, Chapter 8: Land Use and Recreation of the ES.		

2.16 Summary of Effects

2.16.1 Information on landscape, seascape and visual resources within the study area was collected through desktop reviews, site surveys and consultation.

2.16.2 **Table 2.22** presents a summary of the impacts, measures adopted as part of the Proposed Development and residual effects in respect to landscape, seascape and visual resources. The impacts assessed include:

- Impacts on seascape and landscape resources and receptors; and
- Impacts on the views and visual amenity of visual receptors (people).

2.16.3 Overall, it is concluded that there would be the following significant effects arising from the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning phases. The effects are locally significant but not generally over the wider area – that is, not regionally significant.

2.16.4 Construction phase effects on landscape resources and receptors (locally significant but not generally over the wider area):

- North Devon Biosphere Reserve - localised, temporary significant effects from the construction compound at the Landfall and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- North Devon Coast NL – localised, temporary significant effects from the construction compound at the Landfall and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- NCA 149: The Culm – localised, temporary significant effects from construction works;
- Bideford Bay Coast LCA - localised, temporary significant effects from construction works and the potential for night time effects;
- Torridge Valley LCA – localised, temporary significant effects from the construction compound to the west of the River Torridge and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- High Culm Ridges LCA – localised temporary significant effects from the construction works at the Converter Site (and related compound) and the

Gammaton compound. Both have the potential for night-time effects during the winter months and during 24-hour task-related operations;

- LCT 3H Secluded Valleys - localised, temporary significant effects from the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- LCT 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land - localised temporary significant effects from the construction works at the Converter Site (and related compound) and the Gammaton compound. Both have the potential for night-time effects during the winter months and during 24-hour task-related operations.

2.16.5 Construction phase effects on visual receptors and visual amenity:

- People using PRoW where managed crossings would be put into place - localised, temporary significant effects from construction works;
- People using the South West Coast Path – localised, temporary significant effects from the construction compound at the Landfall and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- People using the Tarka Trail - localised, temporary significant effects from the HDD compound to the west of the River Torridge and the potential for night-time effects during 24-hour, task-related operations;
- People using the beach and accessing the sea via the beach - localised, temporary significant effects due to views of the Landfall HDD compounds;
- Walkers using the minor roads in the vicinity of Gammaton Moor and close to the Converter Site - localised temporary significant effects from the construction works at the Converter Site (and related compound) and the Gammaton compound. Both have the potential for night-time effects during the winter months and during 24-hour task-related operations;
- People at several of the representative viewpoints – representative viewpoints 23, 27, 31, 33, 34 and 35 - localised temporary significant effects from the construction works at the Converter Site (and related compound) and the Gammaton compound. Both have the potential for night-time effects during the winter months and during 24-hour task-related operations;
- Recreational sailors - localised, temporary significant effects close to Landfall that decrease with distance;
- People at work at the Convertor Site and HVAC Cables - temporary significant effects from the Converter Site and associated construction compound; and
- Night time effects on receptors - localised, temporary significant effects from the HDD compounds during 24-hour, task-related operations;

2.16.6 Operations and maintenance phase effects on landscape and seascape effects (locally significant but not generally over the wider area):

- North Devon Biosphere Reserve (Transition Zone) – localised effect of the Converter Site on tranquillity, with the potential for night-time effects of the manned Converter Site, reducing over time as the mitigation planting matures and localised effect on nocturnal darkness;

2.16.7 Operations and maintenance phase effects on views and visual amenity:

- High Culm Ridges LCA significant effects from the Converter Site;

- North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land significant effects from the converter site;
- Walkers and cyclists using the minor roads close to the Converter Site - localised effect of the Converter Site, with the potential for night-time effects of the manned Converter Site, reducing over time as the mitigation planting matures;
- People at representative viewpoint 34 - localised effect of the Converter Site, with the potential for night-time effects of the manned Converter Site, reducing over time as the mitigation planting matures; and
- Night time significant effects due to lighting at the Converter Site.

Cumulative Effects

2.16.8 **Table 2.23** presents a summary of the cumulative impacts, mitigation measures and residual effects. The cumulative impacts assessed include:

- Cumulative impacts on landscape and visual resources and receptors
- Cumulative impacts on the views and visual amenity of visual receptors (people).

2.16.9 Overall, it is concluded (as in **section 2.13** above) that there would be significant cumulative landscape effects during construction from the Proposed Development alongside other proposed projects/allocations/ plans in areas that are within close proximity and in the immediacy of the landscape character areas of LCT of 5B: Coastal Undulating Land the LCT of 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land.

2.16.10 No visual receptors would be subject to significant cumulative visual effects during the construction phase of the development due to the limited, intermittent views of the Proposed Development alongside other proposed projects/allocations/plans in areas within 1 km of the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor.

2.16.11 During Operation in Year 1, is it concluded that there would be potential for significant cumulative landscape effects for the LCT of 5A: Inland Elevated Undulating Land with the Converter Site and the adjacent Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development. The effects would be localised in nature, diminishing with respects to the larger, wider character of the LCT due to the scale of the Proposed Development and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development. The wider effect on the LCT is therefore considered as not significant.

2.16.12 During Operation in Year 15, the cumulative landscape effect on the LCT of 5A: Inland Undulating Land would not be significant, due to the establishment of the embedded mitigation measures around the Converter Site. The proposed mitigation planting would help to integrate the developments with the character and qualities of the LCT.

Transboundary Effects

2.16.1 No transboundary impacts have been identified in regard to effects of the Proposed Development.

Table 2.22: Summary of environmental effects

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Construction phase							
North Devon Biosphere Reserve							
Characteristic Landscapes	High	Trenching of hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks	Short term	Culm grasslands: No change	Culm grasslands: None	Culm grasslands: Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
				Hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks: Medium	Hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks: Moderate adverse	Hedgerows and Devon hedgebanks: **Locally significant**	
Dramatic Coast Landscapes	High	Construction at the Landfall from the barge to landward	Medium term	Views of coastal landscape: Small	Views of coastal landscape: Minor adverse	Not significant	
				Direct effects on the coastline: No change	Direct effects on the coastline: None		
Special Western Oak Woodlands	High	None	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
High Level of Tranquillity	High	Construction at the Landfall from the barge to landward	Medium term	Medium	Major adverse	**Locally significant**	
Nocturnal Darkness	High	There would be some work undertaken in hours of darkness, as the working hours sought, are from 07:00 to 19:00 throughout the year. There would also be certain tasks that would require 24 hour	Medium term	Negligible to Medium	Negligible to Moderate adverse	**Locally significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		continuous work, such as an HDD and potentially lights on the marine vessels					
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	High		Medium term	Negligible to Medium	Moderate adverse (during the day) Major adverse (during the night)	Not significant to significant	
North Devon Coast National Landscape							
Diversity of Scenery	High	Coastal area would be crossed using trenchless techniques	Medium term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Panoramic Seascapes	High	Construction at the Landfall from the barge to landward	Medium term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Panoramic Views	High	temporary impact of views from elevated land towards the Landfall and cable corridor within the NL	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Wild Coastal Scenery	High	a temporary impact on coastal views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from the barge located in the sea	Medium term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Strong Sense of Tranquillity	High	temporary impact on tranquillity as the construction works at the Landfall take place from the barge located in the sea and the works at the	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		landward side, at the transition joint bays and construction compounds would also be visible					
Dark Night Skies	High	There would be some work undertaken in hours of darkness, as the working hours sought, are from 07:00 to 19:00 throughout the year. There would also be certain tasks that would require 24-hour continuous work, such as an HDD and potentially lights on the marine vessels	Short Term Medium term	Large (Short Term) Negligible to Medium (Medium Term)	Major adverse (Short Term) Negligible to Moderate adverse (Medium Term)	Not significant to **significant**	
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	High		Medium term	Negligible to Medium (during the day) Large (during the night)	Negligible to Moderate adverse (during the day) Major adverse (during the night)	Not significant to **significant**	
NCA 149: The Culm							
Rolling Open Plateaux	Medium	temporary impact of views from elevated land towards the Onshore Converter Station sites and the eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-	Medium	construction works at the Landfall, along the cable corridor and at the	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks		Onshore Converter Station sites would not remove woodlands, as woodlands would be avoided, or crossed using trenchless techniques					
Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	**Locally significant** but not significant overall	
Spectacular coastline of high cliffs and estuarine features, nationally important geological features, and narrow wooded combes.	High	The area of the Landfall and western part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor contain some of these key characteristics. There is no impact on the landscape elements themselves as the coastline is crossed	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		using trenchless techniques, such as HDD.					
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small to Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant to **Significant**	
County Landscape Character Areas - Bideford Bay Coast LCA							
A relatively sheltered bay, with gentler, more rounded coastal scenery than elsewhere along the coast	High	temporary impact on coastal views, as the construction works at the Landfall would, in part, take place from the barge located in the sea	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Extensive coastal oak woodlands, containing important lichens, ferns and ground flora within the sheltered combes	High	Littleham Wood, which is the closest example of coastal oak woodland, is not affected, as the cables would be routed around it	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Southern and eastern areas dominated by agriculture with rolling, irregularly shaped, pastoral and arable fields extending to the cliff tops	Medium	The field boundaries would be temporarily altered to allow trenched crossings	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Fields divided by hedgerows and banks with wind-sculpted hedgerow trees; field boundaries less frequent in the north-east around Abbotsham:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank					
Semi-natural habitats include road verges and species-rich hedgerows and hedgebanks:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Historic railway linking Bideford, Westward Ho! and Appledore (1904-1917) through the Abbotsham cliff area, today forming part of the coastal path out of Westward Ho!	Medium	The route of the historic railway, now part of the South West Coast Path would not be affected during the construction works, as it would not be diverted or closed.	Short term	Negligible	Negligible	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Sunken rural lanes with exceptionally high hedgebanks connecting villages, contrasting with the A39 which runs through the area:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD, sunken lanes maybe one such feature. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgebank.	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
Attractive landscape with pleasing compositions of woodland, farmland and coastal scenery:	Medium	The construction works at the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would temporarily form part of the view	Medium term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Open seascapes, including views of Lundy Island and across Bideford Bay to the Taw-Torridge estuary.	High	The construction works at the Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would not block the views of the open seascape or of the Torridge estuary	Medium term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Negligible to Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
County Landscape Character Areas – Torridge Valley LCA							
Main River Torridge deep and fast flowing, with a convoluted course and tightly meandering channel, with mud flats exposed at low tide	High	the river would be crossed in a trenchless crossing, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Small tributary valley south of Bideford dominated by Jennetts Reservoir:	Medium	As the valley would crossed using a trenchless crossing, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Valley sides well-clothed in deciduous woodland which dominates skylines; some conifer plantations, particularly in the middle and upper reaches of the main valley:	High	All woodland would be avoided, due to routeing, or would be crossed using trenchless crossing, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Valley floor generally used for pastoral agriculture, with a mixture of pastoral and arable agriculture on higher land:	Medium	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and some construction compounds would be located within fields in this LCA	Short term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Fields generally semi-regular in shape comprising a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and modern enclosures based on	High (hedgebanks) Medium (fields	The field pattern would not be affected. However, where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and	Medium term	Medium (hedgebanks) Large (fields)	Moderate adverse(hedgebanks) Major Adverse (fields)	**Significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
earlier medieval fields; mainly enclosed by hedgerows or hedgebanks, but some loss of field boundaries in arable areas:		hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched, which would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank.					
Numerous historic features associated with the river, including weirs, mills, bridges, disused canal and railway line (now the 'Tarka Trail')	High	The Tarka Trail will remain open throughout the construction phase	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Major roads and transport routes (e.g., A386 and the former Okehampton-Bideford railway line) generally follow the main valley floor, while upper reaches and tributary valleys have winding hedge-banked lanes with narrow stone bridges:	High	The major roads and transport routes will be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD. Where lanes with high hedgebanks are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD, a sunken lanes may be one such feature. If a trenched method is used it would require temporary removal of part of the hedgebank.	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	**Significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small to Medium	Moderate adverse (during the day) Major adverse (during the night)	Not significant (day time) **Significant** (night time)	
County Landscape Character Areas – High Culm Ridges LCA							
Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the River Torridge (to the west):	Ridges: High	The Converter Station sites are located to the east and south of a ridge of high ground.	Medium term	Ridges: Large	Ridges: Major adverse	Ridges: **Significant**	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
	Watercourses: Medium	There are two watercourses/ditches that flow west to east outside the Converter Site and join a small stream, that flows west to the River Torridge. However, these watercourses/ditches are not impacted by the Proposed Development.		Watercourses: No change	Watercourses: None	Watercourses: Not significant	
Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground:	High	The cable corridors would be routed in such a way as to avoid woodlands and orchards or would use trenchless techniques, such as HDD where routeing is not an option	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Farmland generally in pastoral use, with	Medium	During construction there would be impacts on the farmland along the cable	Medium term	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Medium	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Moderate adverse	Onshore HVDC Cable	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
some areas of arable on better-quality land:		corridor, where trenched techniques are used and construction compounds are located				Corridor: Not significant	
				Converter Station Site: Large	Converter Station Site: Major adverse	Converter Station Site: **Significant**	
Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more recent enclosure) on areas of higher land:	Medium	The field pattern would not be changed during the construction phase. However, the field boundaries would be temporarily altered to allow trenched crossings	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank.	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Long views from high ground across the	High	There would be a temporary impact of	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea:		views from elevated land towards the Onshore Converter Station sites and the eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor.					
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small to Large	Moderate to Major adverse	**Significant**	
North Devon SCA - SCA 21 Abbotsham Coast							
Undulating coastline with steep cliffs rising to over 90m in the south-west of the SCA, but dropping to a lower and more rounded profile in the north-east, backed by undulating coastal farmland:	High	There would be no change to the coastal cliffs or coastline as the coastline would be crossed using a trenchless techniques, such as HDD. There would be a direct, localised, medium-term, temporary small impact to the coastal farmland, where the construction compounds close to the transition joint bays would be located	Medium term	Coastal Cliffs/Coastline: No change	Coastal Cliffs/Coastline: None	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
				Coastal Farmland: Small	Coastal Farmland: Minor adverse		
Pastoral and arable fields extending to and between the cliff tops in places, including unimproved grasslands	Medium	Impact to the coastal farmland, where the construction compounds close to the transition joint bays would be located	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Characteristic fine pebble ridge at cliff	High	There would be no change to the pebble	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
bases, fronted by a wide rocky foreshore (wave cut platform), with beds trending seawards to form biogenetic reefs:		ridge or the rocky foreshore as they would be crossed using a trenchless techniques, such as HDD					
Gradual transition from a remote, rugged seascape in the south-west to gentler, more undulating and pastoral coastal scenery where the cliffs drop to shore level in places:	High	There would be localised impacts during construction in areas where onshore joint bays and construction compounds would be located in areas of coastal farmland. Other areas such as the pastoral coastal scenery where the cliffs drop to shore level are unaffected as trenchless techniques such as HDD would be used.	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types - Directly Affected – 4H Cliffs							
A largely undeveloped coastline of steep rocky or vegetated cliffs of varying height	High	There would be no physical impact on the coastline as the cables would cross the coast using a trenchless crossing technique, such as HDD. However, there would be views of the	Medium term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		barge used during the construction works					(document reference 7.7)
Distinctive and internationally renowned exposed rock stratifications often clearly visible:	High	There would be no change to the coastline as the cables would cross the coast using a trenchless crossing technique, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Extensive and dramatic views, reaching out to sea (often to Lundy), along the coastline:	High	The views out to sea would not be compromised. However, some views may include the barge used during the construction works.	Medium term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Occasional minor combes draining to the sea often lined by ancient sessile oak woodland.	Medium	No woodland would be affected by the construction works. The transition joint bays and construction at the Landfall would take place in a small coombe.	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Rough grazing land on sloping cliff tops, with field boundaries of post-and-wire fencing or stone-faced hedgebanks:	Medium	The transition joint bays and construction at the Landfall would take place in a rough-grazed pasture. There are no hedgebanks affected in this location.	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
A 'wild' and remote landscape with high levels of tranquillity. Access is largely restricted to the South	High	The part of this LCT, situated within the LSVIA study area is not particularly wild or remote. There would be	Medium term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
West Coast Path and rights of way within combes:		a temporary impact on tranquillity as the construction works at the Landfall take place from the barge located in the sea and the works at the landward side, at the transition joint bays and construction compounds would also be visible.					
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Negligible to Small	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types - Directly Affected – 5B Coastal Undulating Farmland							
Strongly rolling landscape with prominent ridges and hilltops, influenced by the close proximity of the sea:	Medium	The Landfall and eastern part of the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor passes through this landscape. The transition joint bays and the cable route would be buried but there would be construction compounds and haul roads within this LCT in the interim.	Medium term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Pervading maritime influence with long coastal views, to coastal settlements and to the north-west peninsula of the North Devon coastline	High	The long coastal views would not be obstructed in any way. However, the construction works along the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor might be	Medium term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		visible from some inland locations.					
Linear bands of broadleaved woodland, occasional small mixed woods, ornamental parklands and blocks of conifer plantation combined with a strong network of hedges resulting in a well-treed appearance	Broadleaved woodlands: High Conifer Plantation: Medium	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has either been routed around woodland or would cross underneath, using a trenchless technique, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Strong pattern of regular medium-large fields of post-medieval and modern origin, interspersed with significant areas of smaller curving or medieval strip fields (e.g. around Rickard's Down).	Medium	There would be no alteration to field boundaries. However, during the construction works the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Fields bounded by Devon hedges of mixed species with flower-rich banks and some sections of stone facing. The use of hawthorn, hazel, elm and/or beech is locally characteristic.	High	Patches of gorse reinforce a sense of exposure: Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank					
Predominantly pastoral land use, with occasional arable fields and patches of rough grazing land	Medium	During the construction phase, some fields would have the cable route or construction compounds located within them	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Settlement and farms linked by a network of rural roads enclosed by high hedgebanks. The main A39 cuts through the area:	High	The A39 would be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD and will not be affected. Where lanes with high hedgebanks are close to, or part of, larger features, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD, sunken lanes may be one such feature. If a trenched method is used it would require temporary removal of part of the hedgebank.	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Negligible to Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Directly Affected – 3H Secluded Valleys							
Steep-sided, incised valleys with fast-flowing streams and rivers carving through the landscape, crowned by rounded hill summits	High	The steep sided valleys would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not Significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Includes the main tributary valleys of the River Torridge	Medium	The tributary valleys would be crossed using trenchless techniques, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not Significant	
Dense tree cover cloaking valley sides, including ancient semi-natural oak woodlands with a colourful ground flora, beech-dominated broadleaved woodlands, and conifer blocks. Patches of wet woodland tracing river/stream courses	High	The cable corridor has been routed to avoid areas of woodland. Where this is not possible trenchless techniques, such as HDD, would be used to go under the woodland	Short term	Large (HDD compound west of the River Torridge) Negligible (Wider Landscape)	Major adverse (HDD compound west of the River Torridge) Minor adverse (Wider Landscape)	**Significant** (HDD compound west of the River Torridge) Not Significant (Wider Landscape)	
Mixture of field sizes and shapes – often smaller, irregular medieval enclosures on lower slopes, with upper slopes merging into larger post-	High	There would be no alteration to field boundaries. However, during the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to	Medium term	Large (HDD compound west of the River Torridge) Small (Wider Landscape)	Major adverse (HDD compound west of the River Torridge) Minor adverse (Wider Landscape)	**Significant** (HDD compound west of the River Torridge)	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
medieval and modern fields, often retaining earlier curving boundaries		allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them.				Not Significant (Wider Landscape)	
Species-rich Devon hedges on wildflower-rich banks, with bank-side ferns and frequent hedgerow trees associated with lower valley locations:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor crosses hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	
Steep valley sides dominated by pasture grazed by sheep and cattle, with patches of rough grazing land on upper slopes and rushy meadows fringing watercourses:	High	During the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
High levels of peace and tranquillity frequently defined by	High	Along the cable corridor there would be a reduction in tranquillity,	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
sounds of rushing water echoing out from the valley bottoms, though locally impacted by main roads in some valleys.		however, as it only crosses a small part of this LCT					
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small to Large	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Directly Affected – 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land							
Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform:	Medium	The cable corridor would cross these tributaries using trenchless techniques, such as HDD.	Medium term	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: No change	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: None	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
				Converter Station Site: Large	Converter Station Site: Major adverse	Converter Station Site: **Significant**	
Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides	High	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and Converter Station Sites are routed/located to avoid these features. Where the cable corridor cannot avoid valleys or woodland, it crosses them using trenchless techniques, such as HDD	Short term	No change	None	Not Significant	
Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of	Medium	There would be no alteration to field boundaries, due to the construction of the	Short term	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Small	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Minor adverse	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms:		onshore HVDC Cable Corridor. However, during the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them					
				Converter Station Site: Large	Converter Station Site: Moderate adverse	Converter Station Site: Not significant	
Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences:	High	Where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and HVAC Cables cross hedgerows and hedgebanks as boundaries to fields and local roads the crossing method would usually be trenched. Where they are close to, or part of, larger crossings, they may be crossed using a trenchless technique, such as HDD. The trenched method would require temporary removal of part of the hedgerow or hedgebank	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent occurrence en route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland:	High	During the construction works sections of the field boundaries may be temporarily removed to allow trenched crossings and the fields may have construction works or compounds located within them. There is one area of rushy/wet meadow close to Bipole 2, which would be crossed using a trenched crossing	Medium term	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Medium	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: Moderate adverse	Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor: **Significant**	
				Convertor Station Sites: Large	Convertor Station Site: Moderate adverse	Convertor Station Site: **Significant**	
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Medium to High		Medium term	Small to Large	Minor to Major adverse	**Significant**	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Directly Affected – 3A Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes							
A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation:	Medium to High	The pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Short term	Small	Negligible to Moderate adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on	Medium	The pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by smaller, historic field patterns:							
Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel	High	The pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Short term	No change	None	Not significant	
Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape	High	The pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Short term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Square church towers form strong local landmark features peeping through the rolling hills…:	High	The realignment works of the pylons and overhead lines might have an impact on views of church towers	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	Low to High		Medium term	Small	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Indirectly Affected – 1F Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland							
Long views	High	The Proposed Development lies to the west of the majority of this LCT and does not lie between the LCT and views of Exmoor and Dartmoor. However, the construction works may feature at the periphery of some long views.	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Tranquillity and remoteness	High	The part of the LCT that lies within the ZTV of the Converter Site is not remote, the construction works may affect some aspects of tranquillity	Medium term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Overall Significance of Effect (Direct Effects)	High		Medium term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Visual Receptor Groups - People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land							
People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land – Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	People using all PRoW: High	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would be underground the effects experienced by visual receptors would be temporary and almost exclusively during the construction phase.	Medium term	Users of wider PRoW network: Negligible to Small	Users of wider PRoW network: Negligible to Moderate adverse	Users of wider PRoW network: Not significant	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		People using the PRoW within 1 km are likely to have some views of the construction works.					(document reference 7.7)
	People using South West Coast Path within North Devon Coast NL: Very High	The largest impacts would be where people have views of the construction compounds containing the plant used in the major crossing points, i.e. people using the South West Coast Path and those using the Tarka Trail	Medium term	People using the two PRoW where managed crossings would be put into place: Medium to Large.	People using the two PRoW where managed crossings would be put into place: Moderate to Major adverse	People using the two PRoW where managed crossings would be put into place: **Significant**	
	People accessing beach and sea within 1km of Landfall: Very High			People using South West Path: Medium	People using South West Path and Tarka Trail: Major adverse	People using South West Path and Traka Trail: **Significan**t	
				People using Tarka Trail: Large	People using beach and sea from beach: Major adverse	People using beach and sea from beach: **Significant**	
				People using beach and sea from beach: Large			
People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land – Convertor station sites, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	High	No Public Rights of Way would be adversely affected by the construction phase of the Proposed Development at the Converter Site due to a lack of proximal visual relationship between the receptors and the Proposed	Medium term	Negligible to Small	Negligible to Moderate adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		Development. Similarly, visual receptors that do not cross the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and within 1km of the Order Limits would not experience any adverse effects.					
Dynamic receptors							
Recreational sailors – Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	High	Although their concentration is primarily on sailing, they would be within 1 km of the NL and an undeveloped section of coast	Medium term	Medium	Moderate adverse	**Significant** close to Landfall but would decrease with distance	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Road users in vehicles – Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Overall: Low	People crossing the NL may have views of the construction works associated with the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Medium-term	Negligible to medium	Drivers within NL: Negligible to Moderate adverse	Drivers within NL: Not Significant	
	People in vehicles crossing the NL: Medium				Drivers outside NL: Negligible to Minor adverse	Drivers outside NL: Not significant	
Cyclists and people walking along roads – Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Medium	Cyclists are not enclosed by a vehicle and are raised above the level of people within a standard vehicle and are travelling slower. People walking along minor roads have varied sensitivities to the Proposed Development, depending on which element of the project	Medium-term	Small to medium	Within the NL: Minor to Moderate adverse	Within the NL: Not Significant to **Significant**	
					Outside NL: Minor to moderate adverse	Outside NL: Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		they are looking at and the context of the view					
Road users in vehicles within NL – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	Medium	Construction is at a distance and intervening topography and vegetation	Medium-term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Cyclists and people walking along minor roads within NL – convertor stations, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	High	Construction is at a distance and intervening topography and vegetation	Medium-term	Negligible to Small	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not significant	
Road users in vehicles outside NL – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	Low	Barring the minor road that runs between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Cross/Webbery Barton which forms the western boundary of the Converter Site, there are few roads that are close to the Converter Site.	Medium-term	Large	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Cyclists and people walking along minor roads outside NL – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	Medium	Barring the minor road that runs between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Cross/Webbery Barton which forms the western boundary of the Converter Site, there are	Medium-term	Large	Major adverse	**Significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		few roads that are close to the Converter Site					
People at work – Landfall and onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Low	The focus of attention is on their work not on the surroundings	Medium-term	Negligible to Large	Negligible to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
People at work – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables and Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development	Low	Most working people that have views towards the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor are involved in the agricultural or fishing sector.	Medium-term	Large	Minor to Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoints							
Representative Viewpoint 23: View south from public right of way Newton Tracy Footpath 4, to the south of Horwood	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Large	Major adverse	**Significant**	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 26: View	High	The plant used to construct the Converter	Medium-term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
west-southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 56 to the east of Bartridge		Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint					
Representative Viewpoint 27: View west from junction of minor road with B3232, at Alverdiscott	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Large	Moderate to Major adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoint 29: View west-northwest from minor road, to the south of Alverdiscott	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoint 30: View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be	Medium-term	Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		visible on the skyline from this viewpoint					
Representative Viewpoint 31: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoint 32: View northwest from public right of way Footpath 1, to the east of Huntshaw	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Small to Medium	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 33: View north-northeast from minor road, to the north of Gammaton Moor	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible from this field gate	Medium-term	Large	Moderate to Major adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoint 34: View	People in vehicles: Low	The plant used to construct the Converter	Medium-term	Large	Moderate to Major adverse	**Significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
south from minor road between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Barton	Cyclists and people walking: Medium	Site and the National Grid substation, install the HVAC cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible from this field gate					
Representative Viewpoint 35: View south from minor road to the east of Webbery Cross	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Large	Moderate to Major adverse	**Significant**	
Representative Viewpoint 36: View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 37: View north-northwest from public right of way Huntshaw Footpath 4	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling	Medium-term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
south of Huntshaw Water		mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint					
Representative Viewpoint 38: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the west of Delve's Grave	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Small	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 40: View east southeast from minor road at Rickard's Down, north of Abbotsham, within the North Devon National Landscape	People in vehicles: Medium Cyclists and people walking: High	Distance from the construction as well as intervening topography and hedgebanks	Medium-term	Negligible to Small	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 41: View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	Distance from the construction as well as intervening topography and hedgebanks and intervening vegetation.	Medium-term	Negligible	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 42: View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form	Medium-term	Small	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
	walking: Medium	the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint					
Representative Viewpoint 43: View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Small	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 46: View southwest from minor road to the southwest of Harracott	High	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint	Medium-term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 47: View southwest from minor road to the east of Newton Tracey	People in vehicles: Low Cyclists and people walking: Medium	The plant used to construct the Converter Site and the Alverdiscott Substation Connection Development, install the HVAC Cables and form the earth-modelling mitigation would be partially visible on the	Medium-term	Small	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		skyline from this viewpoint					
Night time effects on Landscape and Seascape Receptors							
Night time effects on receptors	High	The Proposed Development is an area of medium to darker skies	Medium-term	Up to Large	Up to Major adverse	**Locally significant**	An Outline On-CEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.7)
Operational phase							
North Devon Biosphere Reserve							
Characteristic landscapes such as Culm grasslands and Devon hedgerows. There will be **no change** on this aspect of the special feature, as there is no Culm grassland within the Converter Site, or within the Proposed Development Order Limits at the Converter Site.	High	The onshore HVDC Cable Corridor does not cross any Culm grasslands and the Converter Site are not located on Culm grassland. The Devon hedgerows within the Proposed Development Order Limits would be reconstructed where the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor has passed through them	Medium term	Culm grassland: No change Hedgerows: Small	Culm grassland: None Hedgerows: Moderate adverse	Culm grassland: Not significant Hedgerows: **Locally significant** but not significant in the wider area of the Biosphere Reserve.	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10)
Special western oak woodlands with a	High	The wood between Gammaton Manor and Webbery Cross/Webbery	Short term	Oak Woodland: No change	None	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
plethora of pollution-sensitive lichens.		Barton would be avoided.					
		These field boundaries would be replanted with shrub species, as the field would be crossed in a trenched crossing		Wet Oak Woodland: Medium			
High level of tranquillity	High	There would be an impact on visual tranquillity from the Converter Site, as the land would change from agricultural fields to an area containing large built forms. the 'cut' in the hillside would be remediated and planted, the planted earth-modelling would remain in place at decommissioning).	Long term	Local Impact: Large	Major adverse reducing to Moderate adverse	**Locally Significant**	
		Wider Biosphere Transition Zone: Small					
Nocturnal darkness	High	The Converter Site would have some lighting at night and there be security lighting, and manned 24 hours a day. Earth modelling and planting would reduce light pollution as it establishes.	Long term	Small	Moderate reducing to Minor adverse	**Locally significant**	Lighting will be approved as part of the detailed design. The detailed design is a Requirement of the DCO.
North Devon Coast National Landscape							

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Panoramic views across a rolling landscape of pastoral farmland, wooded combes and valleys from elevated inland areas	High	There would be an impact of views from elevated land within the NL, towards the Converter Site	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10)
Exmoor National Park							
Dark skies and the Dark Sky Reserve	Very High	The direct impacts of the lighting at the Converter Site on the special quality dark skies and the Dark Sky Reserve would be of local geographic extent and long-term.	Long term	Negligible	Minor adverse to Negligible adverse	Not significant	
National Landscape Character Area 149: The Culm							
Rolling, open plateaux…wide views across a remote landscape	High	The Converter Site are located in this area of the NCA. There would be an impact of views from elevated land towards the Converter Site.	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10)
Little tree cover on the plateau, except for occasional wind-sculpted hedgerow and farmstead trees, and conifer blocks.	High	No woodlands are present at the Converter Site. However, once the earth-modelling has been completed, it would be planted with native woodland species and	Long term	Small	Minor beneficial	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		would add to the broadleaved woodland in the area.					
Mosaic of field patterns reflecting the historic land use of the Culm, surrounded by characteristic hedgebanks	High	The fields in which the Converter Site are to be located are large, smaller fields having been subsumed to allow for more efficient agriculture. This farmed landscape has also had the track to the National Grid Alverdiscott substation imposed on it. These more recent boundaries are marked by mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees, sometimes associated with ditches	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Overall Effect on NCA 149	Medium to High		Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
County Landscape Areas – High Culm Ridges LCA							
Ridges divided by small spring-fed tributary streams, flowing into the River Torridge (to the west)	Medium	The Converter Site are located to the east and south of a ridge of high ground. There are two watercourses/ditches that flow west to east outside/on the boundaries of the Converter Site, which join a small stream, that	Long term	Converter Stations/Ridges: Large Tributary Streams: No change	Converter Stations/Ridges: Major adverse Tributary Streams: None	Converter Stations: **Significant** Tributary Streams: Not significant	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		flows west to the River Torridge. However, these watercourses/ditches are not impacted by the Proposed Development					reference 7.10)
Extensive linear deciduous woodlands and some orchards in valleys; occasional windswept trees and hilltop clumps of beech; and blocks of coniferous plantation on higher ground	High	The Converter Site would not require the removal of these features, there would be no change to the existing features. Woodland planting on the earth-modelling/bunds forms part of the landscape and ecological mitigation.	Long term	Existing features: No change	Existing features: None	Not significant	
				Woodland Planting on earth-modelling: Small	Woodland planting: Minor beneficial		
Farmland generally in pastoral use, with some areas of arable on better-quality land	Medium	The Converter Site would result in a change of local land-use from a farmed landscape to that of a developed area changing the intrinsic character of the site.	Long term	Large	Major adverse	**Significant**	
Complex pattern of fields, generally with smaller, irregular fields around villages and on valley sides, and larger, more regular fields (suggesting more	Medium	The fields within which the Converter Site are located are already large (the combination of several smaller fields) and the pattern compromised by the	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
recent enclosure) on areas of higher land		National Grid development					
Fields generally divided by hedgerows or hedgebanks in variable condition: some well-managed, others grown-out or closely flailed	High	Some internal field boundaries may need to be changed	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Long views from high ground across the Torridge valleys, and to Exmoor, as well as views of the sea	High	There would be an impact of views from elevated land towards the Converter Site.	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Overall Significance of effect Year 15	Medium to High	Summer Year 15	Long term	Small to Large	Direct effects on immediate character: Moderate adverse Indirect effect on wider character: Minor adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Directly Affected – 5A Inland Elevated Undulating Land							
Elevated land cut by a series of tributaries forming folds in the landform:	Medium	At the Converter Site, the elevated land would experience impact during the operations and maintenance phase	Long term	Large	Converter stations: Major adverse	Converter stations: **Significant**	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document
Tributary valleys lined by broadleaved and wet woodland	High	The Converter Site are located to avoid the existing woodland	Long term	Existing woodlands: No change	Existing woodlands: None	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
providing contrasting shelter and texture. Small farm woods, occasional conifer blocks and avenues of mature beech on hill summits and along roadsides		features. The proposed woodland planting is a part of the proposed landscape and ecological mitigation		Proposed woodland planting: Small	Proposed woodland planting: Minor beneficial		reference 7.10)
Medium-scale regular fields of recent enclosure, with pockets of smaller fields of medieval origin on valley slopes and tracts of unenclosed rough grazing along valley bottoms	Medium	The Converter Site are located in larger fields, of more recent enclosure.	Long term	Large	Major adverse	**Significant**	
Fields enclosed by mixed species hedges (predominantly thorn) with flower-rich banks and frequent hedgerow trees in sheltered locations. Some locally distinctive hedges topped with gorse and beech. Occasional amalgamated fields bounded by fences.	High	The HVAC Cables and Converter Site may cross hedgerows, but not hedgebanks. The exact location of the Converter Site is not yet decided and they may be avoided	Long term	Medium	Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
Strong farmed character with pasture fields grazed by cattle and sheep a frequent	High	The Converter Site are located in large fields, of recent enclosure.	Long term	Large	Moderate adverse	**Significant**	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
occurrence en route, occasional fields of arable cultivation and rough grazing of rushy meadows along valleys although mostly rather improved grassland.							
Overall Significance of effect Year 15	Medium to High	Summer Year 15	Long term	Medium to Large	Direct Effect on immediate character: Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
					Indirect effect on wider character: Minor adverse	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Directly Affected – 3A Upper Farmed and Wooded Valley Slopes							
A pastoral landscape, with some fields of arable cultivation on higher slopes, forming a strong mosaic with copses, interlinking Devon hedges and small woodlands as well as occasional small blocks of coniferous plantation:	High	There would be no change to these elements and character, as the pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Long term	No change	None	Not significant	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10)
Some areas of intensive arable cultivation in larger, regular fields found on more elevated land. Villages and tributary valleys often characterised by	Medium	There would be no change to these elements and character, as the pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Long term	No change	None	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
smaller, historic field patterns:							
Nature conservation interest provided by areas of species-rich Culm grassland, rich valley mire, wet woodland and damp meadows associated with tributary valleys and springs. Patches of gorse on higher slopes give some areas an upland feel…: There would be no change to these elements and character, as the pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	High	There would be no change to these elements and character, as the pylons would be realigned, but would not remove existing landscape elements	Long term	No change	None	Not significant	
Main roads prominent pylon lines and the influence of modern development at Bideford and East the Water erode levels of tranquillity locally – although overall this is a peaceful and highly rural landscape	Medium	The realigned pylons would be better positioned than the current locations and remove pylons from crossing ridgelines, having an effect of the visual tranquillity in the land to the north of the Converter Site	Long term	Negligible	Negligible beneficial	Not significant	
Square church towers form strong local	Medium	The realigned pylons would be better	Long term	Negligible	Negligible beneficial	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
landmark features peeping through the rolling hills.		positioned than the current locations and remove pylons from crossing ridgelines.					
Overall Significance of realigned pylons and overhead lines	Medium to High		Long term	Negligible	Negligible beneficial	Not significant	
North Devon and Torridge District Landscape Character Types- Indirectly Affected – 1F Farmed Lowland Moorland and Culm Grassland							
Long views	High	The Proposed Development lies to the west of the majority of this LCT and does not lie between the LCT and views of Exmoor and Dartmoor. However, the Converter Site and the realigned pylons and overhead power lines may feature at the periphery of some long views. The	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	An Outline LEMP has been submitted as part of the DCO application (document reference 7.10)
Tranquillity and remoteness	High	The part of the LCT that lies within the ZTV of the Converter Site is not remote,	Medium term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	
Overall Significance of effect Year 15	High		Long term		Direct effects on immediate character: Negligible adverse	Not significant	
					Indirect effect on wider character: Negligible adverse		
Visual Receptor Groups							
People using Public Rights of Way and	Overall: High	The cables would be underground and the construction compounds	Long Term	Negligible	Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Users of South West Coast						

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Access Land onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Path National Trail (crossing National Landscape): Very High	and the elements crossed using trenched techniques would be reinstated.					
People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables	High	Due primarily to distance from the Converter Site	Long Term	Negligible to Small	Negligible to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	
Dynamic Receptors							
People using road network – Convertor stations, HVAC cable	People within vehicles: Low	Impact is less than during construction phase	Long term	Medium	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	People in vehicles: Not Significant	
	People in vehicles crossing the NL: Medium						
	Cyclists: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Moderate adverse	Cyclists and walkers: **Significant**	
	People walking minor roads: Medium						
	People walking minor roads within NL: High						
People at work – onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Low	Only affected during construction phase	Long term	N/A	N/A	N/A	
People at work – Converter stations,	Low	Those with close views of the Proposed Development would be	Long term	Medium	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
onshore HVDC Cable Corridor		people working at the Converter Site, National Grid employees and those people working on the adjacent solar farm.					
Representative Viewpoints							
Representative Viewpoint 23: View south from public right of way Newton Tracey Footpath 4, to the south of Harwood - Year 1	High	During the operation phase in Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened by proposed earth-modelling from this viewpoint. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surroundings	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Representative Viewpoint 23: View south from public right of way Newton Tracey Footpath 4, to the south of Harwood - Year 15	High	During the operation phase in Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened by proposed earth-modelling from this viewpoint. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surroundings	Long term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross - Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes	Long term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 26: View west-southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 56 to the east of Bartridge – Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not significant	
Representative Viewpoint 26: View west-southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 56 to the east of Bartridge – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 27: View West from Junction of Minor Road with B3232, at Alverdiscott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Preliminary Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.2) – Year 1	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Medium		Not Significant	
	People walking minor roads: Medium				People in vehicles on minor roads: Minor adverse		
	Cyclists on minor roads: Medium				Cyclists and people walking on minor roads: moderate adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 27: View West from Junction of Minor Road with B3232, at Alverdiscott (Volume 4, Appendix 2.5: Preliminary Visualisations of the ES, Figure 2.5.2) – Year 15	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However,	Long term	Small	People in vehicles on minor roads: Negligible to minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
People walking minor roads and cyclists on minor roads: Medium				Small	Cyclists and people walking on minor roads: minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 29: View west-northwest from minor road, to the south of Alverdiscott – Year 1	People in vehicles: low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened by proposed earth-modelling from this viewpoint. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Medium	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking on minor roads: medium				Cyclists and people walking in minor roads: Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Representative Viewpoint 29: View west-northwest from minor road, to the south of Alverdiscott – Year 15	People in vehicles: low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened by proposed earth-modelling from this viewpoint. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		integrates with the surrounding landscape					
	Cyclists and people walking on minor roads: medium				Cyclists and people walking in minor roads: Minor to Moderate adverse	Not significant	
Representative Viewpoint 30: View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End - at Year 1	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	People walking minor roads: Medium				People walking in minor roads: minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 30: View west-northwest from junction of the B3232 with a minor road at Lashingcott Lane End - at Year 15	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	People walking minor roads: Medium				People walking in minor roads: minor adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 31: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water – Year 1	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	People walking minor roads: Medium				People walking and cyclists: Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 31: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the northwest of Huntshaw Water – at Year 15	People within vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	People walking minor roads: Medium				People walking and cyclists: Minor adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 32: View northwest from public right of way Footpath 1, to the east of Huntshaw – Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Small	Minor to Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Representative Viewpoint 32: View northwest from public right of way Footpath 1, to the east of Huntshaw – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 33: View north-northwest from minor road, to the north of Gammaton Moor – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not	Long term	Medium	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and people walking: Moderate adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape					
Representative Viewpoint 33: View north-northwest from minor road, to the north of Gammaton Moor – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and people walking: Minor adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		integrates with the surrounding landscape					
Representative Viewpoint 34: View south from minor road between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Barton – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also which forms the focus of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the view and when the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Large	People in vehicles: Moderate adverse	**Significant**	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Major adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 34: View south from minor road between Gammaton Moor and Webbery Barton – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms the focus of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the	Long term	Large	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Moderate adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		view and when the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape					
Representative Viewpoint 35: View south from minor road to the east of Webbery Cross – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms part of the skyline of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the view and when the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Medium	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Moderate adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 35: View south from minor road	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
to the east of Webbery Cross – Year 15	Cyclists and people walking: Medium	National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms part of the skyline of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the view and when the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape			Cyclists and walkers: Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 36: View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott – Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 36: View south from junction of minor road with public right of way Westleigh Footpath 7 to the southwest of Holmacott – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 37: View north-northwest from public right of way Huntshaw Footpath 4 south of Huntshaw Water – Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms part of the skyline of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the view and when the proposed planting becomes	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape					
Representative Viewpoint 37: View north-northwest from public right of way Huntshaw Footpath 4 south of Huntshaw Water – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms part of the skyline of the view. The mitigation itself also would disrupt the view and when the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline. The impacts would reduce over time as mitigation planting establishes and integrates with the surrounding landscape	Long term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 38: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the west of Delve's Grave – Year 1	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by	Long term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 38: View north-northwest from other route with public access to the west of Delve's Grave – Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	Minor adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 40: View east-southeast from	People in vehicles: Medium	Due to distance and screening effects of topography and	Long term	Negligible	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
minor road at Rickard's Down, north of Abbotsham within the North Devon Coast National Landscape – Year 1	Cyclists and people walking: High	intervening hedgebanks at Year 1			Cyclists and walkers: Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 40: View east-southeast from minor road at Rickard's Down, north of Abbotsham within the North Devon Coast National Landscape – Year 15	People in vehicles: Medium	Due to distance and screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks at Year 15	Long term	Negligible	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: High				Cyclists and walkers: Negligible adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 41: View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	Due to distance and screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks at Year 1	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 41: View northeast from A388 to the north of Monkleigh – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	Due to distance and screening effects of topography and intervening hedgebanks at Year 15	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 42: View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible to Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Minor adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
		forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 42: View southeast from minor road/track north of Syncock's Cross on Old Barnstaple Road – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Negligible	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Negligible to Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 43: View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh – Year 1	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by	Long term	Medium	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people				Cyclists and walkers: Moderate adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
	walking: Medium	proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 43: View south-southeast from farm track to the southeast of Eastleigh – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase ay Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 46: View southwest from minor	High	During the operation phase at Year 1 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation	Long term	Negligible	Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
road to the southwest of Harracott – Year 1		Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline					
Representative Viewpoint 46: View southwest from minor road to the southwest of Harracott -Year 15	High	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
Representative Viewpoint 47: View	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 1 the	Long term	Small	People in vehicles: Minor adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
southwest from minor road, to the east of Newton Tracey – Year 1	Cyclists and people walking: Medium	Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline			Cyclists and walkers: Minor adverse		
Representative Viewpoint 47: View southwest from minor road, to the east of Newton Tracey – Year 15	People in vehicles: Low	During the operation phase at Year 15 the Converter Site and National Grid Substation Development are screened in part by proposed earth-modelling which also forms a backdrop to those parts of the buildings that might not be screened. However, the mitigation itself breaks the skyline and before the proposed planting becomes established would form the new skyline	Long term	Negligible	People in vehicles: Negligible adverse	Not Significant	
	Cyclists and people walking: Medium				Cyclists and walkers: Negligible adverse		

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Night Time Effects							
Night time effects	High	As the onshore HVDC Cable Corridor would not be lit once constructed the only source of artificial lighting would be at the Converter Site. Operational lighting at the Converter Site would be designed in accordance with the Design Principles Statement (document reference 7.4) as well as the latest guidance and legislation. The operational lighting would be designed to avoid illumination of areas beyond the operational site. This would include directional lighting to minimise overspill into the surrounding landscape	Long term	Medium	Moderate adverse	Significant	Lighting will be part of the detailed design that will be approved as a Requirement of the DCO
Decommissioning phase							
North Devon Coast National Landscape	**High**	**Indirect effects**	**Medium**	**Negligible**	**Minor adverse**	**Not significant**	
Visual Receptor Groups							
People using Public Rights of Way and	Overall: High	The cable ducts are left in situ	Short Term	Negligible	Negligible adverse	Not Significant	

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor	Description of impact	Short / medium / long term	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect	Significant / not significant	Notes
Access Land onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	Users of South West Coast Path National Trail (crossing National Landscape): Very High						
People using Public Rights of Way and Access Land – Convertor stations, HVAC Cables	High	The decommissioning would take place within an established landscape, which would screen most activities. The HVAC cable and (it is presumed) the National Grid's Substation Development would remain in situ	Short Term	Small	Moderate adverse	Not Significant	

Table 2.23: Summary of cumulative environmental effects

Description of Impact	Phase[a]			Embedded Mitigation	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of impact	Significance of Effect	Further Mitigation	Residual Effect	Proposed Monitoring
	C	O	D							
Tier 1										
LCT 5B – Likely direct cumulative effects to be incongruous to the overall rural character of the LCT during construction.	✓	×	×	Implementation of measures set out in Table 2.18	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate to Major adverse, and Significant	none	Moderate to Major adverse, and **Significant**	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).
Tier 3										
LCT 5B- Likely direct cumulative effects to be incongruous to the overall rural character of the LCT during construction	✓	×	×	Implementation of measures set out in Table 2.18	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate to Major adverse, and Significant locally. (decreasing in the wider context due to scale of LCT)	none	Moderate to Major adverse, and **Significant**	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).

Description of Impact	Phase[a]			Embedded Mitigation	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of impact	Significance of Effect	Further Mitigation	Residual Effect	Proposed Monitoring
LCT 5A- Likely direct cumulative effects to be incongruous to the overall rural character of the LCT during construction	✓	×	×	Implementation of measures set out in Table 2.18, within the areas shown on the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10)	High	Medium	Moderate to Major adverse, and Significant locally. (decreasing in the wider context due to scale of LCT)	none	Moderate to Major adverse, and **Significant**	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).
LCT 1F- Likely indirect cumulative effects to be incongruous to the rural character and perceptual characteristics of the LCT during operation and decommissioning within the immediate context.	×	✓	✓	Implementation of measures set out in Table 2.18, within the areas shown on Outline LEMP (document reference 7.10)	Medium	negligible to small	Negligible to minor adverse, not significant	none	Negligible to minor adverse, not significant	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).
LCT 5A- Likely direct cumulative effects to be incongruous to the overall rural character of the	×	✓	✓	Implementation of measures at Converter Site set out in Table 2.18, and also shown on Outline	High	Large to small	Year 1: Major adverse, and significant (locally), reducing to Moderate	none	Year 1: Major adverse, and **locally significant,** reducing to	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been

Description of Impact	Phase[a]			Embedded Mitigation	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of impact	Significance of Effect	Further Mitigation	Residual Effect	Proposed Monitoring
LCT during operation in proximity to Converter Site				LEMP (document reference 7.10)			adverse and not significant in wider LCT Year 15: Moderate adverse, not significant locally, reducing to minor adverse and not significant in wider LCT		Moderate adverse and not significant in wider LCT Year 15: Moderate adverse, not significant locally, reducing to minor adverse and not significant in wider LCT	prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).
Visual receptor – Footpath Alwington 3	✓	×	×	Implementation of measures at Cable Corridor set out in Table 2.18 within this Chapter	High	Negligible to small	Minor to Moderate Adverse, not significant	none	Minor to Moderate Adverse, not significant	An Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).
Visual receptor – Footpath Abbotsham 2	✓	×	×	Implementation of measures at Cable Corridor	High	Negligible to small	Minor to Moderate	none	Minor to Moderate	An Outline Landscape and Ecology

Description of Impact	Phase[a]			Embedded Mitigation	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of impact	Significance of Effect	Further Mitigation	Residual Effect	Proposed Monitoring
				set out in Table 2.18 within this Chapter			Adverse, not significant		Adverse, not significant	Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared as part of the application for development consent (document reference 7.10).

2.17 References

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