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XLINKS' MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT

Environmental Statement

Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Alverdiscott Substation	The existing National Grid Electricity Transmission substation at Alverdiscott, Devon, which comprises 400 kV and 132 kV electrical substation equipment.
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.
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).
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.
National Landscape	An area of land designated for its natural features of outstanding beauty. The land is protected by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, in order to conserve and enhance its natural beauty. Previously referred to as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor	The proposed corridor within which the onshore High Voltage Direct Current cables would be located.
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.
Study area	This is an area which is defined for each environmental topic which includes the Order Limits as well as potential spatial and temporal considerations of the impacts on relevant receptors. The study area for each topic is intended to cover the area within which an impact can be reasonably expected.
Visual receptors	People within the study area with potential views of the Proposed Development.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.
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').

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now National Landscape)
ES	Environmental Statement
NL	National Landscape (was AONB)
os	Ordnance Survey
TGN	Technical Guidance Note
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Units	Meaning
km	Kilometres
m	Metres

1 VISUAL BASELINE TECHNICAL REPORT

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document forms Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual baseline technical report of the Environmental Statement (ES) prepared for the Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project (the 'Project'). For ease of reference, the UK elements of the Project are referred to as the 'Proposed Development', which is the focus of this ES. The ES presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 This document provides visual baseline information and analysis for the Proposed Development that forms part of the assessment at Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources, of the ES.

1.2 Methodology

Study Area

- 1.2.1 The Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources (LSVIA) study area for the Proposed Development, hereafter referred to as 'the LSVIA study area', is shown in Figure 2.1 of Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources of the ES. The LSVIA study area is based on the findings of an analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). It comprises the area of land to be temporarily and permanently occupied during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, together with:
 - 1 km buffer at the Landfall and from the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor
 - 10 km buffer from the converter stations.
- 1.2.2 The buffers used to define the LSVIA study area are based on the Maximum Design Scenario (MDS) set out in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources, of the ES.

Consultation

1.2.3 A summary of the consultation undertaken to date associated with landscape and seascape for the LSVIA study areas is presented in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape, and Visual Resources of the ES. Specific requests were made for additional representative viewpoint photography at this stage. This was undertaken and forms part of the visual baseline.

Site-specific Surveys

1.2.4 A summary of the surveys undertaken to date associated with landscape and seascape for the LSVIA study areas is presented in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape, and Visual Resources of the ES.

Methodology

Procedure for taking photographs at representative viewpoints

- 1.2.5 The photography follows the Landscape Institute guidance set out in Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019). For the ES, 29 representative viewpoint locations for the converter stations have been identified, based on the ZTV of the Converter Site and requests from consultees. Six representative viewpoints were identified for the Landfall and 13 for the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, based on Ordnance Survey (OS) base mapping.
- 1.2.6 Following an adjustment to the height of the converter stations, another ZTV was generated (Figure 2.5a to 2.5e of ES Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources of the ES). This confirmed the location of the representative viewpoints (these are noted in Table 2.17 of Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, seascape and visual resources of the ES).
- 1.2.7 The baseline panoramas from the agreed representative viewpoints for the Landfall, Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and converter stations (representative viewpoints 1 to 40) are described within this appendix and presented in Figures 2.3.1 to 2.3.41 of this appendix. The figures are baseline summer and/or winter photography of all representative viewpoints listed in Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources of the ES, undertaken as part of the Proposed Development.

1.3 Visual Baseline

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 1.3.1 Areas from which views of any part of the converter stations would theoretically be possible were determined by generating a ZTV. The ZTV does not indicate how much of the Proposed Development would be visible. The ZTV (Figure 2.5a to 2.5e of Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, seascape and visual resources of the ES) takes account of the screening effect of existing major woodland blocks (at 12 m high) and buildings (at 9 m high). It also takes account of the indicative design of the bunding proposed at the Converter Site. It does not take account of any proposed landscape mitigation, or smaller blocks of woodland or hedgerows and associated / incidental tree cover, which add to the amount of screening provided by vegetation. Therefore, the ZTV is an overestimation of visibility.
- 1.3.2 Representative viewpoints, located within the ZTV and likely to experience visual change, were identified through desk study and fieldwork. An overview of the views and the potential visibility of the Proposed Development is set out in paragraphs 1.3.11 to 1.3.57 of this appendix.

Representative Viewpoints

1.3.3 Photography was undertaken at the Landfall and along the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor, at publicly accessible locations in candidate representative viewpoints of the proposed Converter Site.

- 1.3.4 The proposed viewpoints 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. Additional viewpoint photography was taken, as detailed below:
 - Whilst undertaking fieldwork, additional viewpoints were identified, and photography undertaken at these locations.
 - The landscape consultant appointed by the Torridge District Council suggested further viewpoints that were undertaken on 11 and 20 October 2022.
 - Additional photography was undertaken on the 13 and 14 February 2023, which included additional viewpoints, suggested by Torridge District Council's landscape consultant.
 - Further photography was undertaken on 10 and 11 June 2024, to update some of the existing baseline photography, due to the construction of a solar farm adjacent to the Converter Site.
- 1.3.5 The representative viewpoints were agreed by Torridge District Council's landscape consultant, which is detailed within Volume 4, Chapter 2: Landscape, Seascape and Visual Resources of the ES. The photography is presented as Figures 2.3.1 to 2.3.47 of this appendix. The viewpoint locations for these photographs are on Figure 2.3.48 of this appendix.
- 1.3.6 A site visit was undertaken on the 16 May 2023 with Torridge District Council's landscape consultant, for which access to the land surrounding the Converter Site was granted, but not to the Converter Site itself. Landscape character photographs were taken during the visit. These character photographs are presented in Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape and Seascape and Character Baseline Technical Report of the ES.
- 1.3.7 In addition, views towards the Converter Site from local roads were also undertaken on 16 May 2023, to inform micro-siting and design, including landscape mitigation proposals. These are Figure 2.3.49 to 2.3.54 of this appendix. Figure 2.3.55 of this appendix illustrates the locations for these 'mitigation' photographs.
- 1.3.8 From the site work, it was evident that visual receptors at some of the locations would not experience a significant effect, primarily due to distance, but also due to the Converter Site being substantially obscured by landform or vegetation. In some locations the sensitivity of the receptor is such, due to activity, e.g. within a vehicle, that there is similarly no potential for significant effects.
- 1.3.9 The viewpoint photography has been broken down into those at the location of the Landfall, the Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor and compounds, the converter stations and the HVAC Cable Corridors.
- 1.3.10 A description of each representative viewpoint is set out below. The figures referred to are within this appendix. Both winter and summer photography is presented for each representative viewpoint, where available.

Representative Viewpoint Descriptions

Landfall

Representative Viewpoint 1: View southwest from the South West Coast Path at Cornborough Cliff

1.3.11 Representative Viewpoint 1 (Figure 2.3.1) lies approximately 40 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). This is a wide view looking southwest over the coastal landscape – farmland, beach, intertidal area, sea and distant coastline from a slightly elevated location. Rough grassland and gorse scrub cover the slightly raised higher ground within the pasture and on steeper inclines within the fields and along the coast. The gently undulating landform dips down towards the beach, where a small stream flows west from the farmland, separating fields. Other field boundaries are formed by post and wire fences. The shallow cliffs give way to a pebbly beach and an expanse of rock in the intertidal area.

Representative Viewpoint 2: View east from beach between Abbotsham Cliff and Cornborough Cliff

1.3.12 Representative Viewpoint 2 (Figure 2.3.2) lies approximately 10 m AOD. This is a view inland from the pebbly beach between Abbotsham Cliff and Cornborough Cliff. It is contained by the higher land on either side of the small stream that flows west, draining the farmland and entering the sea at the beach. The view is of rough grassland and gorse scrub cover the slightly raised higher ground within the pasture and on steeper inclines within the fields and along the coast.

Representative Viewpoint 3: View southeast from beach/South West Coast Path, north of Abbotsham Court

1.3.13 Representative Viewpoint 3 (Figure 2.3.3) lies under 5 m AOD. This is a view inland from the pebbly beach, of the footbridge over a small watercourse. It is contained by the higher land on either side of the stream that flows west, draining the farmland and entering the sea at the beach. The view is of rough grassland and gorse scrub cover the slightly raised higher ground within the pasture and on steeper inclines within the fields and along the coast.

Representative Viewpoint 4: View west-northwest from beach, between Abbotsham Cliffs and Cornborough Cliffs

1.3.14 Representative Viewpoint 4 (Figure 2.3.4) lies under 5 m AOD. This is the seaward view from the same location as Viewpoint 3. The pebbly beach gives way to a rocky intertidal zone. The headland to the southwest is visible, across an open expanse of sea.

Representative Viewpoint 5: View northeast to landfall site from the South West Coast Path, north of Abbotsham Court

1.3.15 Representative Viewpoint 5 (Figure 2.3.5) lies at approximately 10 m AOD. This is a wide view looking northeast over the coastal landscape – farmland, beach, intertidal area, sea and distant coastline from a slightly elevated location. Rough

grassland and gorse scrub cover the slightly raised higher ground within the pasture and on steeper inclines within the fields and along the coast. The gently undulating landform dips down towards the beach, where a small stream flows west from the farmland, separating fields. Other field boundaries are formed by post and wire fences. The shallow cliffs give way to a pebbly beach and an expanse of rocks in the intertidal area.

Representative Viewpoint 6: View northwest from field gate on minor road, east of Abbotsham Court, Rickard's Down

1.3.16 Representative Viewpoint 6 (Figure 2.3.6) lies at approximately 60 m AOD. This is a wide view looking northwest over the coastal and coastal hinterland landscape – farmland, beach, intertidal area, sea and distant coastline from a slightly elevated location. Rough grassland and gorse scrub cover the slightly raised higher ground within the pasture and on steeper inclines within the fields and along the coast. The gently undulating landform dips down towards the beach, where a small stream flows west from the farmland, separating fields. The shallow cliffs give way to a pebbly beach and an expanse of rocks in the intertidal area. Other field boundaries are formed by post and wire fences as well as hedgerows. Areas of woodland are seen on the steeper inland slopes.

Onshore HVDC Cable Corridor Study Area

Representative Viewpoint 7: View south from junction of PRoW Abbotsham Footpath 5, with minor road to the north of Rickard's Down

1.3.17 Representative Viewpoint 7 (Figure 2.3.7) lies at approximately 35 m AOD. This is a channelled view along a narrow lane. The lane is enclosed by hedgebanks, with occasional, windswept trees. Views into the fields are only possible through field gates to the south. Views north are more open, as the land drops away and the hedgerow is lower.

Representative Viewpoint 8: View south from Public Right of Way Abbotsham Footpath 6, west of Pusehill

1.3.18 Representative Viewpoint 8 (Figure 2.3.8) lies at approximately 60 m AOD. Wide view south, across farmland. The sea is glimpsed between the gently undulating landscape. The farmland is divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks, areas of woodland and isolated farmhouses and small hamlets. Areas of low-lying land and shallow valleys are screened by both topography and areas of vegetation.

Representative Viewpoint 9: View south from PRoW Abbotsham Footpath 2, at junction with Other Route with Public Access, to the south of Rickard's Down

1.3.19 Representative Viewpoint 9 (Figure 2.3.9) lies at approximately 37 m AOD. This enclosed view is from a footpath through a linear wood, along a small watercourse flowing east from Chaltaborough. Views of the surrounding farmland are filtered by the woodland vegetation. The fields beyond the wood are divided by hedgerows, with small copses

Representative Viewpoint 10: View west from minor road south of Bowood at Abbotsham Cross

1.3.20 Representative Viewpoint 10 (Figure 2.3.10) lies at approximately 100 m AOD. This is a view across a large, gently undulating field, laid to pasture. The view is obtained through a field gate. The sea can be glimpsed to the northwest. The view is truncated by the mature hedgerow with trees on the southern boundary of the field.

Representative Viewpoint 11: View northeast from PRoW Alvington Footpath 3 routed along a private access road to the north of Winscott Barton

1.3.21 Representative Viewpoint 11 (Figure 2.3.11) lies at approximately 125 m AOD. The view through a field gate is from a minor road, along which the public footpath is routed. The open view is across a pasture, to the north of a circular wood. Long views of the surrounding farmland, divided by hedgerows and interspersed by areas of woodland are available, particularly to the northeast. Views northwest are shorter, truncated by the rising land.

Representative Viewpoint 12: View northeast from the junction of PRoW Alvington Bridleway 12, with a minor road, east of Winscott Barton

1.3.22 Representative Viewpoint 12 (Figure 2.3.12) lies at approximately 117 m AOD. The minor road and footpath are enclosed by woodland to the west. A few mature trees filter views east. Either side of the junction the road is enclosed by low hedgebanks. The hedgebanks enclose the road and views are shortened by topography to the south, by rising land. To the north the road slopes away and views of the surrounding farmland, over the hedgebanks are available.

Representative Viewpoint 13: View east from minor road to the west of Littleham Cross

1.3.23 Representative Viewpoint 13 (Figure 2.3.13) lies at approximately 120 m AOD. This view is through a field gate, but similar views are possible from the minor road, as the hedges are maintained to a low level. The view is across pasture, interspersed with tree belts and woodland. The woodland and the undulating topography hide steeper valleys, containing tributaries of the River Torridge, to the north east.

Representative Viewpoint 14: View northwest from minor road south of Ashridge

1.3.24 Representative Viewpoint 14 (Figure 2.3.14) lies at approximately 100 m AOD. This wide view is over a low hedge into an open field, that slopes away from the road and down to a hidden valley containing a tributary of the River Torridge. The view is across hidden valleys to the mixed farmland on high land, to the north. Fields are divided by hedgerows and interspersed with areas of woodland. There are isolated farmhouses and small hamlets set within the farmland. The land

slopes down to the northeast and the Rover Torridge is visible, with the towns of Bideford and East-the-Water on its banks.

Representative Viewpoint 15: View southeast from car park and picnic area, opposite Seven Oaks Nature Reserve, River Torridge

1.3.25 Representative Viewpoint 15 (Figure 2.3.15) lies at approximately 20 m AOD. This view is from the western bank of the River Torridge, upstream/inland. The view is focussed very much on the river, enclosed by the wooded slopes, with the farmland rising behind the wooded slopes. The A388 is visible on the west bank of the River Torridge. It follows this stretch of the river and divides the farmland from it.

Representative Viewpoint 16: View east-southeast from junction of A388 with minor road to Littleham, River Torridge

1.3.26 Representative Viewpoint 16 (Figure 2.3.16) lies at approximately 10 m AOD. This view is from the western bank of the River Torridge primarily across the river, through woodland. The view is focussed on the river and the farmland on the opposite bank. The triangular woodland on the opposite bank of the river accentuates the hilly topography. On the flanks of the hill, the brighter green colours of the farmland also highlight the hill. Upstream, the road is enclosed by the woodland on the western bank.

Representative Viewpoint 17: View northwest from the Tarka Trail on bridge over the River Torridge, north of Pillmouth

1.3.27 Representative Viewpoint 17 (Figure 2.3.17) lies at approximately 5 m AOD. This is a wide view downstream from a disused railway bridge, along which the Tarka Trail is routed. The view includes the group of properties east of Upcot on the hillside. The larger urban areas of Bideford and East-the-Water are screened by the topography. Farmland with mature hedgerow trees is prevalent on the western bank. While more open farmland is seen on the eastern bank, with the triangular woodland in the mid-ground. In the foreground is the river channel flanked by mud flats.

Representative Viewpoint 18: View north from the Tarka Trail on bridge over the River Torridge, north of Pillmouth

1.3.28 Representative Viewpoint 18 (Figure 2.3.18) lies at approximately 5 m AOD. This is a wide view from a disused railway bridge, along which the Tarka Trail is routed. The view is of the more open farmland on the eastern bank of the river, with the triangular wood in the mid-ground. Tennacott farm is seen on the hillside. In the foreground are mud flats and rough grassland.

Representative Viewpoint 19: View west from the Tarka Trail, on the eastern boundary of the Seven Oaks Nature Reserve

1.3.29 Representative Viewpoint 19 (Figure 2.3.19) lies at approximately 5 m AOD. This is a wide view across the River Torridge, from the Tarka Trail. The view, through scrub, is of the more enclosed farmland on the western bank of the river, which includes an area of mature trees/remnant parkland. The group of houses to the

east of Upcot are seen on the hillside opposite, as are the few houses along the A388. In the foreground is the river channel, as well as the mud flats and rough grassland of the Seven Oaks Nature Reserve.

Representative Viewpoint 20: View south from minor road, close to Woodville Farm

1.3.30 Representative Viewpoint 20 (Figure 2.3.20) lies at approximately 110 m AOD. This view is over a field gate, accessed by Gammaton Road, close to Woodville Farm.

Converter Site Study Area

Representative Viewpoint 21: View south from minor road between Fullingcott Cross and Huish Moor, north of the A39

1.3.31 Representative Viewpoint 21 (Figure 2.3.21) lies at approximately 112 m AOD. This southerly view is along a minor road, with steep hedgebanks or hedgerows on either side. Where the hedgebanks or hedgerows allow there are views across the undulating landscape towards the proposed converter stations. Valleys are mostly hidden from view, with only the large blocks of woodland indicating steeper inclines. Pylons, carrying overhead lines to the coast are visible to the east and west of the road. Smaller 11 kV lines are carried on wooden poles that follow the road, as well as crossing the fields on either side.

Representative Viewpoint 22: View southwest from minor road to the west of Fire Beacon Cross

1.3.32 Representative Viewpoint 22 (Figure 2.3.22) lies at approximately 123 m AOD. This wide, south-westerly view is across an open farmed landscape with small areas of woodland, sometimes associated with isolated houses, farms or hamlets. The gently undulating outlook hides deeper valleys. There are small areas of higher land and or woodland, on a generally gently undulating skyline.

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

1.3.33 Representative Viewpoint 23 (Figure 2.3.23) lies at approximately 75 m AOD. This open, southerly view is across a sloping field. The farmland is divided by mature hedgerows, some containing trees. Woodland is associated with the valleys, also with isolated houses, farms and hamlets. Woodland also forms part of the skyline, such as that at Webbery. Pylons carrying the overhead power lines are visible on the skyline.

Representative Viewpoint 24: View southwest from public right of way Newton Tracey 52 to the southwest of Newton Cross

1.3.34 Representative Viewpoint 24 (Figure 2.3.24) lies at approximately 97.5 m AOD. This open, south-westerly view is across farmland divided by mature hedgerows. 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.

Representative Viewpoint 25: View southwest from other route with public access to the south of Higher Lovacott

1.3.35 Representative Viewpoint 25 (Figure 2.3.25) lies at approximately 115 m AOD. This enclosed view is from a semi-sunken lane. Views are restricted and contained by the hedgebanks and topography on either side of the track.

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

1.3.36 Representative Viewpoint 26 (Figure 2.3.26) lies at approximately 105 m AOD. This is an open view across undulating farmland The fields 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.

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

1.3.37 Representative Viewpoint 27 (Figure 2.3.27) lies at approximately 146 m AOD. This is a channelled view through a field gate, constrained by tall hedgerows on either side. The view is of undulating farmland, divided by hedgerows, to the far right, the sea is visible. Woodland is visible on the hill tops and within the lowerlying land around the Alverdiscott Substation. The field in the foreground is crossed by an 11 kV power line on wooden poles. Beyond this the pylons carrying the 400 kV lines and 132 kV lines converge on the substation. 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.

Representative Viewpoint 28: View northwest from minor road to the west of Brownscombe Farm

1.3.38 Representative Viewpoint 28 (Figure 2.3.28) lies at approximately 102.5 m AOD. This view is through a field gate/along a minor road. The rising farmland, seen through the field gate, is preclude all views of lower land, barring the tops of the pylons carrying the overhead lines. Along the minor road, bounded by thick hedges the lower land is visible, along the descending road, with a pylon in the middle-ground and woodland on the hillside beyond.

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

1.3.39 Representative Viewpoint 29 (Figure 2.3.29) lies at approximately 146 m AOD. This is a directed view through a field gate, with tall hedgerows on either side. The view is towards the Alverdiscott Substation, across wet pasture and low-lying woodland. 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. A solar farm is glimpsed behind mature woodland and woodland belts to the north of Alverdiscott

Substation. Pylons carrying overhead powerlines indicate where the Alverdiscott Substation is located, but it is screened from view by tree belts and woodland. Groups of trees at the entrance to the substation and the woodland to the east of Higher Kingdon are also seen on the skyline.

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

1.3.40 Representative Viewpoint 30 (Figure 2.3.30) lies at approximately 176 m AOD. 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 cross the field. Two small wind turbines are seen in the mid-ground. In the distance the solar farms and the Alverdiscott Substation are visible, as well as a further wind turbine and high voltage pylons, to the south.

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

1.3.41 Representative Viewpoint 31 (Figure 2.3.31) lies at approximately 115 m AOD. 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, some of them clipped. 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.

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

1.3.42 Representative Viewpoint 32 (Figure 2.3.32) lies at approximately 135 m AOD. This is an elevated, wide and open view, across a gently undulating, farmland. The field boundaries are generally mature hedgerows, some with mature trees, although one appears to be made of corrugated iron. 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.

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

1.3.43 Representative Viewpoint 33 (Figure 2.3.33) lies at approximately 148 m AOD. 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. This elevated view is 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. The solar park adjacent to the Alverdiscott Substation is visible, as is part of the substation infrastructure. Pylons carrying the high voltage overhead lines are visible in the landscape and on the skyline.

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

1.3.44 Representative Viewpoint 34 (Figure 2.3.34) lies at approximately 120 m AOD. This is a view through a field entrance from a minor road that is generally bounded by hedgebanks or hedgerows. 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.

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

1.3.45 Representative Viewpoint 35 (Figure 2.3.35) lies at approximately 105 m AOD. 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 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 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.

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

1.3.46 Representative Viewpoint 36 (Figure 2.3.36) lies at approximately 94 m AOD. This is a wide, open view from a footpath, crossing an open field, to the south of the A39. 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.

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

1.3.47 Representative Viewpoint 37 (Figure 2.3.37) lies at approximately 100 m AOD. This is an open view looking across undulating farmland. 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.

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

1.3.48 Representative Viewpoint 38 (Figure 2.3.38) lies at approximately 160 m AOD. This is a restricted view, over a hedgebank. 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.

Representative Viewpoint 39: View southwest from Codden Beacon, Codden Hill

1.3.49 Representative Viewpoint 39 (Figure 2.3.39) lies at 189 m AOD. This is a noted 360° panoramic view. The view to the southwest is a mix of pasture, arable farmland and woods situated on undulating topography. The fields are divided by hedgerows/hedgebanks. Isolated farmsteads and individual houses are also set within the farmed landscape. Bideford Bay is visible to the west.

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

1.3.50 Representative Viewpoint 40 (Figure 2.3.40) lies at approximately 60 m AOD. This is a restricted view, along a minor road, channelled by hedgebanks. The view is towards a road junction, with rising farmland beyond. The fields are divided by hedgerows and hedgebanks. In the distance higher land is visible. Views to the east-southeast towards the Converter Site, running south from this high point, e.g., the minor road to Combe Walker, or the Other Route with Public Access to Combe, are blocked by hedgebanks.

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

1.3.51 Representative viewpoint 41 (Figure 2.3.41) lies at approximately 110 m AOD. This is an open elevated view across predominantly arable farmland. 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.

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

1.3.52 Representative viewpoint 42 (Figure 2.3.42) lies at approximately 40 m AOD. This is a partial view, through a field gate, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. 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.

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

1.3.53 Representative viewpoint 43 (Figure 2.3.43) lies at approximately 90 m AOD. This is a contained view along a farm track, across mixed farmland, with the rising land of a small hill obscuring views north. 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.

Representative Viewpoint 44: View south from public footpath, east of Limekiln Lane, to the west of Ashford

1.3.54 Representative viewpoint 44 (Figure 2.3.44) lies at approximately 55 m AOD. This is a long, open view across the Taw Estuary. The high tors of Dartmoor can be seen in the distance, in the east. The view is predominantly of the estuary and the low-lying farmland in the mid-ground of the view. Wind turbines and pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation are also seen crossing the landscape and on the skyline.

Representative Viewpoint 45: View south from Eastcombe Lane, Heanton Punchardon

1.3.55 Representative viewpoint 45 (Figure 2.3.45) lies at approximately 75 m AOD. This is a long, open view across the Taw Estuary. The high tors of Dartmoor can be seen in the distance, in the east. This view includes views of the sea and the cliffs to the south. The built-up area of Chivenor and the airfield lie on the northern banks of the Taw, in the mid-ground of the view. Wind turbines and pylons carrying overhead power lines to the Alverdiscott Substation are also seen crossing the landscape, and on the skyline, although less visible from this location than representative viewpoint 44.

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

1.3.56 Representative viewpoint 46 (Figure 2.3.46) lies at approximately 65 m AOD. This is an open view, over a field gate, across mixed farmland. 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

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

1.3.57 Representative viewpoint 47 (Figure 2.3.47) lies at approximately 75 m AOD. This is a directed view towards the Converter Site, as the hamlet of Newton Tracey, on

rising land, foreshortens the view to the north., across mixed farmland. 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.

1.4 Summary

1.4.1 Following a desktop exercise and consultation process, representative viewpoint locations have been identified. This has enabled a broad range of typical sensitive visual receptors within the LSVIA study area to be identified for consideration within the assessment process of the ES. Site surveys have been undertaken and photography captured at these representative viewpoint locations.

1.5 References

Landscape Institute, 2019, Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals.

Figures





Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: SS4139528142



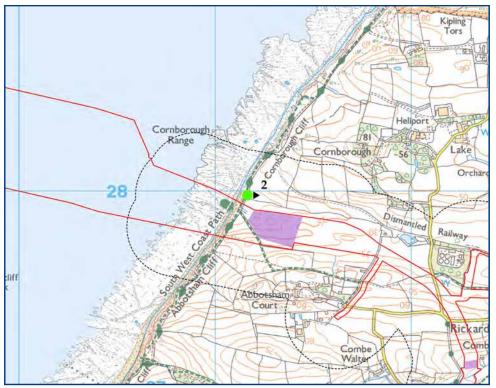
1809-0201-08

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: SS4139528142 Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Landfall: 265m





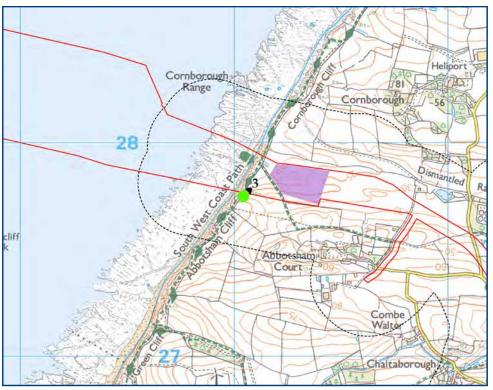


Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

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istance to Landfall: 20m





Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4111827694

Figure: 2.3.3a



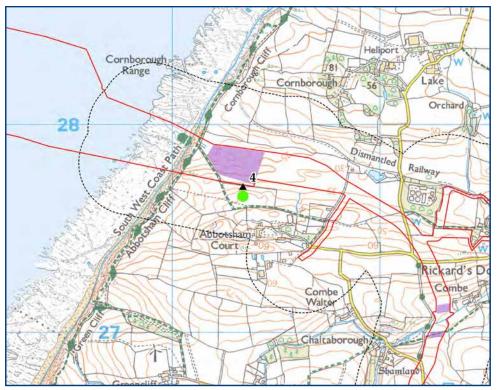
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Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4111827694 Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Landfall: 20m





Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4141627596

Figure: 2.3.4a



Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809 Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4141627596

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Landfall: 55m











Representative Viewpoint 6:

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Figure: 2.3.6a



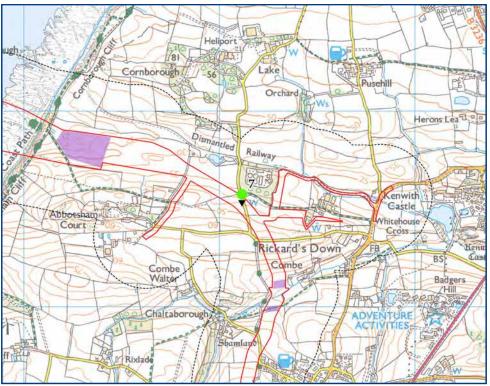
Representative Viewpoint 6:

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 17/05/2023 OS Grid Ref: SS4199527380

Figure: 2.3.6b





Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4219227517

Figure: 2.3.7a







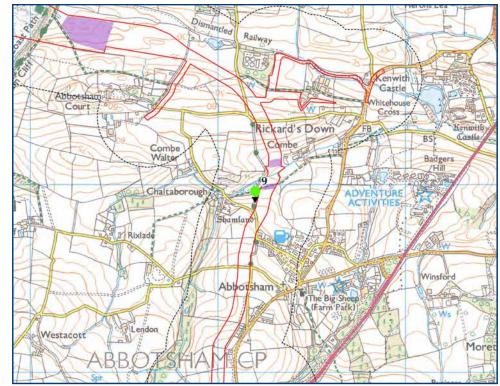
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Date of photograph: 18/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4252128289

stance to Cable Corridor: 620m

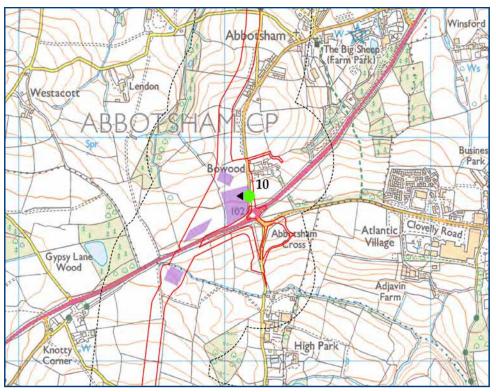




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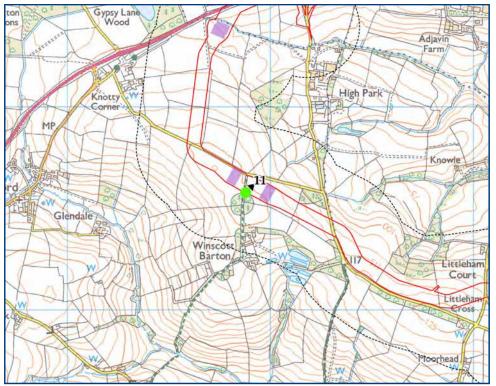
Representative Viewpoint 10': View west from minor road, south of Bowood



1809-0201-08

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809 Date of photograph: 18/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4211725738





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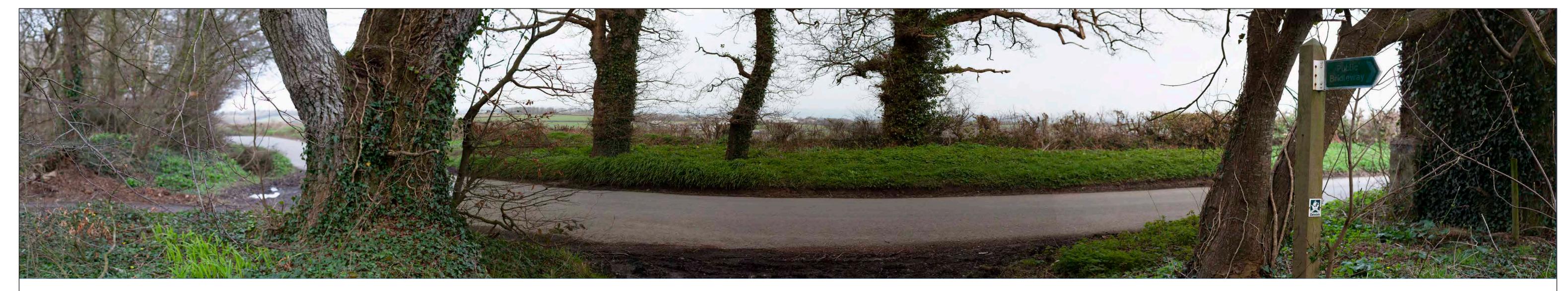
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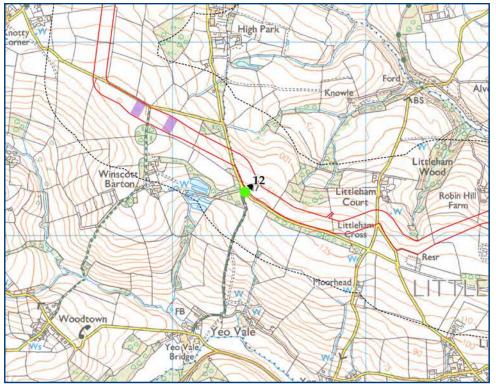


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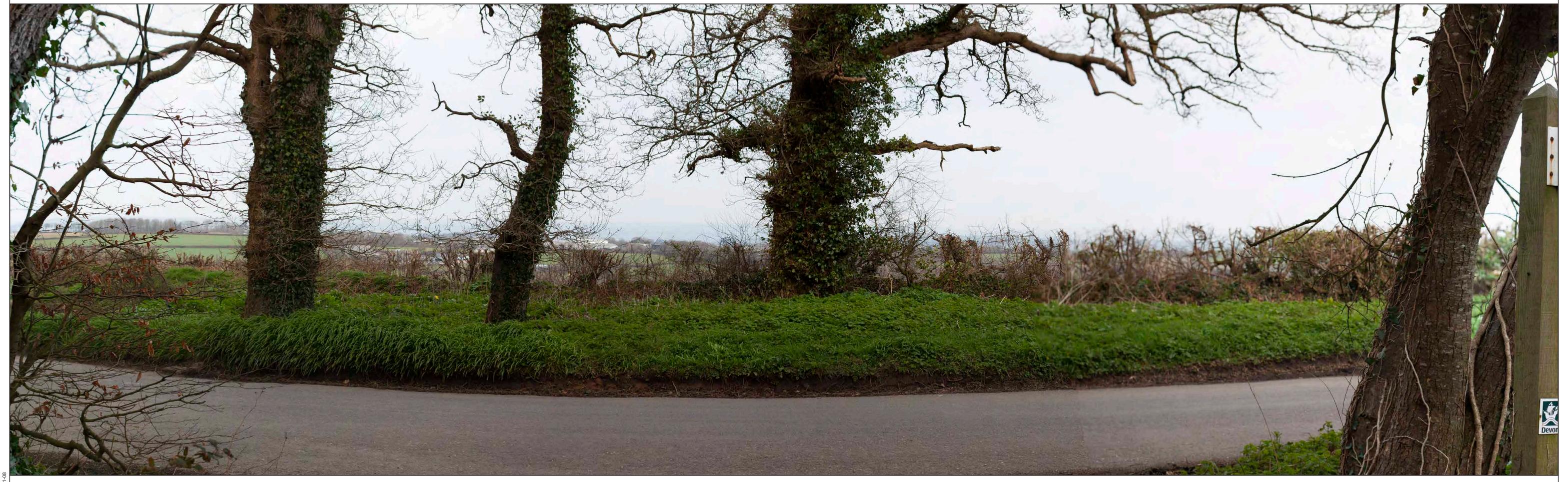
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Date of photograph: 15/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4245224170

Representative Viewpoint 12: View northeast from junction of Public Right of Way Alwington Bridleway 12 with minor road, east of Winscott Barton

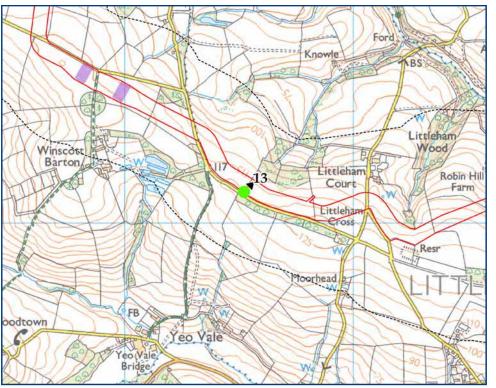


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Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

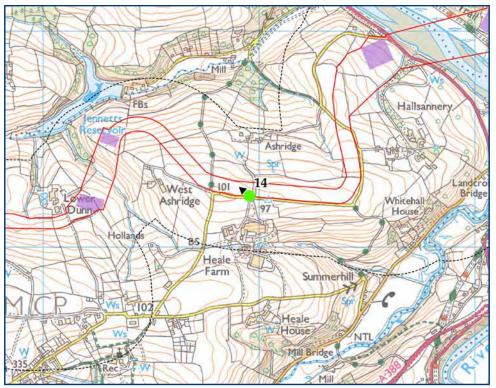
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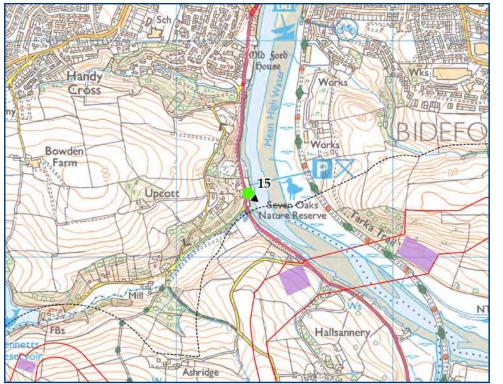


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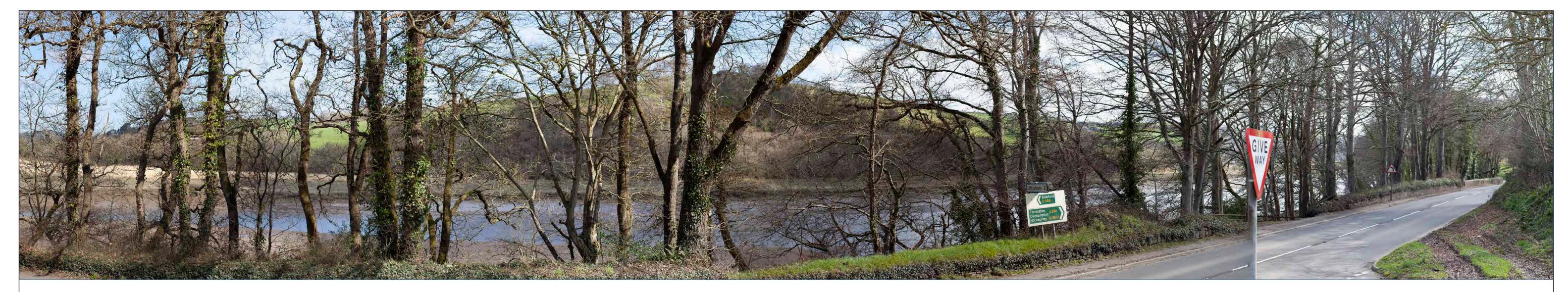
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

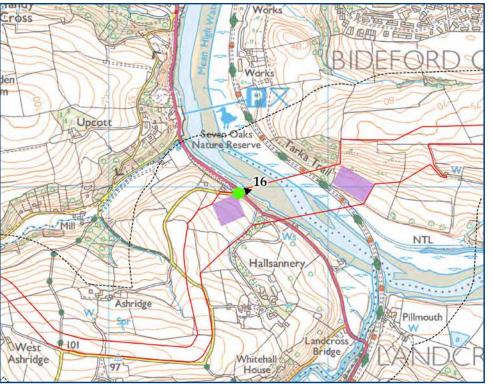
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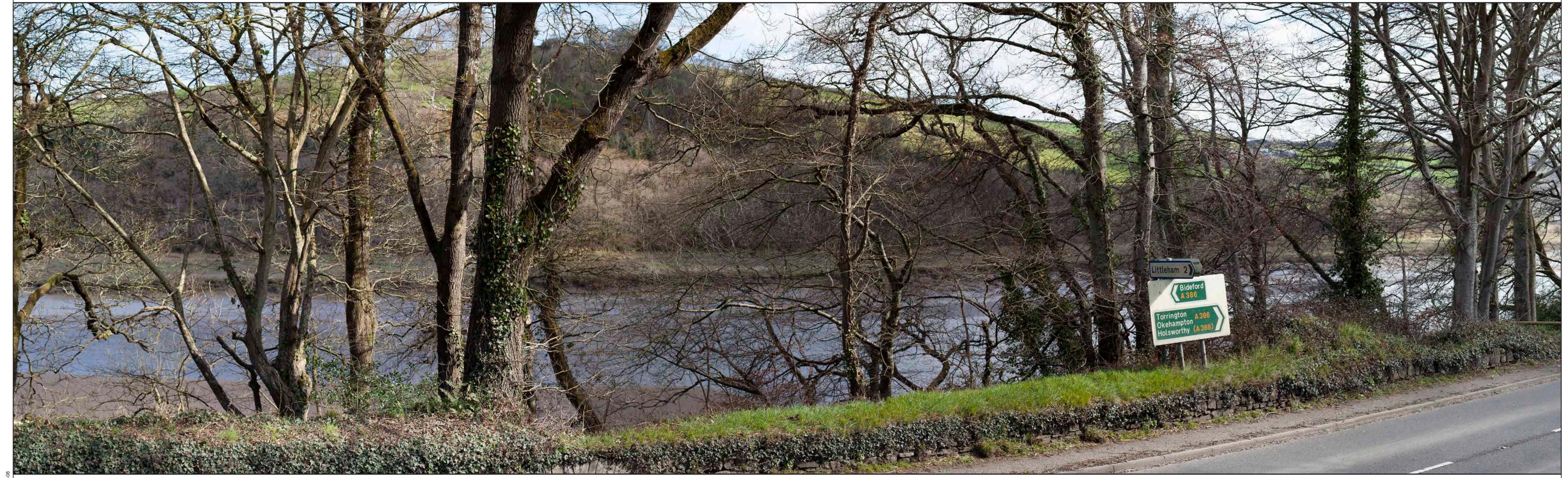










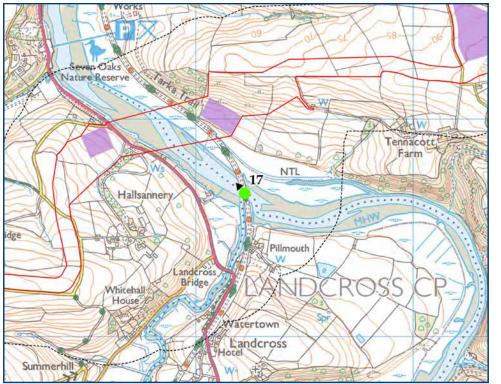


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NP11809

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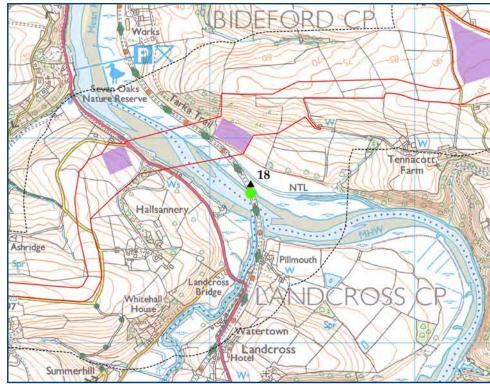


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NP11809

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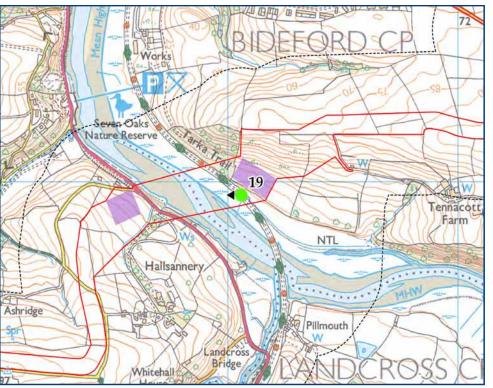
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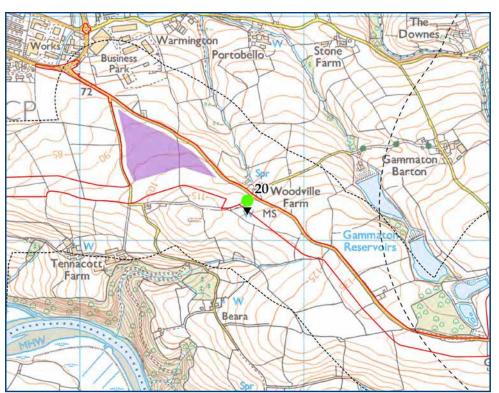
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Date of photograph: 18/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4774525178



Klink

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 18/03/2022 OS Grid Ref: SS4774525178

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms lengt







Klink

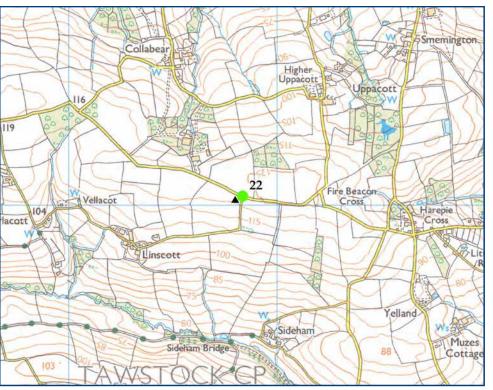
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: 249602, 130045

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 4.5km





OS Grid Ref: 254834, 128037









Xlir

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809 Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: 250039, 127087

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 1.5km





stance to Converter Stations: 2.8km

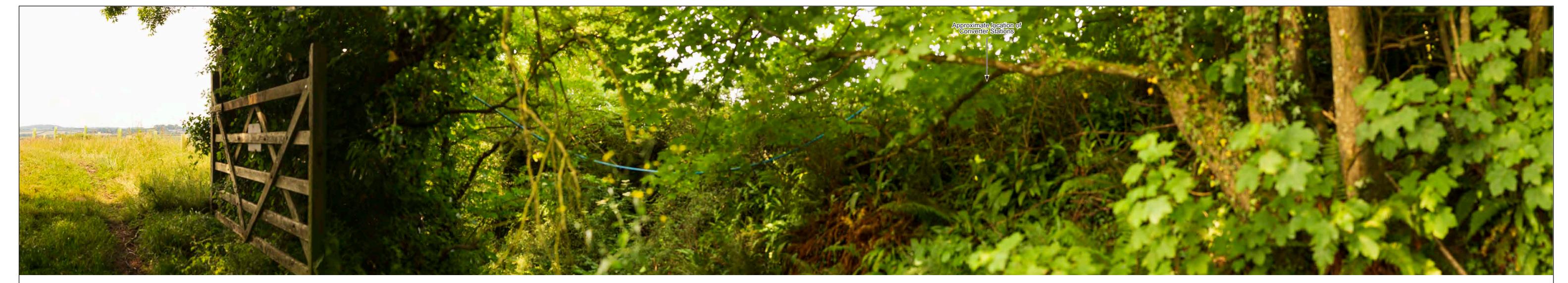


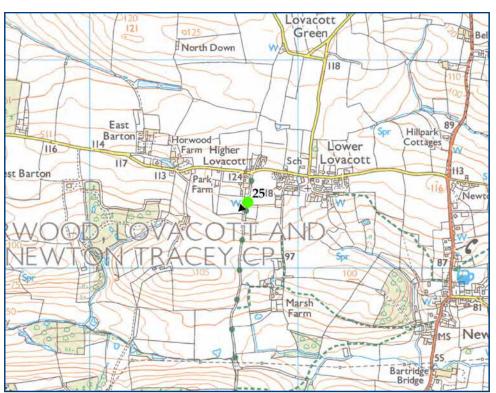
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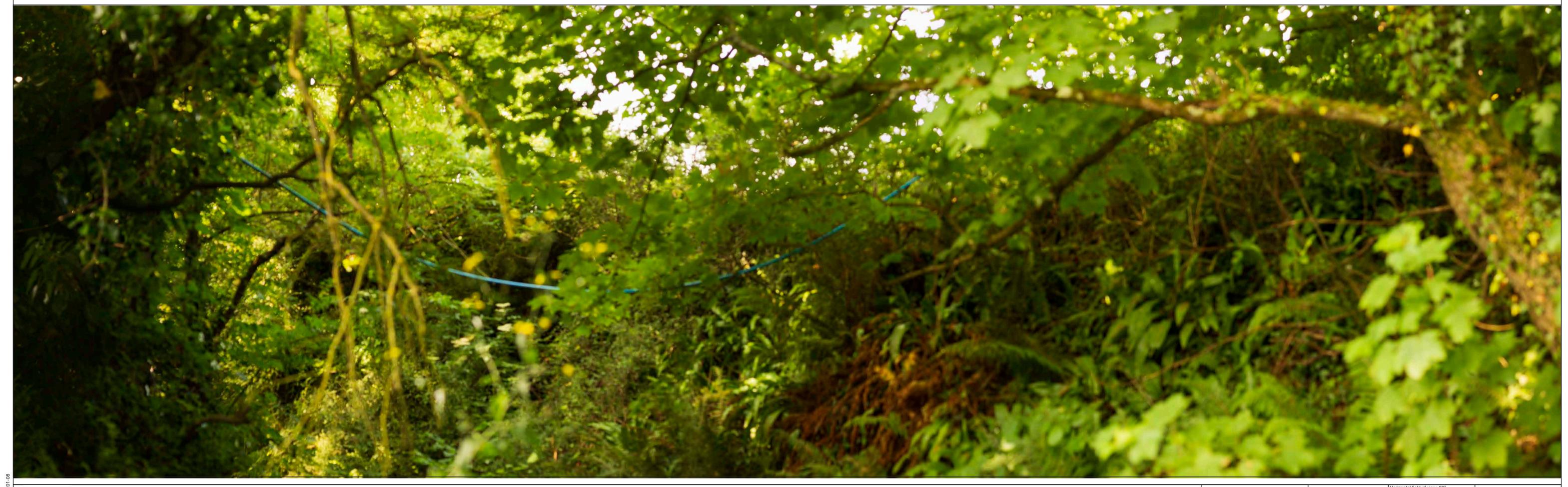
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Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 2.8km













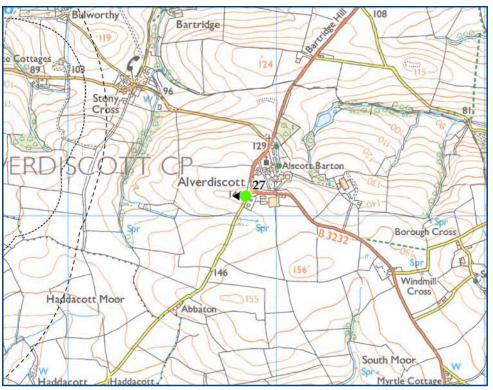
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Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 2.1km







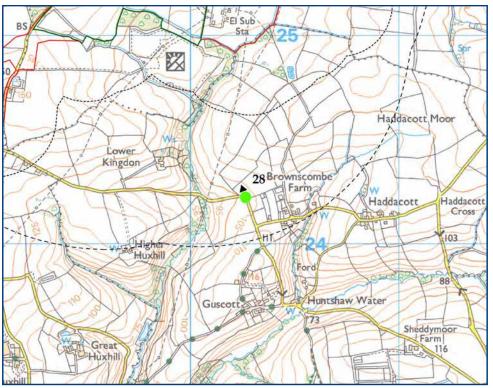
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

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Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 1.7km

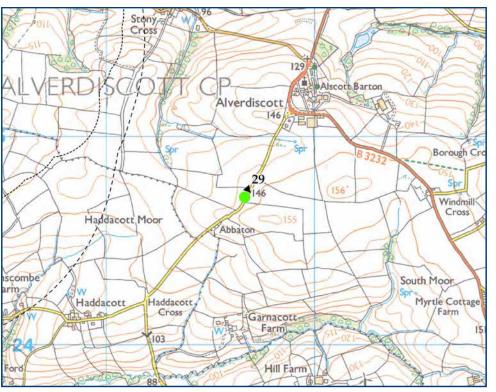




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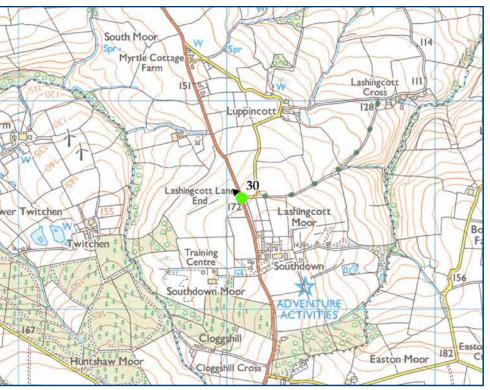
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Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 251663, 124709

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 1.6km







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Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 253062, 123534

Horizontal field of view: 90°

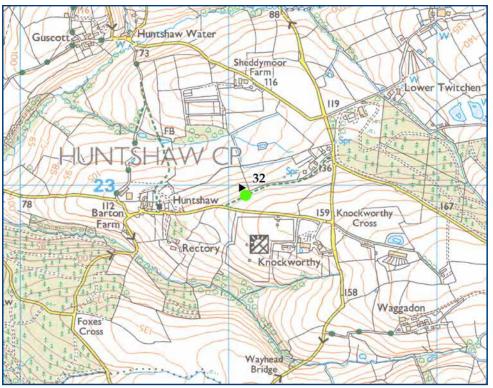
To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 3.4km









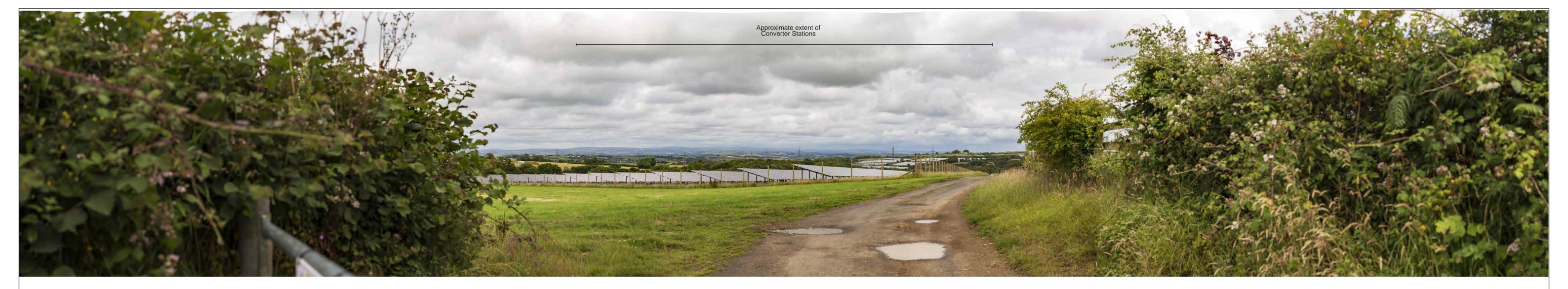


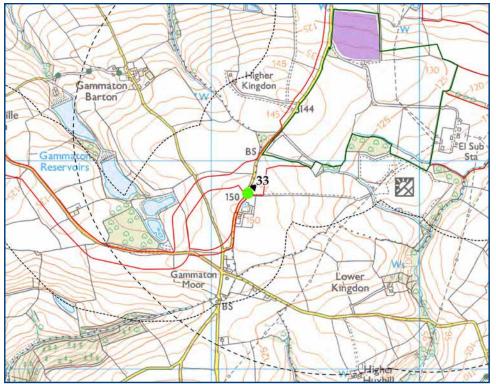


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Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 2.3km





Date of photograph: 10/07/2024



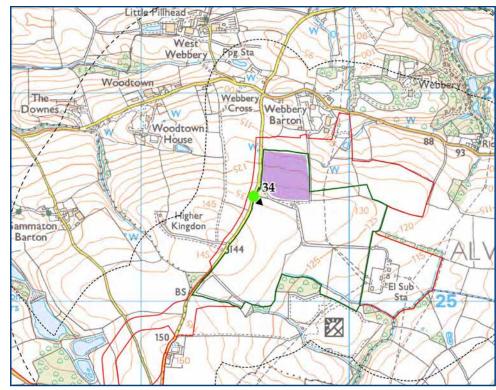
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NP11809

Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 249170, 124839

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 325m





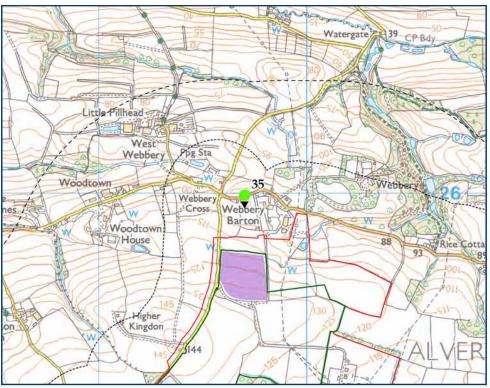


Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

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Horizontal field of view: 90°
To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 8m



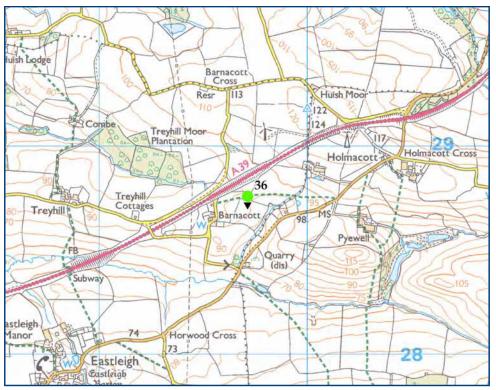


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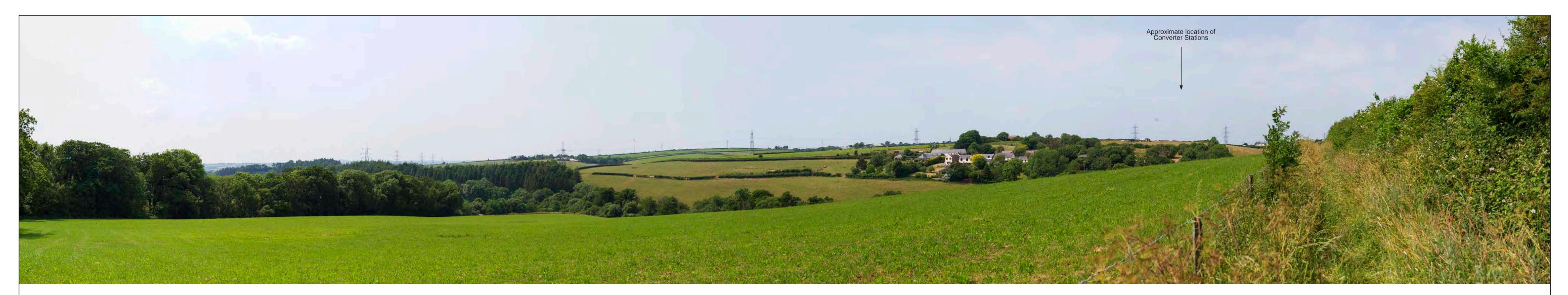


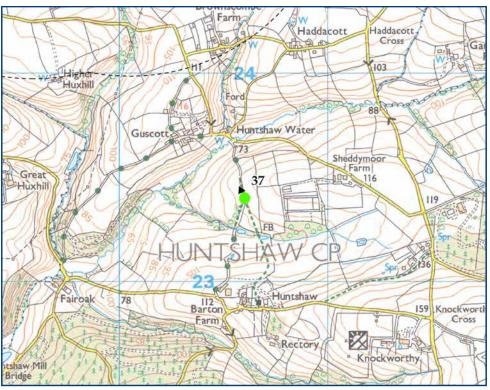


Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

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To be viewed at comfortable arms length
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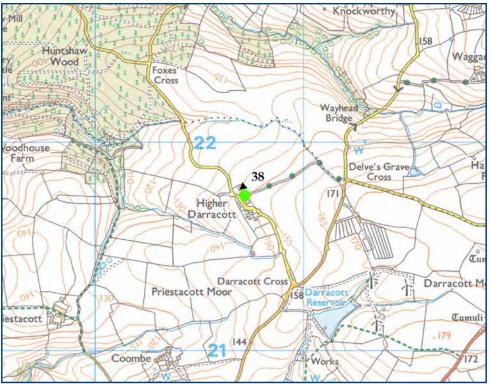


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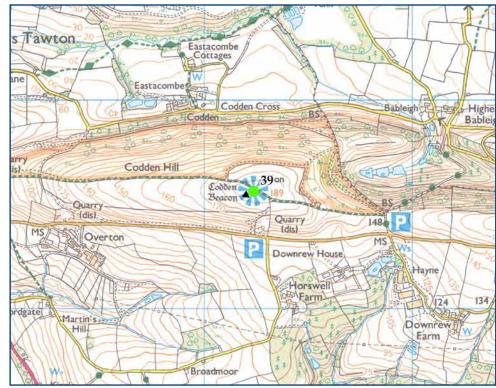
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Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 3.3km

Figure: 2.3.38b





Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: 258286, 129345



XI

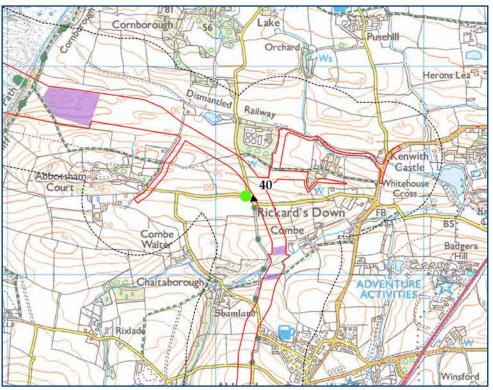
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: 258286, 129345

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 9.0km





Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 242194, 127330



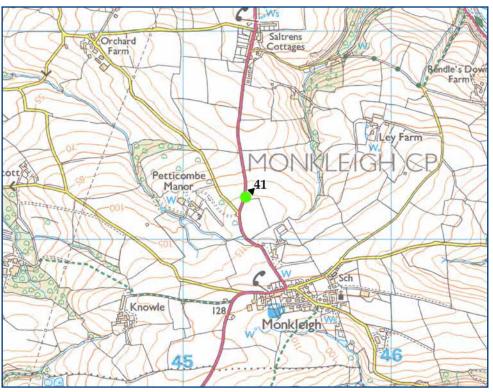
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project NP11809

Date of photograph: 15/06/2023 OS Grid Ref: 242194, 127330

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 7.5km





Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 245300, 121203

Viewpoint 41: View northwest from A388 north of Monkleigh



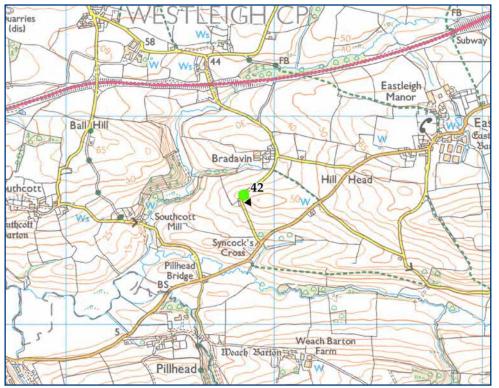
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref: 245300, 121203 Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length

Distance to Converter Stations: 5.6km





OS Grid Ref: 247853, 127621



80-1020 808-0201

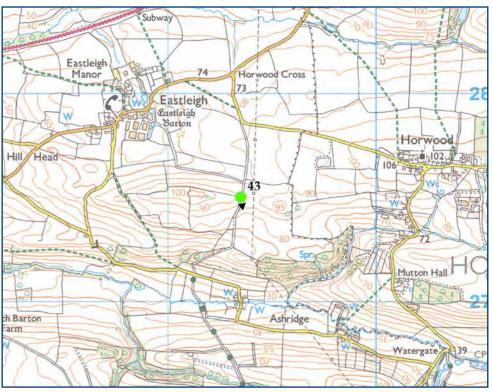
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 247853, 127621

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 2.6km





Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 249349, 127502

stance to Converter Stations: 1.8km



Xlir

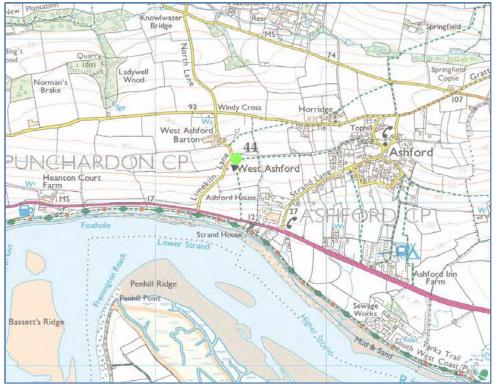
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 249349, 127502

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 1.8km

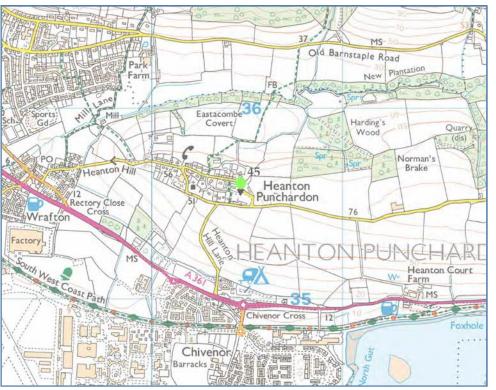




Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 252476, 135269







Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 NP11809 OS Grid Ref: 250524, 135477



- 1203-0201-0811

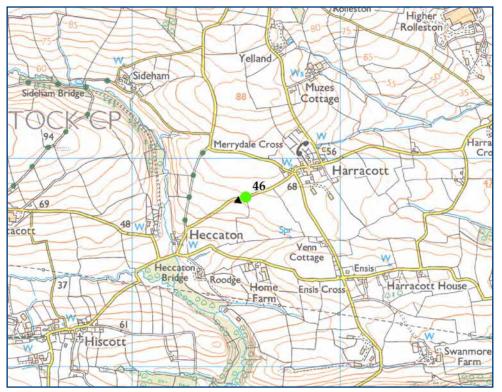
Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 250524, 135477

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 9.8km



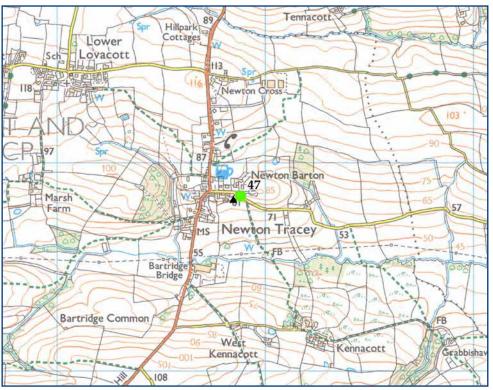




OS Grid Ref: 255545, 126815

To be viewed at comfortable arms length istance to Converter Stations: 5.5km







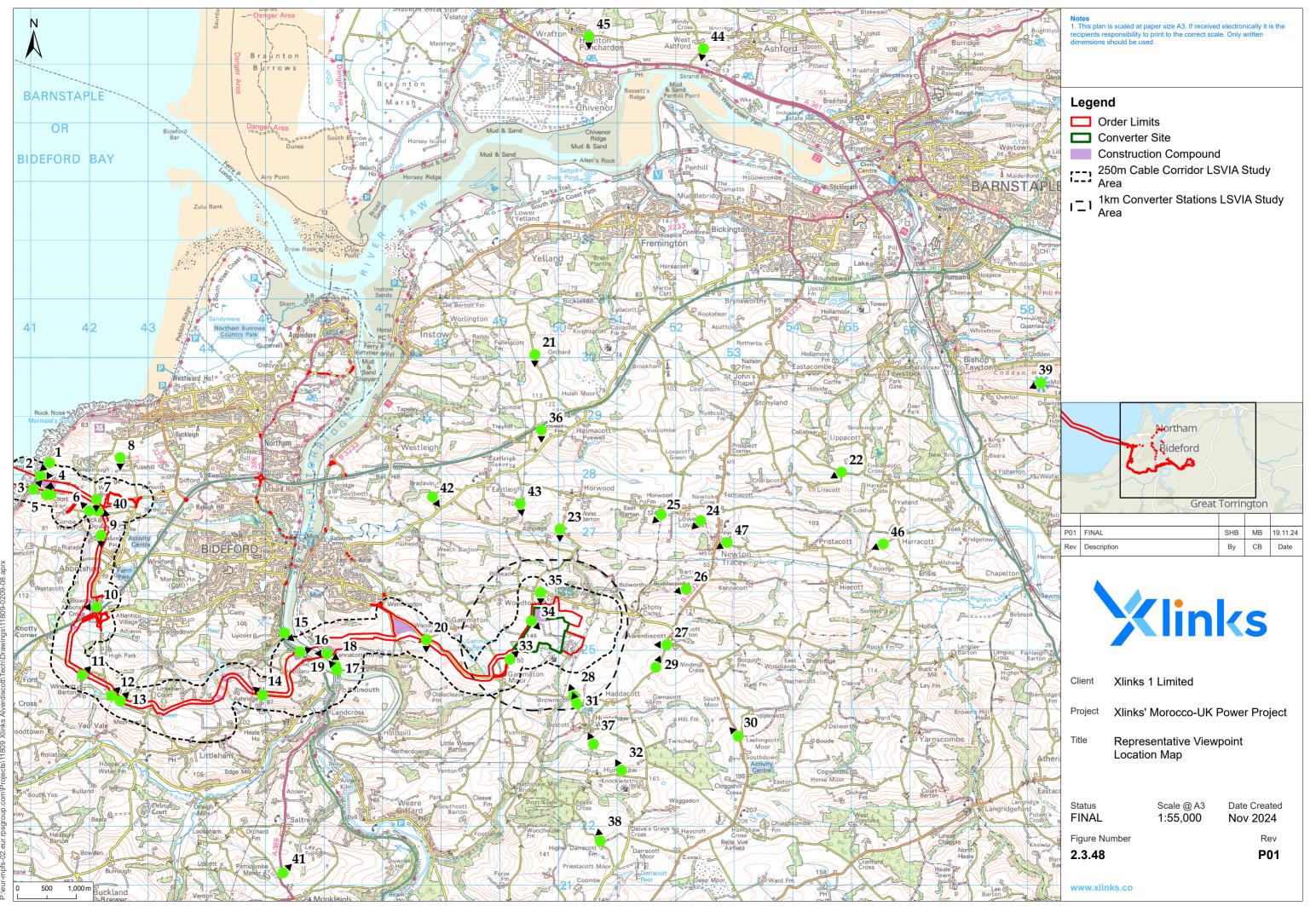
Xlir

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project
NP11809

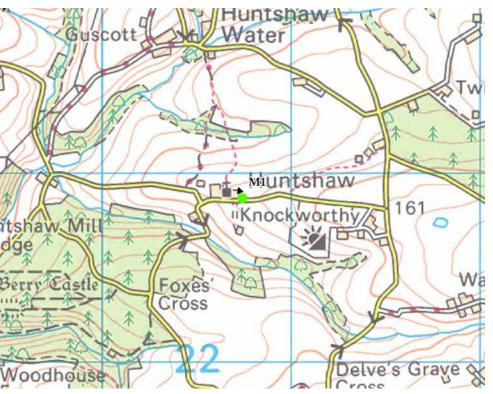
Date of photograph: 21/03/2024 OS Grid Ref: 252882, 126841

Horizontal field of view: 90°

To be viewed at comfortable arms length
Distance to Converter Stations: 3.0km









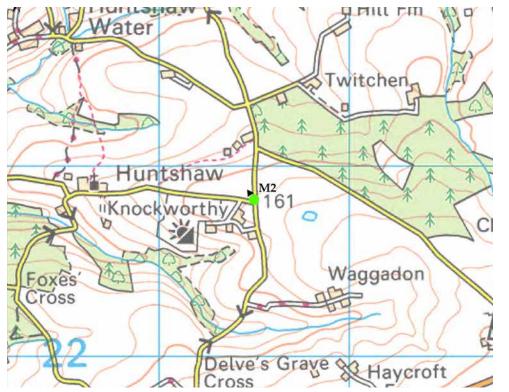
NP11809

Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref:

To be viewed at comfortable arms length

Figure: 2.3.49b

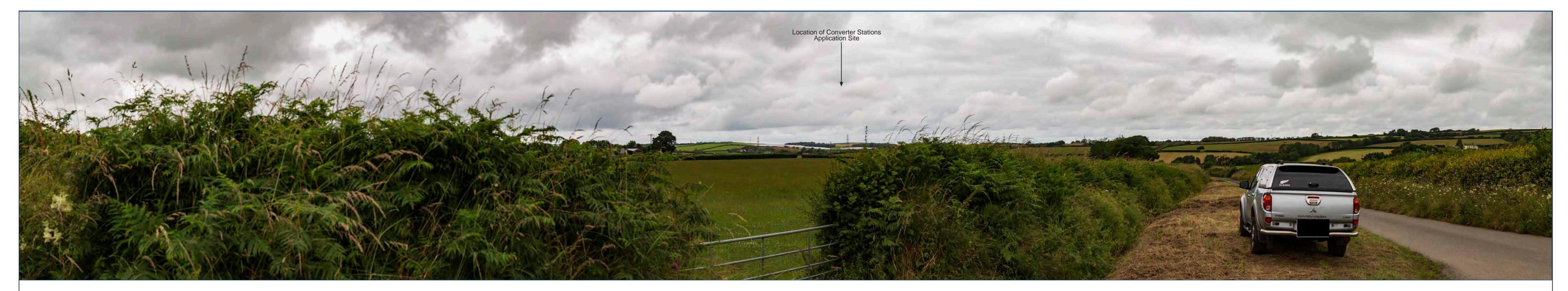




Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref:

For Context Only







Date of photograph: 10/07/2024 OS Grid Ref:

For Context Only

Visual Mitigation Viewpoint M3: View northwest from junction of minor roads at Twitchen Cross



OS Grid Ref:

Figure: 2.3.51b





Date of photograph: 11/07/2024 OS Grid Ref:

For Context Only







Date of photograph: 11/07/2024 OS Grid Ref:

For Context Only









NP11809

OS Grid Ref:

To be viewed at comfortable arms length

